

CHRISTMAS 2025



**Youth
for Christ**
Youth Unlimited™
WINNIPEG

Eyes to See in the Advent



BY CLIFF HEIDE
Executive Director

In our world today there are times where it feels like darkness is winning. The world feels divided, disoriented, and full of distraction. People today are hoping for quick fixes and instant satisfaction which often fades just as fast. Many are left wondering: Is God still at work?

Simeon and Anna, two quiet characters in the Luke 2 narrative, knew that feeling well. They lived through long years of waiting. Years when it seemed like God was silent. Yet they didn't give up. They kept showing up at the temple, praying, watching, and trusting that God was still moving, even when they couldn't see it.

In the waiting, behind the scenes, God was indeed stirring. Something miraculous was being birthed—literally. When Mary and Joseph carried Jesus into the temple, Simeon and Anna recognized what others missed. Their hearts overflowed

with gratitude because their eyes had been trained by waiting. They could see the light of God breaking through the darkness.

Then, holding the child in his arms, Simeon declared:

“I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people”

Luke 2:30-31 (NLT)

That same posture speaks to us today. In a world that often feels like it's unraveling, we're invited to stay faithful, keep showing up, and train our eyes to see where God is at work.

At times, the waiting feels long. But under the surface, God is moving. At YFC we catch glimpses of it. In the spiritual hunger of young people searching for more than the world's empty promises. In the testimonies of students finding

hope in Jesus. In moments of community, prayer, and unexpected kindness that whisper, God is being born here, now.

Our mission is simple but powerful, to see every young person living fully in Christ. That means walking with them through seasons of darkness, doubt and waiting, helping them notice the awakening of new life all around them, and reminding them that God has not stopped working. As each youth takes steps to becoming a disciple, God is present, making all things new.

Like Simeon and Anna, may we become people of patient hope - attentive, expectant, and ready to rejoice when we see the evidence of God's promise fulfilled in the lives of youth we serve. Even in the waiting, light is dawning.

We invite you to be a part of

this year's ornament campaign and help young people see the life and light that's being born in Christ.

Christmas Prayer Ornaments

Once again this Christmas we invite you to partner with us in prayer for the youth we serve.

As we continue to engage in praying with them, we would love for you to be in prayer for them as well.

In this update you will find a prayer ornament, and an invitation to partner with us in a special way this advent season.



Moments of Transformation

This summer at Cedarwood, we saw God move in ways that were both powerful and deeply personal. For several weeks, a couple hundred hearts were opened, as campers encountered the love of Jesus in real and lasting ways, many for the very first time.

We asked a staff and a youth to share with us a glimpse of what made their time at camp so special.

Ken Sawatzky, YFC Staff Member

"I had the amazing opportunity to spend a week at camp this summer where I got to lead a unique workshop I called 'Wonder Camp.' We taught youth how to perform illusions and tricks while also exploring a deeper message about how the enemy uses deception to pull us away from the truth. I witnessed the campers gain

confidence in their interactions and the excitement they had performing for each other. It was a joyful and encouraging space where fun and faith came together in meaningful ways.

At the end of the week several youth asked for prayer for their families. One boy shared his deep longing for his parents to know Jesus, even though they are not open to faith. There was also great reasons to celebrate as five young people gave their lives to Christ that week.

A little while after that week, one mother reached out to tell us that their whole family is now attending church again because their child insisted on it after camp. This is the work God is doing. It is real, lasting, and life-giving and I am so grateful to be part of it."

Kaily - 3x camper

"I look up to the people there, just the joy they have in their lives all the time and I want that to be me too... All the God talks and the worshipping was so good, it's an amazing place.

Whenever I get back from Cedarwood, I want to change what I do, I want to read the Bible more often. I want to sing and praise like so much more.

I've grown in my faith a lot. Before, I would say I was a Christian mostly because it was my family's belief. But when I came to Cedarwood, I really started to believe for myself that God is real — that He's there, and He wants to help me. I've learned that my faith isn't just something I get from my family, it's my own now. Cedarwood has helped me with that tremendously."



We had an amazing summer! This is just a glimpse of what your partnership makes possible. Every prayer, every donation, and every word of encouragement helped create camp to be a place where God transformed young hearts.

Thank you for believing in this ministry and for investing in the next generation. Together, we are planting seeds of faith that will continue to grow long after summer ends.

A Tale of Two Work Force Youth

SHAUNNA GOODE

Youth Development Coordinator - Work Force

Walking around my North End neighbourhood recently, I passed by a building under construction, where one of the young men that was working stopped me and said: "Hey, is your name Shaunna?" I didn't recognize him at first but it was a youth who had been in our Work Force program 8 years ago. He excitedly began to share with me what had been going on in his life since I last saw him. He showed me a picture of his baby and told me how he was now supervising a

crew at work.

