

SEEING THE HOPE AND POTENTIAL IN EVERY YOUNG PERSON

March 2021

AN UPDATE FROM YOUTH FOR CHRIST WINNIPEG

Lessons from lockdown

A season of pruning and new growth

I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. - (John 15:5)

As we walk through this pandemic month by month, the toll on many parts of life feels almost never-ending. After marking one year of continual adjustment to change, it feels like we have entered a new season of sorts. This season seems to come with the recognition that parts of our life are different.

Much has been pruned away, and cut out of our lives. Things we relied on, things that distracted us, things that made us comfortable, things that brought us joy. We have needed to adjust to the changes of this pruning. Some have lost jobs, others have lost loved ones, and most all of us feel disconnected and lonely as a result of the absence of communal events, sports and recreation, and in-person church services.

Many of the ways we reach out to youth and provide incredible outlets for activity, community, development, and support have been pruned away. We grieve this loss, as those ways of connection and care felt like they

held a sacred gift for youth - and I believe they still do. The group activities, sports, and meals we could all gather around have been pruned away for now. Despite this, we have kept reaching out to youth however possible and within safety guidelines. Praise God, our ministry has continued through different means of online communication and connection, as well as in-person visits, deliveries, and hampers.

As is always the case, during this season of pruning, there is also new growth, new shoots and new leaves. Even with our efforts feeling like they fall short many days, our staff have experienced new life and new growth. Youth are being introduced to community online, and are joining in faith discussions through chat groups or online games. Many youth have been pleasantly surprised that our staff would care to deliver a prize or a care package to their home and make sure they feel loved and missed by us. The new growth has come as we realize some places online hold a space safe enough for youth to engage deep spiritual discussion and prayer as they search for meaning in this challenging time.

We have seen new youth join online programs from remote communities and even outside of the country! Our youth are inviting their friends from near and far to our online events!

As we all struggle to do the best we can at being Christ to those around us, God is present and invites us to Himself. When we focus on restrictions and what is lost we often feel like we are not doing enough, or not doing what we should, but when we focus on remaining in Him and our branches remaining connected to the vine, we remember He is the one who makes the fruit possible. We cannot do it on our own efforts.

In this season of change, I would invite you to focus on remaining connected to the true vine, Jesus. As things are pruned away, we must remember we are still connected to what matters most, and that is what will allow us to bear fruit. Please pray for our staff and volunteers as we do our best to bring the hope of Jesus to youth in whatever ways we can. Thank you for continuing to partner with us in this work, your prayers and support make this work possible.

*Cliff Heide
Executive Director*

Redefining community

Online study reaches more youth

The last three months of community ministry out of Kildonan Community Church have been encouraging and a little mind-blowing. Since we can't meet in person, I began facilitating a number of different online platforms with youth since the beginning of November, and they've really taken off!

One of the groups began with one teen who wanted to study the Bible more seriously with me. We started in November and gradually it has grown to include youth from Northern Manitoba, Ontario, and even the USA! I would have never imagined doing a Bible study with these different youth and being able to connect in this way! Youth are genuinely interested in learning and building into this new community, and then inviting their other friends.

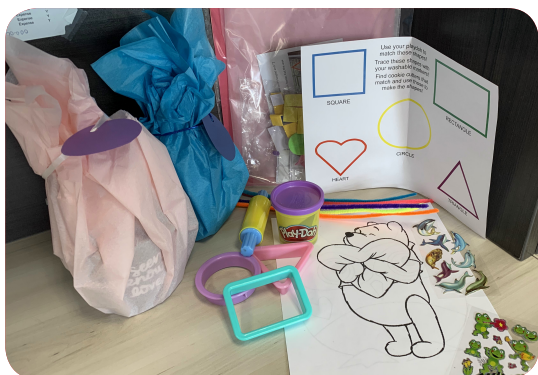
The Spirit is moving! Kids are beginning relationships with Jesus, and joining a community of believers for the first time online. Real connections are being made, and it has really made me change my perspective of "online". I've seen how God has used this technology and new way of ministering to bring new life and that gives me so much hope. When restrictions are eased I believe we will keep this new form of ministry, because there is a real opportunity of engaging youth whom we would have never had the opportunity to reach before.

- Kevin Pauls, Community Minister,
Kildonan Community Church



Staying connected

Creative kits and curbside coffees give hope and joy



The best part of our days at Young Parents is when we get to connect with our young parents and their kiddos! Young parents can feel isolated and cut off from the world, and our community may be the only one they have. COVID restrictions have made these connections more challenging, and even more important. Thankfully, we have found that "dropping by" to drop off tangible supports has really made a difference for our young parents.

Most recently, we have been stopping by monthly with our activity kits, packed with crafts and fun for our young parents to do with their kids, and chocolates and encouragements for the parents. They are having a ton of fun with them! We love doing this because this fills a very real need for our young families, and it gives us an opportunity to connect with them in person and encourage them for a few minutes. What a privilege to remind these precious young people that they are not forgotten, and that we love them!

