

NEWSLETTER

## CHRISTMAS 2023



**Youth  
for Christ**  
Youth Unlimited™  
WINNIPEG

# Celebrating The Christmas Season



**BY CLIFF HEIDE**  
Executive Director

**"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"**

JOHN 1:1,14

The season of advent reminds us of the miracle of the incarnation. God took on flesh, entering into a physical body to live with humanity. This is a revelation of the very nature of God: selflessness, compassion, and love in human form. Jesus revealed and brought the heart of God close, in a way that was accessible.

As we remember this sacred mystery, we too are invited to reflect on what it means to become the embodied people of God. We want to yield to the

will and the love of God with our own physical bodies, and with the communal body of Christ. Our desire is that in this yielding we become the place of God's presence and peace, the place where His will is done in our bodies and His Body (the church), as it is in heaven.

At YFC Winnipeg, we want to be a community of Christ's embodied peace - welcoming youth to the hope that only our Saviour can bring. As we take time to be present - in body - with our youth, we seek to make space for God's love and care to flow through us. We also regularly invite youth to become a part of the larger body of Christ, through the local church. In this relational service to youth, we hope to reflect Christ in all that we do.

In his physical body Jesus regularly withdrew from the crowds to pray, surrendering the things on his heart to the Father. We too are invited to follow his lead, making prayer a regular rhythm in our own bodies. As our staff spend time praying with some of our youth, many of these youth mention that they feel something they have never felt before. It may sound simple, but prayer is a gift we can bring that helps youth step into an encounter with Jesus in their own body. It connects them with others in the body of Christ. How wonderful is that!

Let us be moved in yielding and surrendering to the gift of love incarnate this Christmas season.



## Christmas Prayer Ornaments

Once again this Christmas we want to invite you to partner with us in prayer for the youth we serve. As we continue to engage in praying with them, we would love for you to be in prayer for them as well.

In this update you will find a prayer ornament, and an invitation to partner with us in praying for one of our youth.





# Impact of Consistency: King St. Drop-In

The leaders of the King Street Drop-In interact with hundreds of different individuals over the course of a year, a unique challenge that most of our other leaders don't have to face. Most YFC ministries are developed around particular activities which naturally leads to youth showing up more consistently. The Drop-In runs two Sr. High nights and one Jr. High night a week and leaders rarely know who or how many kids plan on attending. But even through these unique challenges we witness God working in the hearts of youth attending these program nights, slowly changing attitudes and softening hearts. We are especially encouraged by the changes witnessed in two young people whose stories we share as testament to the impact made

by our leaders' consistent presence and the power of prayer.

## Jaxon:

When Jaxon first started attending he was shy and socially awkward, but one of our leaders purposefully talked to him every time he came. After a few weeks he began to open up about his anxiety and depression and shared how his family was struggling with loss. We were encouraged that he felt comfortable enough to open up and share the struggles he had been going through. It allowed us to share with him about the hope of Jesus and the power of prayer. We told him that he can ask God to cast out anxiety, and that God has given his children a spirit of love and power and not of fear.

Another day, soon after, we had the opportunity to encourage him and lead him in a prayer,

asking God to relieve his anxiety and for peace to fill his heart. We have absolutely seen God answer that prayer. It has been amazing to see the improvement in his attitude and mental well-being over the weeks since that day.

Recently, Jaxon had a fall while playing basketball at Drop-In, and thought he may have injured his ankle. He let us pray for him to be healed and the next week his leg was fine! These days he seems to be taking initiative in his faith and showing it to others in his own way by wearing a cross. It is clear that God is at work in this young man's life and we take great joy in watching the seed that has been planted in him grow.

## Leah:

Leah is a youth who attended Drop-In for the first time in fall of 2022. Despite her young age, she described herself as feeling numb to the world, before she came to drop-in. She was brought to the drop-in with some friends and at the start didn't care much for it or the God talks. Through the leader's love and support and prayers she began to love the drop-in more and her faith began to grow. Over the past few months she has been one of our most regular youth. She ended up becoming part of our summer team and joined us regularly in going out and serving the community alongside the program leaders. She has grown much in her faith and has fallen in love with prayer and worship. It is remarkable to see the change in her life.



