

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024



**Youth
for Christ**
Youth Unlimited™
WINNIPEG

Seen, Known, and Loved



BY CLIFF HEIDE
Executive Director

“Jesus looked at him and loved him”

Mark 10:21a

Lately, I have been moved by a little detail in the gospel of Mark. All of the gospels tell the story of a rich young man who came to Jesus, asking what he must do to inherit eternal life (which in Jewish understanding was a question about how to have a joy-filled, deep and meaningful life with God). He was a man of deep dedication, which had given him much earthly success. But his question showed that even with all his achievements, he was still looking for something more. He had anxieties or doubts around his worthiness, asking “what must I still do?”

In each gospel we are told that Jesus responds, “Go, sell all that you have, give to the poor and follow me.” We then read of the man’s distress and hesitation.

However, there is a sentence, found only in Mark’s account, which is perhaps the most pivotal point of the whole encounter. Mark tells us, Jesus looked at him and loved him (Mark 10:21). A moment of compassion, tenderness, and deep love. A powerful look.

Instead of responding to the man by offering him only a task to complete, or another achievement box to check, Jesus paused and looked deeper into the man’s unvoiced insecurity or anxiety, and he offered him love and an invitation to be with him and follow him.

This response may have been

difficult to digest. Sometimes this invitation, to be known and loved by God, is a challenging step to take. It might involve vulnerability, or undoing some of the things we have built our lives upon. But for those of us that have experienced new life in Christ, we know the identity of being His beloved, receiving His love, and being known by Him is more than worth it.

Here at YFC Winnipeg, this experience is what we long to offer to the youth we work with. We believe this starts with offering loving, embodied relationships to the youth we serve. Through fun activities, meals, mentoring, and support, we want our youth to know they are seen, cared for, and loved by our staff and volunteers, but more importantly by Jesus.

As with the story of the rich young ruler, each youth has the option to choose how they might respond. The choice of letting yourself be loved sometimes comes with a cost, but we know it brings a reward beyond our comprehension.

Please join us in praying that our youth will respond to these invitations of being seen, known, and loved.

Because of your support towards our Summer Staff Subsidy Fund we were able to hire 32 people to our summer team. They have helped plan and lead in a variety of ways, and supported our summer programs allowing us to share the love of Jesus with hundreds of youth this summer, many coming to YFC program for the first time!



YFC SPORTS CAMP

God's Love Story:

Film & Media

It's been amazing to see how many great opportunities there are available during the summer months for the Film & Media Ministry. Between day camps, one-on-ones, and the special events that youth help film and capture, there have been many moments to mentor youth and help them live fully in Christ.

One such highlight was the first day-camp this summer. Over the course of three days together we made a film and learned how we can be a part of God's story. "It was incredible how spending long days together brought up some deep and honest questions from the youth about faith.

Seeing the youth working together to overcome the various challenges that come

with writing, filming, and editing a film in just 3 days, was such a great experience, and we got to see them grow in many ways.

One particular youth came to the camp despite not knowing any of the other youth. It was his first time to YFC. Throughout the week we observed him go from being unsure of himself to a youth who felt confident and encouraged. We could definitely see how the positive environment and spirit of Christ-like love that exists here had a big effect on him. He was given the responsibility to direct the whole film that we had created together and had a blast doing it.

And he was not the only one to



FILM & MEDIA

feel this. All who had attended the Film & Media Ministry left with the message that they themselves are a part of God's story, and had been filled with self-confidence and courage. We give the glory to God, the one who has created us, who knows our stories and loves us no matter what, and who empowers and emboldens us all to use our gifts for His glory.

We are excited to keep sharing Jesus's love story and see youth further impacted by the Gospel as we start into regular ministry programming again this fall.

Because of your support of the Film & Media ministry we are able to offer a fun, welcoming environment for them to explore their creative side, build confidence in themselves, and ultimately discover how they are part of a much bigger story, God's story.

Revealing God's Love:

Masterworks

This summer, Masterworks has been able to put on two weeks of summer camp! For ages 8-12, we have offered a week of Dance Camp, and a week of Arts Camp in August. When considering the current climate that these young people are growing up in, we decided to focus on helping youth in discovering their purpose this summer by asking and answering the question: Who does God say I am?

Today's youth are bombarded with confused ideas of identity; whether it be through the chaos of social media, equally confused peers, or the general societal decline of absolute truth. They are often left with many questions and no one to point them to the truth and life to the fullest.

Camp has been an incredible

journey of pointing youth to Jesus to discover that they are created with a purpose that is unchanging and unmovable. Discussion revolved around concrete truths such as: God made me in His image, He has given me a unique purpose and special gifts to fulfill that purpose, I can creatively express God's love, I am meant to think about beautiful and praiseworthy things, I can know the wise thing to do, and most importantly - I am a beloved child of God whose true identity is found in Christ.