We have also been doing random coffee drop-offs, and having the most interesting conversations outside (on days when it's not -20!) This month we have added Recipe Bags to the delivery schedule! Thanks to a generous grant, we are able to provide our young parents with recipe bags twice a month (like "chef's plate"), and then we cook together with them virtually - another way to build community. God is good!

- Deb Richards, Director of YFC Young Parents



Prayer & Hope

The gift of encouraging others

When I was eight years old I came upon my mother crying uncontrollably. She was in a posture of prayer but looked defeated and broken. She bravely said, "Don't worry honey, everything is going to be OK. God has a plan for each one of you children. Everything is going to be fine."

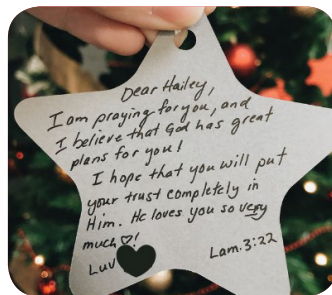
I never forgot these words of hope.

It was shortly after, that I and seven brothers and sisters went into our first foster homes. Despite her challenges my mother had tremendous faith and always prayed, and she had people praying for us; the church, her friends, people who knew us and people who didn't. Her only prayer was that each of us children, despite what we were going through, would find the Lord and receive salvation. While it did not happen overnight, I am happy to say that by the grace of God all eight of us are born again Christians loving and serving God today.

That is the power and hope of prayer!

Many of the youth we serve at YFC come from similar, challenging backgrounds. We thank you for taking the time to pray for them through our year end appeal and our Ornaments of Hope campaign. You helped us deck the halls with the return ornaments, giving hope to those being prayed for. I know that your prayers continue to move mountains on the behalf of these precious young people, and their lives will be impacted above and beyond what we can imagine. I thank you for your giving, and your prayers.

Over this past year I intentionally reached out to as many of you as I could, to thank you for your continued support, and to pray with you. What a privilege! We prayed for the salvation of our children, the health of our loved ones, the safety of our frontline workers, our churches, our political leaders, our ministry, and our youth. 2020 was a challenging year for all of us. What a blessing it is to lift each other up in prayer, and to trust God with our lives and this ministry. Thank you for trusting us with your prayer requests. We will continue to uphold you in prayer. Please continue to keep us in yours.



Judy Richichi,
Director of Development

Tune in!

POWER OF HOPE

RADIOTHON
on CHVN 95.1

April 6-8, 2021



YFC
WINNIPEG

Youth
Unlimited™

Be sure to tune in CHVN 95.1 FM
on April 6-8 for our
YFC Power of Hope Radiothon!

Over the three days of programming you will hear dozens of stories of how the lives of youth are being impacted by the work of YFC, even during the challenges of this past year!

Money raised during this year's radiothon will go towards ensuring all of our programs will continue for the thousands of young people who need the hope of Jesus now more than ever.

If you'd like to sponsor the radiothon, or provide a gift of matching funds, please contact judy.richichi@yfcwinnipeg.ca

We look forward to speaking and praying with you when you call in to the radiothon!



ForwardTogether

How you can get involved

Pray

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. (2 Corinth. 4:8)

Please pray for our ministry leaders, staff, and volunteers as we seek to serve and connect with youth who desperately need the hope of Jesus in this unique time.

Please pray for continued financial provision for YFC as fundraising efforts are challenging during this time.

Please pray for members of our staff who have had to cut their hours due to a drop in their support.

Donate

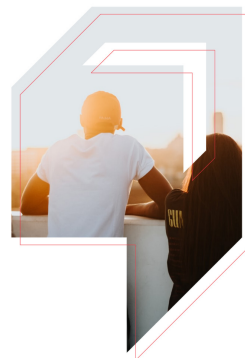
If, as my representatives, you give even a cup of cold water to a little child, you will surely be rewarded. (Matthew 10:42)

You can be a part of providing hope to thousands of young people by partnering with us financially. As a faith-based, non-profit, nearly 100% of our funding comes from caring, generous people like you. This year, our needs are greater and more diverse than ever! A donation card and return envelope are enclosed.

Join the Team

God has given each of you special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings. (1 Peter 4:10)

The programs at YFC Winnipeg are continually growing and changing, as the needs of youth grow and change. As we vision for new opportunities to connect with young people in our community, we are always looking for additional volunteer and staff team members to help us make them a reality. Please check out opportunities at yfcwinnipeg.com/careers or yfcwinnipeg.com/volunteer for more information.



FamilyGetaway

After several months of “code red” hunkering down, does your family need to get out of the house and have some “covid-safe” fun?

Camp Cedarwood has a couple cabins available to rent. Get out of the city and enjoy the beauty and activities of the great outdoors!

Camp Cedarwood is located just outside Lac du Bonnet, MB, and they would love to welcome your family for your much needed getaway.

More information at cedarwood.com, or by calling 204-345-8529 or emailing office@campcedarwood.com



Cedarwood has 2 cabins available to rent. For more information please check out their website or contact the Cedarwood office.
www.campcedarwood.com
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