

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023



# Passionately Serving



**BY CLIFF HEIDE**  
Executive Director

**"Come and follow me," said Jesus, "and I will make you fishers of men."**

MARK 1:17

Fishers of men. A familiar phrase, often quoted in relation to Christian missions. This summer God has expanded my reflections on this verse.

Beyond a call to missions, this verse speaks to God's incredible love and personal invitation for each one of us.

Jesus, God in the flesh, came to this earth and drew close to real people - in this instance fisherman. When he saw them he didn't speak to them in lofty, religious words. He spoke to them using the language and passions of their heart - the language of fishing. He wasn't

calling them to lay aside who they were or what they were good at, but rather he invited them to keep those passions and skills, but to reorient them towards others and towards the ways of the Kingdom of God. He invited them to follow Him and serve in a way that related to their heart.

When I look around YFC I see so many of our staff and volunteers stepping into this invitation. In their work at YFC, our staff and volunteers are bringing their passions and gifts in areas of soccer, ball hockey, relationships, rock climbing, fitness, summer camp, job skills training, parenting courses, and more to our youth and their families. But beyond just the activities in and of themselves, they are using these passions to be the stepping stones to develop deep relationships and have meaningful conversations about Jesus.

Jesus invites all of us to follow Him in what He is doing, using our gifts, skills, vocations, and resources for the work of the Kingdom. As we celebrate all that summer has held and head into the fall, we invite you to consider how this invitation of Jesus could be reflected in your own involvement with Youth for Christ. Are there any gifts, passions or resources that you have that could help expand the reach and capacity of our efforts? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

Together our staff, volunteers, financial and prayer partners form a rich network of gifts, resources and skills that benefit the youth and families connected to YFC Winnipeg. We are so grateful to consider you as part of our team as we seek to follow Christ and offer friendship, love and hope to those we are privileged to serve.

## Camp Cedarwood Update:

We are incredibly thankful for God's provision that were able to run summer camp this year. While once again struggling to find enough staff, we were able to stretch the resources we did have and run 7 weeks of summer camp.

Praise the Lord, we were able to share the hope of Christ with over 325 campers this summer.

Thank you for sharing our needs and for praying for our summer camp ministry. God is good!



YOUNG PARENTS

# Fully Known and Deeply Loved

BY EMILY COOK &  
CHEYENNE MOGILEVSKI  
[Young Parents](#)

This summer, we have seen God do some amazing things for the Young Parents ministry. We absolutely see His hand at work evidenced by our increased attendance and high level engagement over the spring and summer months.

At the beginning of July we held a Barbecue event where moms, dads, and kids were able to enjoy a beautiful summer evening in community with each other.



**"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."**

Romans 12:10

We were blown away by the turn out; not only did many of our regular young families show up eager to connect but they also invited their friends, siblings, and cousins who are also young parents! In total we had 18 families come out amounting to 52 people! God is so faithful in bringing out the



**"I learned that I don't have to be a perfect parent, but that I can be a good dad."**

parents and kids that need connection. It was great to meet many new faces and we are excited to see where these new relationships lead to. We are thankful for the opportunity to know these young families and to be a space where they can come for food, community, and encouragement!

Another one of our summer events was a week-long "Nobody's Perfect" parenting class. We had 7 young parents learn about parenting skills and used their own experiences to contribute to discussions about caring for their children. We had fantastic conversations and times of connecting in which there was much laughter and "aha" moments. One of the dads was excited to learn that he didn't have to be a perfect parent, of course nobody is, he was encouraged that being a good dad was something within his power through learning and effort.

We are so proud of these young parents for their willingness to be vulnerable with us. Thanks to amazing volunteers, we were able to offer childcare and saw five kiddos during the sessions. We had the opportunity to sing, play, and snuggle with each of the precious little ones that came. We thank God for his provision during the course and the connections that were made.

## How you can pray for this ministry:

- Thank God for His provision over the past year of monumental growth, providing the staff and volunteers with energy, wisdom, strength, and protection
- That we would be salt and light to these young parents and that they would see Jesus through us and choose to follow Him.
- For those moms who are following Jesus, that they wouldn't get distracted by the chaotic world surrounding them.



62

**Parents connected with**

41

**Children cared for during weekly Moms Group**

10

**Moms supported in pregnancy and postpartum**

\*All figures are for the 2022-23 ministry year

## What do these numbers mean?

There are a lot of young families that need support! Young families that want to grow and be healthy, but they need people in their corner encouraging them, supporting them, and showing them they can make healthy choices. These numbers tell us that we need more volunteers and staff!

Would you please prayerfully consider how you can support this ministry, whether you could volunteer in some way, or sharing our newsletter with someone you know that may be interested.



**YOUNG PARENTS**

Youth for Christ  
Youth Unlimited™ WINNIPEG



# Neighborhood Focus

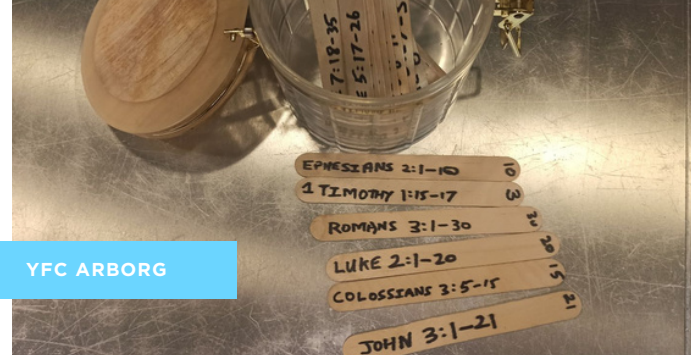
**BY TERESA GALASHAN**  
Director, Youth for Christ Selkirk

Our group has steadily grown since the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted a couple of years ago, and we have had record numbers of youth attending our drop-in and lunch programs. However, the students that would come would fluctuate, and we didn't feel like we had a core group of teens that we could disciple and invest in consistently. We have noticed that dynamic changing over the past few months, we are thrilled to now have a group of students who not only come out regularly but are also asking to get involved in whatever way they can, and come to church.

This summer, a core group of youth helped host our city wide block parties, and we couldn't have done it without them. All the youth were enthusiastic and hard working, and made everything so much more fun. We also had the exciting opportunity to involve many of them as youth leaders in a local Vacation Bible School, and they will get to hear the gospel message as they lead younger kids through songs, stories and games. Please pray for these growing relationships, and that these opportunities will lead to many lifelong commitments to Christ as a result.



YFC SELKIRK



YFC ARBORG

## Learning the Word

**BY COLIN CHEN**  
Director, Youth for Christ Arborg

Our ministry in Arborg has been experiencing some exciting momentum over the past year. Since last summer our regular attendance has grown from 5 regulars to roughly 25. From one staff member and 2 volunteers to 10 caring adults involved. Every week, there seems to be 1 or 2 new youth because a friend has brought them. Financially, the community has also donated more than double what was given last year! We feel the community's strong support and give praise to God that has caused this ministry to flourish!

We have a deal where the youth

can earn 10 cents of canteen credit for every Bible verse that they read out loud to a Staff or Volunteer. On any given night several young people will say, "I'd like to read 10 verses for a pop". On average, about \$75 of canteen credit gets given out at every boy's drop-in night! We strongly believe that there is power in the spoken scriptures within the lives of the youth we have the opportunity to connect with. Through this initiative, we've had so many meaningful spiritual conversations with the youth, and have given them invitations to receive Jesus into their lives.

## Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in the YFC annual golf tournament! We are pleased to announce that \$80,000 was raised to help youth in our community.



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## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://yfcwinnipeg.ca/our-team)