

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023



**Youth
for Christ**
Youth Unlimited™
WINNIPEG

Found In Him

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We read in Luke 19 about Jesus' purpose, "to seek and to save the lost". Biblically, the term "lost" is used as the opposite of "saved," as in someone who has accepted Christ as their Saviour. Did you know that Merriam Webster provides 9 different definitions for the word lost? By these worldly definitions we encounter countless different ways for people, especially young people, to be lost or have the feeling of lostness.

We hear common phrases like "lost, please return," "lost without you," or "a lost opportunity" and all of these come from places of hurt or struggle. For the young people we are called to care for this is unfortunately all too true.

As we read on in Luke 19, Jesus shows us with words and actions what His mission is, but



**"For the Son of Man
came to seek and to
save the lost."**

Luke 19:10

He also gives His followers a mission as well: to make good use of the time and resources He has given to us, until the time when He comes again.

That is a responsibility that Youth for Christ does not take lightly. We strive to use every opportunity to point young people towards Jesus, who has the power save.

It is our hope that you find some encouragement from our stories as we strive to guide, mentor, and love those who feel lost, and help them find truth, strength, belonging, and peace in Jesus.



YFC SOCCER

Finding Truth

During one of our golf fundraising events, Samuel, the YFC Soccer Program Director, had the opportunity to bring along one of the youth who participates in the the soccer program, to volunteer and help run errands at the golf course.

They had a long drive to and from Carman which provided the opportunity for great conversations, opening up a space to discuss matters of faith. This young man comes from a Muslim family and was asking about the differences between Christianity and Islam. At one point they discussed the reason for the Golf Fundraiser.

At one point he broke into tears, suddenly realizing that the people attending the event were giving their time and resources to help raise money so that he could play soccer.

The reality for him and many other kids is that the cost to play soccer during the winter is not affordable. He was amazed at the kind of love and sacrifice that these golfers were willing to show for kids that they didn't know and would never meet. At that point, Samuel had the opportunity to explain to him about Christ's sacrificial love for us, and about what Jesus did for all of us on the cross. Samuel explained that in a similar way, the golfers are showing Christ-like love by trying to cushion the costs so that kids can play at a minimal fee.

The young man asked jokingly, "Why don't other religions do that?" Samuel then had the amazing opportunity to point out the fact that it's, "because they don't have Jesus in their hearts."

Finding Peace

Jason, one of the youth in our YFC St. Pierre community, took his own life on February 16, 2022. It was three days after he and his twin brother had celebrated their birthday. This was an absolutely devastating event, especially since no one had any indication that he had been struggling with thoughts of suicide.

The day following Jason's death, we hosted a breakfast at our drop-in center for all of his closest friends and siblings to help them process and talk through the traumatic experience. With many at a loss for words, we basically just cried together and prayed.

Fast forward one year, after a long journey of grieving and processing the trauma, Jason's

mom was challenged with a difficult situation as she now had to plan a birthday party to celebrate one son, Kevin, while also trying to deal with the one year anniversary of his brother's suicide. We were once again able to step in and walk alongside the family to host a memorial service in the drop-in center, and they accepted.

To commemorate and honour Jason's life, we collected pictures of Jason and created a looping slideshow. We also had a candle station at the front of the room where Jason's ashes and pictures were displayed with a large lit candle representing his life.

Friends and family members were invited to light small tealights in memory of him.



Lastly, there was an area where people could write a note of encouragement to the family or a memory they shared with Jason. This was a very meaningful gesture for the family and created a much needed space to process the pain of loss. Life can be really hard sometimes, but we are thankful to be able to be a support when moments like these happen.

Due to our work and long-standing support of this community, we were uniquely positioned to be a critical

support for those struggling, grieving, and desperately looking for some hope. There will be better days ahead, we know this, but in the here and now, we are there to fill a need. By showing compassion to a hurting community we hope to point them towards a God of love and of hope, in whom we can find comfort.

Finding Strength

As all those who work with youth recognize, working with challenging youth is just that - challenging! More often than not, you're left with that horrible, uneasy feeling, wondering if anything you are saying, doing, or being is making a difference! Then BAM! God speaks to that lie

and gives you a glimpse into what He's up to.

A great example of this was shared at one of our recent team meetings. Dan and Dixie, Work Force Program Coordinators, excitedly shared how one of their 18-year-old youth, who was involved in

various Work Force initiatives, declared she had stopped smoking pot and hadn't used it for a few weeks. Weed is precious to the community of youth we serve in the North End, so we took a moment to celebrate and thank God for victory and the impact that this will have on both her and the community around her.

"What makes this story even more amazing is knowing how toxic, addicted, and often violent her home is," says Ian, Work Force Program Director. To choose to give up something that had provided her with comfort, indicates that a major



Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

shift is taking place, Jesus is at work.

