



# YFC

VICTORIA

# Youth Unlimited™



December 2024

I love coming down to the end of the year. Not just because Christmas is just around the corner and my stocking will be filled with candy and chocolate, but also because it offers a chance to look back and see all the things that have taken place that we had no idea were going to happen.

We keep a book of our staff's testimonies from our staff meetings each week. As I went through it again recently, I saw so many stories of God's grace this year. Sometimes we forget all that's happened, but I've been so encouraged to be able to look back and see things like:

- meetings that took place with people as a direct result of specific prayer requests
- youth that are not on the street anymore, but have come to Christ and are in appropriate housing.
- young people being healed physically and recognizing the God that loves them
- so many young people who have made the decision to follow Jesus and are plugged into our youth groups or outreaches
- the financial provision of God for our staff and programs
- God promises from long ago that came to pass this year

It is truly overwhelming to be reminded of all the things that have happened and it fills me with faith for more for the next year.

I'm confident that 2025 will be another year of growth as we add ministry staff and our Director of Operations. I truly believe that this move will set the stage for increased growth into new areas as we strengthen our foundation and support structure. It is just one more unexpected thing that came about this year that will propel us forward.

Thank you for standing with us, praying with us, and supporting the work that God has called us to do. He is moving on Vancouver Island and we love experiencing it all with you!



Lindsay Hodges, Executive Director, Youth for Christ Victoria.

### STAFF 2024!



MISSING: DEREK DOVALE

## GLOBAL OUTREACH - DAVE PEACOCK

What a year it has been! In the past 9 months, we have packed and sent containers to YFC Burundi, YFC Kenya and YFC Tanzania, the three countries I was able to visit in 2023. I am thrilled to support the amazing work they are doing to reach thousands of young people every month! This year, we were able to send items like sewing machines to Tanzania for an outreach to many young Muslim women; baby items to support shunned, teen moms in the Safe House in Kenya; and clothing and shoes for the 96 orphans under YFC Burundi's care.



YFC Kenya is also going out to the farthest regions of their country to reach every young person with the Gospel, so we were glad to send sleeping bags and tents for their mission plus so much more!

Ultimately, we know that the practical resources we send will not only meet very real needs of youth in these communities, but also give opportunity for young people to find true hope in Jesus. Pray with us as we continue to do all we can to support the work of God in many nations!

## OPEN ARMS - JESSICA NELSON



This Christmas is going to be a particularly special one for one of Open Arms Ministry's families this year. A mother and daughter will be celebrating their first Christmas together in over a decade in their new home.

When I met Rebecca about 6 years ago, she was living on the streets of Victoria in a very broken state. Through on-going support, hard work, and the restoration only Jesus can provide, a family has now been made whole as Rebecca surrendered her life to Jesus and chose life over death.

Thanks to the larger body of believers who surrounded Rebecca with grace and helped her form a new community. I thank Jesus that He allowed me to come alongside Rebecca for the past 6 years and help start the journey that led to this amazing Christmas!

## CAMPUS LIFE - CLAUDIO ARANCIBIA & VICTORIA BLENKIN

Being a consistent, positive presence for the kids we work with is so important in building relationships. Olivia (not her real name) has been someone that I have gotten to know over these years I've been at serving at one of our local schools.

Olivia likes to read comics, unfortunately, these comics have inappropriate messaging for youth her age. It has come up a lot as we clean up breakfast club together. I want her to keep on reading, but I want her to choose wisely so I try to introduce her to other genres.

As we were cleaning up one day, I was commenting on how we were not perfect and are all works in progress. She became real quiet at this, as she does when she's thinking seriously and deeply, and then she said, "If I become a Christian, would I have to give up my comics?" We are not alone in the room at this time so I was cautious, but not hesitant to tell the truth. I said to her, "Yes, you'll have give up certain things when you give your life to God. But that's between you and Him, and He'll work with you in His timing." She thought about this and then said, "I don't think I'll ever give them up." I mentioned she may not know what the future holds, and she responded, "Oh, I know what the future is. The future is lonely." Here we are, with only a few minutes together in the morning, but Olivia's cry for companionship and help was so clear.

We continue, deepening relationships with young people that are hurting and lost. Through our other programs that Olivia attends, pray with us that she will open up to the message of the life, hope and companionship that can be found in Jesus.



## THE COMMUNITY YOUTH - JENN LABIUK



Nate the Great is a young man that I have had the pleasure of knowing since he was in kindergarten. I have watched him grow up over the years as he is one of my son's best friends and like a son to me. For years we have been praying for him to encounter and come to faith in Jesus.