Our theme verse for the summer was Psalm 139:14, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well".

Between dancing, doing crafts, and having our God Talk times,



MASTERWORKS

youth began to ask big questions and tell parts of their stories to our teachers and summer staff. At 9 years old, one of our dancers began to ask questions about death and a beautiful moment was shared as we had the opportunity to explain that Jesus defeated death so that we do not have to fear it.

This was just one of many conversations where we were able to witness God revealing

His love for our youth, and we are so excited and blessed to have the opportunity to keep this momentum going throughout the school year!

Because of your support the Masterworks Arts Studio is able to offer youth a place where friendships are made and opportunities to encounter the love of Jesus can happen through the beautiful gift of dance.

A New Song: YFC Arborg

Shekhina, one of the volunteers from the YFC Arborg Drop In, shares that one highlight from this summer was an opportunity she had to have a heart to heart conversation with one of the girls. This youth shared of her personal struggles with depression & hurt experienced from discussing the bible in the past.

Shekhina was able to explain that just because we go through tough stuff, that doesn't mean that God isn't with us. She goes on to encourage this young person to make sure they are spending time with Him, praying and being in His word every day, so that she would be filled up spiritually. Ensuring that what she feels and projects outwardly is good and pleasing rather than the intrusive

thoughts, doubt and hurt of past events. They then read through Psalm 40 together.



I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.

Psalm 40:1-3

Because of your support we are able to provide mentorship to young people where our trained staff and volunteers are able to walk alongside and encourage youth through their life challenges and spiritual struggles.



OUR NEW
COMMERCIAL
KITCHEN

Exciting Update: Food Services

We are thrilled to be able to have coordinated food services for our Winnipeg programs! In the last year we have undertaken renovations to our Winnipeg facility to develop a commercial kitchen space to help with food services for the youth we serve. This project provides a proper facility to prepare snacks and meals for youth, many of whom are facing some level of food insecurity. We are also adding staff resources by hiring a food services coordinator, Jeanette Meza, and are pleased to welcome her to the YFC team!

cook affordable, healthy meals and develop culinary skills that can help them gain employment opportunities and skills for life.

This is all under the banner of caring for youth holistically - mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically! Food is a basic need, and brings with it the opportunity for fellowship, connection, and hospitality to be practised. Who we eat with matters, and displays a part of our willingness to welcome others in. We want youth to experience being welcomed to the table, and being able to share in the bread of life - physically and spiritually. Special thanks to those who contributed to this special project!

Because of your support we are able to make sure none of our youth go home hungry. With your help we can provide our youth with opportunities to learn important life skills.

Our long term vision is to not only provide youth snacks but to create unique opportunities for youth to learn and grow too. To be able to work beside youth within our Young Parents or Work Force programs to increase their culinary skills will be a great resource. The space has individual working stations for youth to prepare meals on their own. It is our hope that youth will benefit by learning how to

Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in this years Golf Tournament! We are pleased to announce that over \$80,000 was raised!

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Upcoming Fall Banquets

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|------------|---|----------------------|
| Winnipeg | - | Tuesday, October 29 |
| St. Pierre | - | Friday, November 1 |
| Carman | - | Friday, November 1 |
| Stonewall | - | Saturday, November 9 |

Forward Together

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

"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

Pray

Film & Media: Pray for the youth who are coming into YFC programs for the first time and hear the story of God that they would open hearts to the story God is writing with Christ as the hero.

YFC Arborg: For the youth to be receptive to the message of Jesus and the good news. For deeper community connections within the Interlake region and for more female leaders for the upcoming season.

Food Services: Pray that the youth in our care would feel loved and welcomed through this new supporting ministry.

Masterworks: for wisdom and compassion for our leaders as they use their passion of dance to reach young people with the gift of Jesus.

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.

We are excited and gearing up for when regular weekly programming resumes this coming September. If you are interested in being a part of a ministry program, or simply want to know more about any of our programs, don't hesitate to get in touch or find us online.

Camp Cedarwood: We have a need for more help at Camp Cedarwood this fall/winter. If you are interested in using your gifts of hospitality, cooking, or handiwork we would love to hear from you!

Join Our Team

If you have a heart to serve young people would you please consider joining us for the upcoming ministry year. Staff are needed in the following Ministries:

Camp Cedarwood: We are looking for people who want to use their gifts of hospitality or administration at our retreat center for the fall and winter months.

The Rock & The Edge: Program Coordinators and Directors to help facilitate and deliver programs for our rock climbing and skateboarding ministries.

Admin: We are hiring for several new roles in our Winnipeg office including: Human Resources Coordinator, Events Coordinator, and a Communications Coordinator.



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:

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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

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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 Arts Studio
Soccer

MISSIONARY STAFF

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

yfcwinnipeg.ca/our-team