

Faith and Basketball: Reflections from the NABC Convention

by Jay Lawrence

Recently, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the National Association of Basketball Coaches Convention (NABC) in Phoenix, Arizona. I served alongside the Athletes in Action Basketball Ministry, an organization dedicated to merging faith and athletics.

Each year during the Final Four weekend, Athletes in Action hosts ministry and outreach events for coaches attending the NABC Convention. I pitched in wherever I was needed - assisting at the Keys to Life Ministry Breakfast, running errands, or pumping up basketballs.

One of my highlights was the chance to connect with coaches from around the globe, including basketball ministries in Colombia and Mongolia. These interactions prove how basketball brings people together from different backgrounds, along with the power of faith to unite them.

I also had the opportunity to attend coaching clinics aimed at enhancing my own skills. One session, in particular, stands out as it was focused on character development and mentoring players using biblical principles, particularly relevant for elite-level athletes.

Perhaps the most rewarding part of this trip was the chance to speak with young coaches considering joining our program in London, either on a short-term or long-term basis. As I continue to communicate with them, I ask for your prayers for guidance and clarity.

The NABC Convention was not only a platform for honing coaching techniques but also a testament to the transformative power of faith within the basketball community. I am grateful for the experience and look forward to the potential partnerships and opportunities that lie ahead.



YFC ANNUAL CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

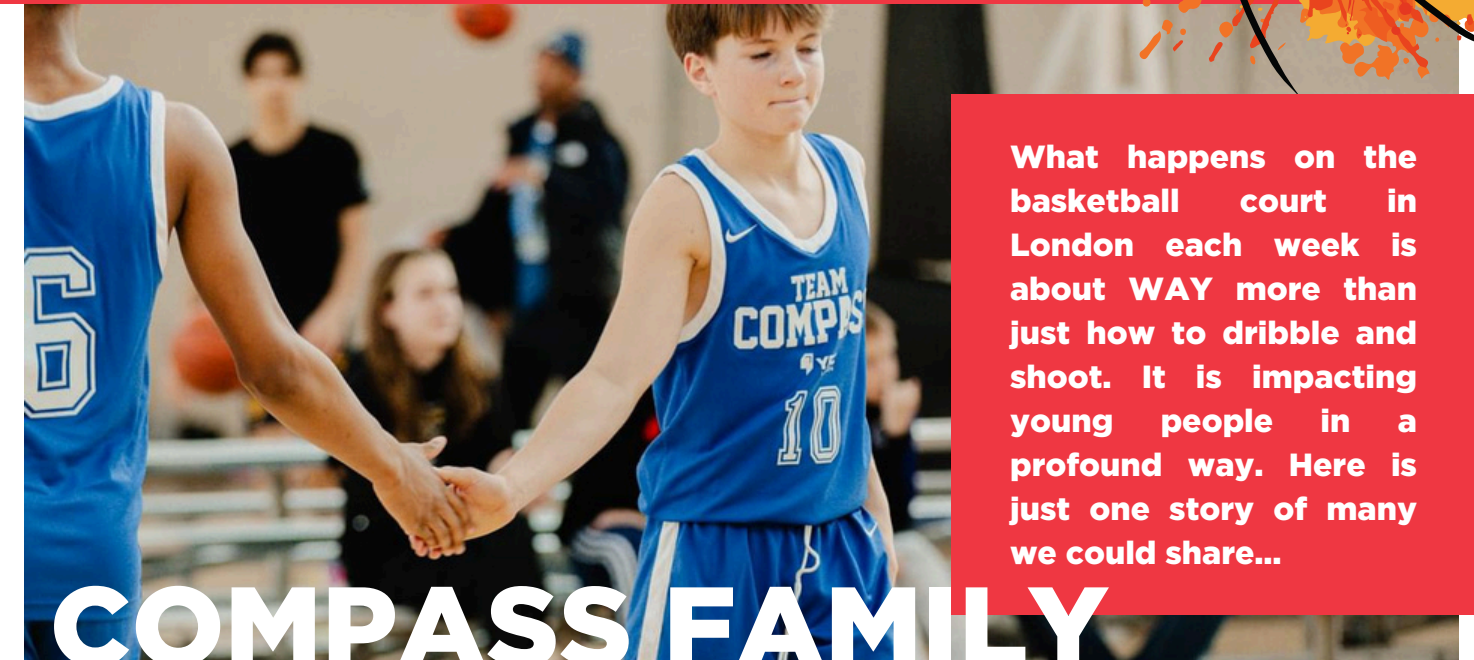
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The Classic Golf Tournament is a day on the links to support life-changing programs for youth. It's a great opportunity to connect with community partners and youth allies. Scan to learn more:



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What happens on the basketball court in London each week is about WAY more than just how to dribble and shoot. It is impacting young people in a profound way. Here is just one story of many we could share...

COMPASS FAMILY

Our son Jesse joined the Compass family in June of 2022 on a summer basketball team. Right from the start, we knew that this program was a little bit different. Two years in, we are so proud and grateful to be a part of the Compass family.

Compass has been more than just basketball for our son and for our whole family. Coach Jay is an incredible human who integrates so many life skills and lessons into his coaching. These boys are learning so much more than dribbling, passing and shooting. They are learning about resilience, dedication and determination. They are learning to advocate for themselves, on the court and in their daily lives.

We have four children and they have all been welcomed into this organization. Tournaments away mean basketball games, but also family dinners, helping each other, storytelling and so many laughs and good memories.

Compass has taught these boys the importance of giving back to the community, the value of loyalty and honesty with their peers, and the significance of lifting each other up and working together to achieve success.

We thank Coach Jay and the Compass team for allowing us to be a part of the family. It's so much more than just basketball.

by: Jo Martin, Jesse's Mom

This ministry is thriving because of Partners like you! Thank you for your economic support and your continued prayers as we seek to expand this ministry so God can impact even more young people in the city of London!



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Our YFC Youth Centre has been a hub of activity over the past few months! We are thankful for a building that can be used for all kinds of activities and for all ages. From welcoming seniors for Lunch & Movie Day, to an acoustic worship night, to cooking lessons in the Café, many community members have enjoyed these opportunities to connect, and the relationships that blossom from them!

Beyond our usual weekly programs, we have had amazing community involvement with two fundraising initiatives; Step Up Challenge and Carolyn's Paint Party.

On April 19th we hosted our Step Up Challenge and had 12 teams gather to take on the challenges that staff and volunteers set up to create a fun family night! While the event included raising funds for YFC London, we were all so energized by the buzz of families experiencing the centre and the welcoming spirit we practice here! It was an amazing night of community building!

On May 13th we hosted our first Paint Night with Carolyn, and it was a rousing success! Carolyn masterfully led 10 attendees through the process of creating a painting of a lighthouse. It was another night of building relationships and growing community together!

Psalm 27:1
The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Thank you for your continued partnership in all we do here at YFC London!



Quiz Night

On March 1, forty-four people gathered to support YFC's Compass Basketball ministry through a fundraiser Quiz Night. Groups of four competed as a team as they showed off their knowledge of obscure facts!

Café Connect provided delicious snacks to keep our players energized and ready for whatever our Quiz Master threw at them!

This fun night was an opportunity to connect as community, have some fun and support an amazing ministry. Thanks to all of our teams for participating and congratulations to Dave and The Nobodies as they were the winning team of the evening.



TOTAL FUNDS RAISED:

2 6 7 0