Leah was asked to describe the drop-in last spring and here is what she said:



**The drop-in is a safe space to be yourself and have fun. It is well protected and has a variety of fun things youth can do and socialize about. My favourite thing about the drop-in are how thoughtful the leaders are when deciding what to set up and play. I also love when we have God talks and when we can really connect about why we're all together."**

Please pray that the King St. Drop-In leaders would have grace, wisdom, discernment, and boldness as they engage youth coming from a culture that is media-driven, image-focused, and increasingly opposed to biblical truth.



King St. Drop-In

# 200

Youth in total engaged in the King St. Drop-In over the past year

# 15

Youth from the Drop-In accepted the opportunity to follow Christ

# 14

Caring adults currently serve as staff or volunteers in the Drop-In

# Finding Roots: The Rig

Kennedy and Olivia, 16 year old twin sisters, have been coming to The Rig for two years now. They were happy to share about their experience:

Kennedy: "When we first came out we didn't know what to expect, but everyone was super nice and we were with friends so it was fun, even though that first workout kicked my butt. It was great to have leaders to encourage you or by helping improve your form."

Olivia: "There is also the bible aspect after the workouts which is always great. Getting to hear the leaders talk about the Word and hearing about Parker's life. He is such a great example of how to walk with God, how to always seek God first."

Kennedy: "Lately, the focus of our talks have been about finding our root, to have something to be rooted in when the world gets chaotic. Which is helpful because this is something I have been trying to figure out on my own. It is great to have leaders to talk to and help us out. When I don't come for a week it really feels like I'm lacking something."

Olivia: "Without the Rig I wouldn't be as strong in my walk with God."

Kennedy: "I used to be really scared to talk about my faith and share it with others but my experience here at the program has helped my confidence."

Olivia: "When we first started coming I was really struggling with self-love but connecting with Monica, The Rig Program Coordinator, and hearing how she has also struggled with similar things has helped me realize that I am not alone and I am loved. It is great to have someone to relate to."

Kennedy: "Olivia was always really worried about the future and what was going to happen in her life. She wasn't trusting in God as much as she is now, and her faith has grown. She is starting to believe that God's timing is right."

Olivia: "I've noticed that Kennedy's character has changed in that she is living everyday walking with the Lord in every decision."

Please pray for the youth of The Rig, that they would root themselves deep in the love of Christ. That He would grant them strength to face the challenges the world throws at them.



## Dancing For Joy: Masterworks

It was a joy to welcome both familiar and new faces to participate in our Masterworks Dance Camp. After having a quieter year in this ministry, it was very encouraging to be able to provide a camp for seventeen youth aged 8-12, as well as work experience for five older youth who wanted to take part by serving as camp leaders.

Campers had the opportunity to play gym games, go through musical theatre activities, make crafts, and learn dance pieces together in tap, ballet, and rhythmic gymnastics. Most importantly however, campers were given the opportunity to learn about the love God has for each of them. They explored stories about Jesus from the gospel of John, including

memorizing the weeks theme verse, John 8:31-32: "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Our prayer is that all youth at YFC have an opportunity to know this truth and we are incredibly grateful for the chance we had to share that truth with this special group through Masterworks Dance Camp.

Please pray for the Ministry of Masterworks, for wisdom and direction as they explore new ways to engage with youth through creative arts. Pray that all who participate in Masterworks programs will be filled with the joy of the Lord and be drawn to Jesus through that Joy.



# Thank You!

Thank you to all who joined us and all who made donations toward our Fall Banquet! We are pleased to announce that over \$70,000 was raised to support the ministry of YFC and to bless the youth we serve.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT THIS EVENING

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- Bardal Funeral Home & Crematorium
- Mat Master
- Prairie West
- DJN Services
- Wow! Factor Desserts



# 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, 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.

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)