

March 2025

When I was a teenager, I had gone on a retreat with a group of boys and leaders to a lodge by Rocky Mountain House, AB. While there, we explored some caves in the nearby mountains. We walked and crawled through tunnels, squeezed through crevasses and ended up in a huge cavern. Once there, our guide told us to turn off our flashlights and lanterns casting us into complete and total darkness. It was quite unsettling in some ways as our brains screamed for light and context.

After a few minutes, we turned everything back on and made our way out of the caves. When we got to the mouth, we were met with blue skies, green trees, and bright sunlight. We were accosted by the beauty and life that we longed for while in the darkness of the cave.

So many of our young people feel like they are stuck in a cave. They're looking for things to bring them to the life they long for, but while grappling around in the darkness, they so often find things that are not helpful. This is where our staff come in and guide them to the Light of Jesus, the one thing that will satisfy their desire for life. Enjoy reading through the stories of our staff and rejoice with us on all that God has done together with your prayers and support!

## **Remembering Don Easton!**

This month, we want to remember **Don and Judy Easton**. Don was a founder of Youth for Christ Victoria in 1980 and served as Board Chair and Board member for the first 18 years of its existence. Don recently went to be with his Saviour, Jesus. We will certainly miss his presence here, but his legacy with YFC Victoria will be known by the thousands of young people that have been introduced to Jesus through his step of obedience 45 years ago. Our prayers are with the family while we honour this amazing man of God.





**YFC Nanaimo** 

## **Year in Review**



**Global Impact** 



**Breakfast Clubs Victoria** 

We're thrilled to share with you some of the awesome things God did this past year through our staff across the south Island. These numbers are amazing, but even more so are the individual stories that we don't have the space to expound on here. What a privilege it is to share this with you, our partners in this work of God's grace!

- Connected with approximately 1000 different youth face to face
- Sent 4 shipping containers of goods to YFC ministries in Africa
- Opened a new drop-in centre in Nanaimo
- Hosted 125 youth for free at our Adventure Camp
- Saw over 30 young people make a decision to follow Jesus

#### **MOBILE OUTREACH - RICK WISMER**

We have faced major obstacles introducing significant changes while relaunching ministry in the Harbour, Peninsula and Valley. These changes are vital to the long term viability and effectiveness of our ministry. I am excited to report that we have relaunched on the Saanich Peninsula and in the Cowichan Valley. The week before we relaunched on the Peninsula, we visited Tsawout gym to orient new volunteers and some youth showed up as well. One of the youth, J., was talking super fast and could not sit still. She spent most of her time snooping through all our storage areas, all the while smiling and giddy. She was super wound up! Finally, I asked one of the other youth what was up with J. He responded, "I think J. is just so excited to have the Blue Bus back at Tsawout." Our teams and I felt the same way as J. We missed the youth and were anxious to reconnect. Last night, on the Peninsula we had 18 youth representing three Indigenous communities: Tsartlip, Tsawout and Tseycum.

In the valley, we had 6 youth, 5 of whom we have never met before. God is drawing the youth back and we are thrilled to see them and point them to Jesus. Please continue to pray for all of our ministries, but especially for the Harbour as we seek the Lord for His direction about how to relaunch our outreach there. Thank you!



# **& JOYLN RENDLE**





COMMUNITY YOUTH--JENN LABIUK God plants hopes and dreams in our hearts and asks us to seek Him in prayer. I am thankful for the dreams and direct answers to prayer that I have seen come to pass for the ministry in Esquimalt over the last few months.

> First of all, Jolyn Rendle has joined the ministry part time. She is such a blessing and brings a rich background and a kind, gentle and joyful presence. She has helped transform the youth office into a place of peace where kids just want to hang out and talk. Having Jolyn has allowed us to open our drop-in centre on Monday afternoons. Our hope was to see the drop-in students stay and engage in youth group during the evening. This hope has been realized as some of the students really love cooking and want to help with the meal for the youth group and then stay to enjoy the fruits of their labour. It is an exciting time to be part of the Kingdom work in Esquimalt and we look forward with great hope towards the future. Thank you.

# **PORT ALBERNI - DEREK DOVALE**

My family and I moved to Port Alberni from the mainland almost exactly a year ago. Currently, I am the only YFC youth worker in this city. When we first moved here I wasn't sure how working for YFC would play out as we didn't know anyone in this town when we arrived. But over the past year, we got involved in a small church, we were leaders at a youth camp last summer, we are part of leading a weekly youth group and I am volunteering at a local school 2-3 times per week! We've come to know some amazing people here who have helped us get connected in these areas. We've also met a lot of young people who could use some extra love and support as they come to know Jesus. We hope to continue being involved in these ministries and we pray that they grow to impact more people in positive ways! Please pray for us and the young people in Port Alberni!



Thank you!



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