

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024



**Youth
for Christ**
Youth Unlimited™
WINNIPEG

Searching for an Identity



BY CLIFF HEIDE
Executive Director

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

John 10:10

In our current post-Christian culture, the fastest growing group in Canada is the religiously unaffiliated. In many youth and young adults there is a suspicion towards religious institutions. But at the same time, they are very open to spiritual things, feeling there is something more to life and the divine. Even though youth have a desire for more, the majority will never consider walking into a church unless they first have a relationship with someone that is following Christ in an authentic way that makes them curious.

Several philosophical guideposts hold influence over our current global youth culture. Secularism offers youth the understanding that faith is something private - believe whatever you want privately, but make sure not to ever push your belief on anyone else. Relativism asserts to youth that there is no absolute truth any more. And acceptance, which used to be tolerance, is now pushing the idea to youth that they must be affirming and accepting of all things - no matter what. (The trick with acceptance is that everything is accepted, except those that don't accept.) No wonder youth struggle with feeling confident in what they are choosing for themselves!

Many youth in this generation are confused, broken, lonely,

and anxious, but all culture is able to offer them is an individualized, self-constructed morality. And when life is hard, there is no transcendent hope.

But the incredible thing is that Christ offers the hope of truth, healing, relationship, and peace - the exact answers to the challenges youth are facing. As we love and care for youth, we

pray for their eyes to be opened to knowing the greatest component of their identity is that they are more than their own construct - they are a child of God, made in the image of Christ. We long for youth to find themselves in this larger story, and to experience a relationship with Jesus, who has come to bring them life, so that they may live it to the full!



YOUTH FOR CHRIST WINNIPEG

FALL BANQUET

SAVE THE DATE

**TUESDAY
OCTOBER 29**



Shifting Attitudes: Ball Hockey



BALL HOCKEY

At the beginning of our season, my co-coaches Matt & Jamie asked what spiritual goals the boys had for their upcoming season. One by one they each shared pretty personal details. One of the guys said, "you don't see it much here, but I get really angry at home. I tend to take out my anger on people that don't deserve it. My goal is to be less angry."

A couple of them shared how anger was a problem for them and they wanted to be at peace more often and have more patience.

Matt and Jamie have had a couple discussions over the past few seasons about what the boys want to get out of their time here, and they've responded with things like accountability, but when

asked to go deeper into what that means for them, they stay silent.

"It was great to see them open up and be vulnerable with us. They have offered us an opening to share with them how Christ impacts our lives, specifically in regards to how we handle anger," says Jamie.

The week after we shared with one another, we met between games and Jamie shared how, as a young man, anger was a problem for me, especially in athletics, and how Christ has worked in me to "make allowance for each other's faults" to be "slow to anger", as Colossians 3:15 says we ought to. We went out the very next game and lost 6-4, but the attitudes of the boys were significantly different than the

previous game. I could see throughout the game, opportunities that would have normally resulted in frustration, instead were met with a smile or an encouraging word to one another.

Jamie shares, "It brings me joy to see them enjoying the game rather than analyzing it." In the weeks since we've seen them have a healthier approach to dealing with their emotions. They feel safe with us, which is evident when they take us aside

after games to share their frustrations one-on-one, rather than letting their emotions out during the game. We make sure that they are heard and that they know their emotions are valid, and we then get to walk with them through how to respond in a Christ-like way.

Because of your support we are able to offer boys a fun and engaging community to play hockey, build friendships, and get coached by caring, Godly mentors.

Breaking Through in Niverville



The girls club in Niverville is going amazingly well! While we don't have a huge number attending, we are definitely getting the chance to impact some girls deeply and it's been very exciting!

Savannah, YFC Niverville Program Coordinator, had been trying to have a talk on self worth for weeks, but it kept not working out for various reasons. She was growing disheartened with how many roadblocks had come up. She says, "this must be a really important topic that the girls really need to hear." She really believed God had given this message for her to share with these girls.

One night, a few weeks ago,

she decided to change their plans once again when it turned out only 2 of the 4 girls were able to attend. It was decided to just have a fun night with the two girls and really just hang out and pour into them in a light-hearted manner.

Savannah says "Without any prompting of my own, the whole evening turned into us looking into and reading Bible verses together, they were asking a lot of questions about the Bible." She was thrilled to share things that happened in these Bible stories, and how they relate to us today.

"The conversation ended up with me sharing my testimony for the last 45 minutes of the night!" Such outright ministry

and direct conversation about Jesus and the Bible had not happened at a Girl's Night yet, as the ministry is still very new.

"It was the most wonderful and encouraging evening to be able to share in these deep questions and explore the Bible with these girls. Praise Jesus, for He is moving and He is faithful! Prayers are being answered and God is working at the Drop-In in Niverville!"

Because of your support we are able to offer flexible and intentionally planned programs, creating deeper, more impactful relationships through reaching the needs of youth where they are at.

Integral Support: Turning Point

Katy Mesics has been serving as not only a counsellor but also as the director of the Turning Point ministry. We asked her to share some thoughts on the ministry and how she had seen God at work over the past year.

What is the mission of the Turning Point Ministry?

