

JUDAH BRAUN VEHICLES OF LOVE

Hey! I am Judah Braun, and I am the newest summer staff on our team this year. As I have walked with Christ this last year I have seen and been touched by His love, and I am more and more convinced that it is His love that transforms lives.

This is something that is exciting me this summer at YFC. God's love for me is what is changing me and transforming me, so having the opportunity to be a vessel of God's love for the kids I am getting to serve is incredible.

By far my favourite part of the summer so far is running programs at The Door. Kurt Friesen has been running a guy's afternoon there on Mondays. We grab pizza, head over to The Door, and walk to the edge of school to invite guys for the afternoon. Ten minutes later we might be eating pizza at the Door, playing tag outside, working out, playing floor hockey, or even just getting out of the van at the skatepark.

These activities are fun, but they all serve one singular, special purpose. God's love is what draws us to Him. But love itself is intangible, it has to be carried by something. That is what these activities provide. They are the medium through which we show God's love to these kids. When we warm up pepperoni pizza, or play tag, or bring them to the skate park, what we are really doing is saying "We love you", and through that, through pizza and skateboards, we can say "God loves you".



NOT A THIRD-WORLD ISSUE *(Continued from front)*

lege, and Simon, who is a returning staff member for the third year. They are ready for an adventure that we hope will impact both them and the youth they minister to. Please pray for our staff as they prepare for and minister to the youth in our community.

This year we are also looking for sponsors who could come alongside our summer staff to help cover their wages. In the past, we have had grants to help cover summer staff wages. This year we did not receive any grants so our summer staff are required to send out support letters to help cover as much of their wage as possible. That being said, they will need extra support. If you are reading this and could help to support our summer staff account, we would really appreciate the support. Your partnership helps keep our programs going strong and gives young leaders a chance to grow and share their faith with hurting marginalized youth.



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STORIES

A YOUTH FOR CHRIST PORTAGE NEWSLETTER

ART SCHROEDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NOT A THIRD-WORLD ISSUE

Reading the story of Joseph and the hardship he endured reminds me of a training event one of our staff initiated a couple of weeks back. The Joy Smith Foundation led the training, and is an organization that sheds light on human trafficking here in Canada.

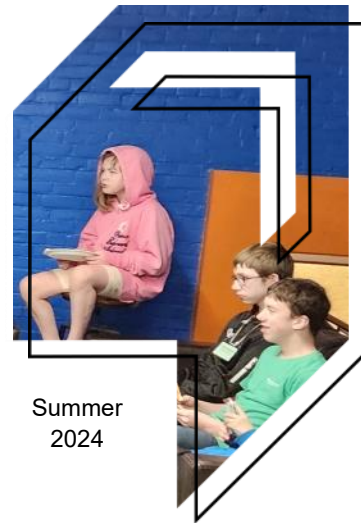
When I had heard of human trafficking, I always thought this was a third-world issue. It turns out it is a global issue. One comment that the presenter made stuck with me, she said, "If you have drug issues in your community, you have trafficking in your community." Friends, many of our communities in Manitoba have drug issues.

So how do we combat this issue of human trafficking? Prayer is critical. Education is also important, so that we can understand

what to look for so we can protect those we love and care about. The website Joysmithfoundation.com is an amazing site to educate yourself on this issue. It gives you some tools to help bring awareness and protect the vulnerable in our communities. Recently, our staff intervened in a case of a young person who was being trafficked in our community. Please pray with us, as many of the youth we work with are vulnerable to the prey of traffickers.

As summer programming approaches, we anticipate a fun-filled, busy summer break. This year we are privileged to find 2 young men who love Jesus and youth to join our summer ministry team. Judah, who has the summer off from col-

Summer
2024



(Continued on back)

We desire to see every young person and their community changed by God's love

PAUL WARTHE

A FRIEND IN NEED

Friends and family. Some say you can't live with them and you can't live without them. Over the past few months I've learned that I have definitely needed each and every one of them – of you. As some of you know, Eileen, my wife of 40 years, went to be with the Lord in February. Without the support of the church family, I, and my sons and their families, would not be where we are today. The support and encouragement we have felt, and continue to feel, has made our transition more bearable. Yes, we have our emotional moments (it's only been 4 months after all) and we expect to have more. Not all will be of a heart-wrenching, flood of tears variety, but the moments will come. And they will come at unusual times. (I was completing the form to have my Pharmacare deductible adjusted. One of the questions was "Marital Status". Options were: Single, Married, Common Law, Divorced, Widowed. First time to select that option. Twinge.) Whether you brought a meal, sent a card or flowers, have been praying, or just attended her Celebration Service, I wish to thank you for your continued care and support. Please continue to pray as we continue to adjust.

In 2 Corinthians, Paul begins his letter by speaking about the comfort we receive from Christ and how we can use this to comfort others. Not only am I a recipient of this (having been mentored by a man who lost his wife just 4 years ago) but I can use my experience to help comfort those who come through the front door of YFC. Recently, a man and his partner came into our office in tears. CFS had just confiscated their kids. They were beside themselves. Although I did not counsel them directly, I was there praying for the situation. YFC Portage has been working with the man for a while now and are continuing to work with them both through this very difficult

time of their lives. This is part of the "Front Door Ministry" as we call it—meeting the needs and sharing Christ with those who come in off the street.

Summer @ YFC Portage

YFC Portage's summer events begin Tuesday, July 2nd! Organized fun and excitement takes place every day of the week.

*Monday: Kidz Kamp @ The Door

*Tuesday: Door Drop-in & Door Activities @ the Door

*Wednesday: Door Drop-in @ the Door & Dakota Plains

*Thursday: Jr. Drop-in @ The Factory

*Friday: Small Group activities

Visit our web site for the full details and a calendar of activities. Waiver forms can be found there too. You can also call the office (204-239-6763) for more info.

Ways To Donate

MAIL or IN PERSON

YFC Portage Inc.,
60 Tupper Street North
Portage la Prairie, MB, R1N 1W8

CREDIT CARD

Call the YFC office at 204.239.6763.

E-TRANSFER

Send E-Transfer donations to:
donations@yfcportage.com

ONLINE

Visit the "Donations" page at www.yfcportage.com

ASHLEY MORRISON

A SPACE FOR THEM AND JESUS

Jr. Drop-in has been by far one of my favorite days to be a part of. We had 30 kids for the programs at our Factory location. Many bibles have gone out from here as we introduced the kids to what it says from Genesis onward. We began right back at creation.

We were talking about the covenants God made with various people. However, one week in particular, we were feeling led to talk about something we love—the gospel (instead of our chronological order). We watched as many conversations opened up out of that. To hear some kids say they never heard the gospel talked about, other than one time at a camp, was disappointing and encouraging all at once. There is interest in spiritual matters, but it is a very broad subject for many. They have been exposed to everything but to the One and only resurrected King. This makes it

harder to accept for some. So when we speak, we speak on what the Word says, we say who Jesus is. We share His story from creation to the cross to the resurrection to His return. We share why we do what we do and how we all followed in obedience to end up here at YFC.

Each week, we take turns leading games and doing the God talks. One time a whole group was going to leave once it was time for the God talk, but all it took was for one youth to say "No, I am going to stay for it." The rest followed. Another time a youth said, "I go to church 2 times a week!" They're like "Sunday church and here. Kids church!" I did not correct them, as we have created a little community here where the gospel is shared and it's a safe space for the kids to come together.

We meet them exactly where they're at in life. We laugh together, we eat together, we comfort, we walk alongside all of the mess and all of the joys.



God Talk time at a Jr. Drop-In.