There was a common thread throughout everything he shared and that was gratitude. He was so grateful for the people who had helped him out along the way and for the opportunity to now be able to do the same for others. This conversation left me feeling so encouraged. I was touched by what he shared and by getting the chance to hear how much being a part of our program had meant to him.

Shortly after this, I came across another young man. As we were about to cross paths he asked: "Hey, do you work at YFC?" It was another youth who had been in our program five years ago. He, however, wasn't doing as well. His appearance was unkept. He also had a black eye and bruises on his face. When I asked him about this, he said that he got "messed up". As he proceeded on his way to wherever it was he was going, my heart broke for him.

Two very different stories, and yet they share a common need, to be loved and supported. This is why they haven't forgotten their connection to YFC. A time in their lives when they got to

experience the love of God through us, and this has made a lasting impression on them. Yes, it's true that I want to hear more stories like the first one; however, I take comfort in knowing that God is still at work. He's in it for the long haul and wants the best for both these young men. So we pray for both of these young men and the many youth in our care at the moment, that God's will be done, in His perfect timing.

Thank you for supporting the ministry of Work Force. Your prayers, support, and encouragement make it possible for our staff to walk alongside youth, showing them love and support.

A Prayer Answered A Faith Stirred

THE RIG

ISAIAH VALE

Ministry Coordinator - The Rig

After a summer of transition—where our Ministry Director and some amazing volunteers moved on—we are thrilled to announce that our regular programming is back on. Praise be to God!

For three nights a week our fitness centre is once again filled with sweaty teenagers: exercising, playing tag, and more. It has taken some adjusting due to having less staff, but the volunteers have been absolutely amazing, and God continues to bless us.

We have a younger girl who has been coming to program for a couple of years now. As she is Muslim, she very politely declines to read the Bible or engage in most of our Jesus conversations. Regardless, it's been a pleasure getting to know her. Recently, we saw God impact her in a very tangible way. During one of our Chase

Tag nights, she was dealing with a hurt knee, something that had been bothering her the previous week as well, so we decided to take a moment to pray for her.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Matthew 7:7-8

We had prayed for her knee the previous week, and nothing had happened. This time, as I sat down with her again, I had posed a challenge: if Jesus healed her knee, she would have no excuse not to believe that He at least existed. And she agreed. I prayed for God to heal her, as I did the previous week. While she said a little bit of pain went away, it was clearly

still hurting. I then asked if someone else wanted to pray. One boy sitting next to us agreed and casually offered a swift prayer: “God please heal her in the next few minutes.” He then ran off to join the game of tag.

Later, as the night was drawing to a close, we were going around sharing prayer requests, she suddenly perked up. In a slightly confused tone, she exclaimed that her knee was totally fine! God had healed her knee! I immediately reminded her of the agreement: she now had to believe in Jesus. She agreed!

This was such a cool moment, not just because I got to witness God physically heal this girl, but because she is now one step closer to believing in the Kingdom of God. Please be praying for this girl!

Because of you, we are able to sustain the vital ministry of The Rig, where real relationships are being formed and space is being created for youth to experience God's power and love.

Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in our Fall Banquet in Winnipeg and the various banquets held in our satellite communities! We have many amazing reasons to celebrate and it was so great being able to do that with you.

In total over \$115,000 was raised at the Winnipeg Banquet!



“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever.”

Psalms 136:1

Special thanks to the following sponsors who supported the Fall Banquet. We couldn't have done it without you!

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Forward Together

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

"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

Cedarwood: Give thanks to our Father for the beauty of His creation that we get to enjoy and explore and pray for the young people that experienced Jesus at Camp this summer. May their love for Him continue to grow.

Work Force: Join us in praying for the youth we serve, that they would experience hope in Jesus. And that our staff and volunteers would be a source of care and support.

The Rig: Pray that God would provide additional staff and volunteers, and that God would be impacting our youth in new and powerful ways.

Our Team:

Please pray for our staff team, both on the front lines of our ministry and those in admin roles, that our eyes would remain fixed on Jesus as we enter the challenging winter season.

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.

If you are interested in being a part of a ministry program in Winnipeg, at one of our satellite centres, or simply want to know more, don't hesitate to get in touch.

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.

Camp Cedarwood: We are looking to hire a Camp Director. We also have opportunities for people who want to use their gifts of hospitality or administration.

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

Admin: We are hiring for several new roles in our Winnipeg office including Development Coordinator, and Accounting Clerk.



Note on 2025 Tax Receipts:

As we continue finding ways to steward our resources wisely and reduce costs, we will be sending out this year's charitable donation tax receipts via email instead of mailing paper copies.

If we don't have your email address, we will send your receipt via Canada Post. If you would like it faster, please contact our office at: 204-669-4205 and provide an email address.

Thank you for making this ministry possible through your faithful giving!

To learn more about how and where you can serve, please visit our YFC website at:

yfcwinnipeg.ca/volunteer

yfcwinnipeg.ca/careers

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

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MISSIONARY STAFF

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

yfcwinnipeg.ca/our-team