Katy: “We support the mission and vision of YFC by caring for the emotional and psychological well-being of youth and their families by offering low cost, and sometimes free professional counselling services.

Where to you see God at work in your ministry?

Katy: “It is always amazing and humbling to see individuals and families experience hope and healing because of our obedience to God’s calling, being able to use the gifts and abilities that He has given our counsellors. It is always so encouraging to see that God is always at work in people’s lives and in this ministry we get to see that regularly through the youth that we welcome in.”

What are some challenges that youth today are faced with?

Katy: “Unfortunately we are really seeing the negative impact of smart phones and social media. Youth have become so dependent on their phones. I think youth are really yearning for connection and acceptance and are turning to the wrong things to fulfil these needs. Thankfully if youth are coming through our doors, they’re already taking that first step in seeking something greater for themselves and we get to point them towards the hope and healing that God has designed for their lives.”

In addition to one-on-one counselling what other ways does Turning Point support youth?

Katy: “Whenever possible, we like to work together with the other ministries of YFC Winnipeg to expand the ways that we can support youth and their families. This can look like receiving clients as referrals from other ministry programs, recommending our clients to join other YFC programs, and offering mental health education and resources, not just for youth, but to staff and volunteers as well.

Your gift today to the Turning Point ministry would mean more professional counselling services available to youth that need it, removing barriers like cost and accessibility.



SOCCER

Going Deeper: Soccer

We have several youth who are from the Muslim faith, and it has been interesting to have faith conversations with them. The joy of playing soccer and the friendships created over regular weekly programming is breaking the ice and allowing for youth to feel safe to have big faith discussions. Talks about the differences between Christianity and Islam have become regular occurrences especially during the recently passed holy month of Ramadhan.

Samie Mwendwa, Soccer Ministry Director, says “It was interesting to hear a youth say that when he turns 18, he doesn’t want to be a Muslim anymore and that he was struggling with the pretense around the Ramadhan period of changing from eating during the day to eating during the night and eating so much in the night more than they would do on any other day.” Samie was able to invite him to have a relationship with Jesus and share what his faith is like. What an amazing breakthrough!

The reality for this young person, and many like him, is that while they are living at home with their parents opportunities and freedom to explore Christianity for themselves will be very limited.

We have had many amazing opportunities, almost on a weekly basis, to clarify the misconceptions that Muslim youth have about the truth the Bible speaks of and to plant seeds in their hearts. An environment of acceptance, understanding, and of genuine Christ-like love that exists in our soccer program is critical to allow for these incredibly meaningful relationships to happen. We give glory to God for this unique opportunity.

Because of your support we are able to offer low cost opportunities, for young people with very diverse backgrounds, to play soccer and learn more about Jesus.

THE POWER OF
HOPE
RADIOTHON

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

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- Fort Group CPA's
- Fusion Industries
- Greenland Equipment
- Integrity Painting
- Mat Master
- Prairie West

Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated and made donations toward The Power of Hope Radiothon! We are pleased to announce that close to \$70,000 was raised to support the ministry of YFC and to bless the youth we serve.

2024 GOLF TOURNAMENT

IN SUPPORT OF YOUTH FOR CHRIST WINNIPEG



Tuesday, July 23

Glendale Golf & Country Club

Register today for Youth for Christ's annual golf tournament!

Last year we raised over \$80,000 for youth in our community and we would love to do it again. Your participation in this event makes all the difference!

We have a waitlist for Individual golfers available
Register at yfcwinnipeg.ca/event/golf-tournament/

Forward Together

How you can get involved: **This Summer**

Pray

Ball Hockey: As we share the life changing message of Jesus, pray that the boys would continue to open their hearts to Him and seek the abundant life He offers.

YFC Niverville: That we would continue to have many more amazing opportunities to share the hope of Jesus.

Turning Point: that the youth in our care would discover the incredible love that their Heavenly Father has for them.

YFC Soccer: for wisdom and compassion for our leaders to speak truth to the curious youth as they discover Jesus for themselves.

Volunteer

We are always looking for caring and responsible adults who love the Lord and are excited to make an impact in the lives of young people.

Camp Cedarwood: Would love some extra help this summer, whether that be in hospitality, maintenance, administration, in the kitchen, or working directly with our campers.

We are already busy gearing up for fall when regular weekly programming resumes. If you are interested in being a part of a ministry program, or simply want to know more, this summer is a great time to get that process started.

Join Our Team

We have some exciting things happening this summer but we need some help. If you have a heart to serve young people would you please consider joining us this summer. Staff are needed in the following Ministries:

Camp Cedarwood: Lifeguards, health officers, and activity leaders are needed for summer camp.

Work Force: Program Coordinators to help deliver skill development programs.

King St. Drop-In: Program Assistants to engage with youth through sports and activities.



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

yfcwinnipeg.ca/careers
yfcwinnipeg.ca/volunteer

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:

TO GIVE VIA E-TRANSFER

DONATE@YFCWINNIPEG.CA

Please include your donation designation and contact information in the message box!

TO GIVE ONLINE

YFCWINNIPEG.CA/DONATE

FOR OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

Scan Here:



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

MISSIONARY STAFF

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

yfcwinnipeg.ca/our-team