This spring, we took a number of teens to Consumed Conference and Nate had no interest in going but changed his mind the night before and ended up coming with us to Courtney - miraculous! I knew, in my heart, that Jesus wanted to meet with him. Throughout the Friday and Saturday there were three separate instances of very specific prayers for healing for Nate that were answered and by the end of Saturday night, Nate went forward in the altar call. Afterward he found me and shared "Well ... I met Jesus, Jenn. He told me He is the one who is healing me. I surrendered to Him. He is God and I accepted Him into my heart!"

## MOBILE OUTREACH - RICK WISMER

As we came into this fall, I felt led to ask the Esquimalt Nation Council again about using the Bible in our programs. Unfortunately, the response was that they did not want any religious content in our program. So, after 8 years in the community, it seemed right to move our ministry out of Esquimalt Nation while still trying to remain connected with their youth.

In September, I felt a nudge from the Lord to approach Songhees, even though in the past my approaches were unsuccessful. At our first meeting, Eugene Sam, Youth Cultural Coordinator, asked me to explain our ministry. Shortly after I started to talk he stopped me and asked, "Are you the Blue Bus guy?" I said, "Yes, that is what the youth call me." Then he told me that he had heard good things about Blue Bus and several people had told him that he should talk with me. "Isn't it interesting that I am sitting here talking with you?" he said.

Then, last week, he told me that their community wants to work with us and one of the reasons is that their youth were excited about being together with the Esquimalt youth. They do have concerns about the "religious element" of our ministry and want to "negotiate" on some of the content. Please join me praying for the Lord to open the door for our teams to share the love of Christ in word and deed with Esquimalt, Songhees and off-reserve youth!



## YFC NANAIMO & PORT ALBERNI

**Paul MacMurchy, Janique Campbell, Ryan Schmand, David McKnight, Jayden Worth, & Derek Dovale.**

YFC Nanaimo had an amazing year and God continues to demonstrate His passion for the youth of Nanaimo area. We began the 2024 journey with a passion to reach more youth. By faith, we made the decision to open up to 120 youth at Adventure Camp. This involved approximately 160 people plus all of our faithful supporters who love to see youth hearing the Gospel and experiencing camp that would normally be out of reach for them. We operated 5 youth groups, two drop-in centres and a few school programs. God has given us favor with some incredible principals and staff who testify that the days we are at their school, the kids are happier and learn with a better attitude.



God's miracles never cease when we are in His will. Earlier this fall, we received the difficult news that we would no longer have use of the farm effective October 1st. We immediately went to prayer as this has been an incredible place of ministry for our outreaches. By Nov. 10th, we had a new home with 40+ acres of beautiful forest and 2 acres of open field. How can we ever think God's not paying attention?! He loves our youth!



## THANK YOU TO OUR GOLF SPONSORS!!!

We are so thankful for our most successful golf fundraiser ever! We had a number of faithful businesses and people who supported us through hole sponsorship, and have listed them below to honour their generosity and support for Youth for Christ Victoria.

**Title Sponsor:** Trimount Developments

**Eagle Sponsors:** Parkway Dental; Verity Construction

**Birdie Sponsors:** Noorgard Kratofil Professional Group; New Creations; Carmanah Electric; Don Mann Excavating; Odlum Brown – Brad Dovey; Superior Steam and Vac; Bald Eagle Landscaping; Harbour City Kitchens; KeyCorp Consulting.

**Par Sponsors:** Canadian Tire; Edward Jones - Eric Denne; A Cut Above Landscaping

**Hole In One Sponsors:** Weir Design and Engineering; Flo Energy Solutions

**Specialty Sponsor:** Income Replacement Group - Simon Kelly

**Dinner Sponsor:** Nandor Reinforcing Steel



## THANKFULNESS & LOOKING AHEAD



Exciting news!!

For all those that have supported our staff through prayer, financial support, and friendship: THANK YOU!! We are so grateful for all that you have sacrificed throughout this year to see the work of YFC Victoria and Nanaimo move forward. We know that the number of “God-stories” we hear about throughout the year will increase as we move into 2025!

Once again, God has been faithful in growing our staff team, enabling us to reach more young people with the Hope found in Jesus. In the next few months, we are looking to add **4 new staff!** Three of these are in front-line ministry positions in schools, drop-in’s and on our Indigenous communities. Also, Rick Boomer is going to be moving into our office to help with the structure and support of our staff while still having a hand in other outreach portions of the ministry. We’re thrilled to have him join us and I believe that it will enable us to expand into new areas of the region.

With all the team growth, we are taking a step of faith to move in this direction, so I’m wondering if you would consider coming on as a new monthly financial partner or even increasing your partnership to make these positions happen. Our goal is to raise approximately **\$5000/mo in new partnerships by February 1st.** We’d love it if you joined our team – just reach out to the office if you have any questions or go online and sign up – we’ll be in touch!

[www.yfcvictoria.com/donate](http://www.yfcvictoria.com/donate)



*From the Board & Staff of Youth for Christ Victoria, we wish you a wonderful Christmas Season & many blessings for the New Year*