What might seem insignificant to some, really isn't! We see this as a clue that what is being declared and taught at Work Force is hitting home. The truth of her infinite value, being made in the image of God, and the hope and future because of Christ's infinite love for her, is starting to resonate with her. The evidence is slowly showing up in how she is making life-giving choices! Praise God!



Finding Belonging

Justin arrived a few minutes early and he was very shy and quiet. "I didn't fully know Justin's story or his background, but we did have a chance to connect in those few minutes before everyone else showed up," says Caleb, Film & Media Program Director. Through their brief chat, Caleb could tell there aren't many places in Justin's life where he is able to receive caring attention or become part of a fun group.

As the group carried on through the evening, playing icebreaker games and planning out a

movie scene to film, Justin was able to experience the joyful energy in the room and he started really opening up. It was amazing to see him go from shy to outgoing. After the workshop, Caleb gave all the youth an opportunity to share their thoughts on a feedback form. Justin wrote, "I like the community, it's very friendly and a nice place to be." This was so impactful to hear. And through that witness, the seed has now been planted that a Christian community is a great place to be.



Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11



Finding Support

Joseph is a young man in our community who lost his mom around his 18th birthday. It was just the two of them living together. His mom's death thrust him into adulthood, as he needed to step up and take care of everything at their home: caring for the property, house, pets, etc. He used to attend our drop-in center as a youth, so we had prior connections. When we heard about what had happened,

we reached out and immediately gained access back into his life and have been able to walk alongside him, coaching him to help equip him to be able to do the things that adults do!

He has really leaned on YFC as his community of support, and we are grateful to be able to walk with him in this hard season.



Radiothon!

We are pleased to announce that \$115,000 was raised to help youth in our community through our Radiothon fundraiser this year. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Special thanks to the following sponsors. We couldn't have done it without you!

- Argus Industries
- Greenland Equipment
- The Winnipeg Transition Centre
- TEAMS Transport
- Fort Group CPA
- BNI Nexus
- Integrity Painting
- Prairie West
- Mat Master
- Canada Wrap
- Concord Projects
- OK Tire
- Fusion Industries
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- Royal LePage Dynamic
- Lorne & Sharon Klassen
- Lakeview Insurance Brokers
- Bye Insurance Agency Inc.

2023 GOLF TOURNAMENT

IN SUPPORT OF YOUTH FOR CHRIST WINNIPEG



Corporate Sponsors:

Registration for our annual Golf Tournament is now open. We have many sponsorship opportunities available.

For more details, please visit: YFCWINNIPEG.CA/EVENTS

Save The Date!

Tuesday, July 25

Individual Golfers:

New this year: We are opening up a limited amount of spots for individual golfers. The cost for an individual golfer is \$275.

For more information please email: EVENTS@YFCWINNIPEG.CA

Forward. Together.

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 CORINTHIANS 4:8

Please pray that our staff and volunteers would be filled with the Joy of the Lord, and that young people would be drawn to Jesus through that Joy. Pray that our activities, programs and resources can help youth experience the hope of Christ.

Scan the code below with your phone to add our prayer calendar to yours:



Volunteer

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

1 PETER 4:10

Our programs are growing and we are in need of volunteers. We have many different areas where you can use your gifts to serve young people, everything from mentoring youth, administration support, hospitality, and recreational programs. We are looking for caring and responsible adults (young and old) who love the Lord and are excited to make an impact in the lives of young people.

To learn more about how and where you can serve as a volunteer, please visit:

yfcwinnipeg.ca/volunteer

Join Our Team

"Jesus called out to them, 'Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!'"

MARK 1:17

Currently, we are hiring for a number of key positions on our staff team. Maybe God has been nudging you with a call to serve in ministry, or you know someone that is looking for a ministry opportunity. Please help us build our team.

The following are some of the full-time staff roles we are looking to fill:

- Camp Cedarwood Summer Ministry Director
- Ministry Director at our Stonewall Satellite location
- Program Coordinators in Stonewall and Selkirk
- Various Program Coordinators (Winnipeg) and more.

For details on all of our open positions please visit:

yfcwinnipeg.ca/careers

Donate

Whether you are giving to one of our programs, a staff member, or our general ministry please know that your gift is a life-changing legacy, and together we can help young people attain their full God-given potential, in every area of life. Below is a list of areas that you can designate your donation to:

GENERAL MINISTRY

Winnipeg	Niverville
Arborg	Selkirk
Carman	St. Pierre
Stonewall	Camp Cedarwood

(Note that all community designations stay in their community)

SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

Young Parents	The Edge Skatepark
Ball Hockey	The Rig Fitness Center
Film & Media	The Rock Climbing Gym
Work Force	Turning Point Counselling
King St. Drop-In	Masterworks Dance Studio
Soccer	

YFCWINNIPEG.CA/DONATE

Or scan the code on your phone:



MISSIONARY STAFF

To explore our team and make a gift to one of our missionary staff members visit:

yfcwinnipeg.ca/our-team