

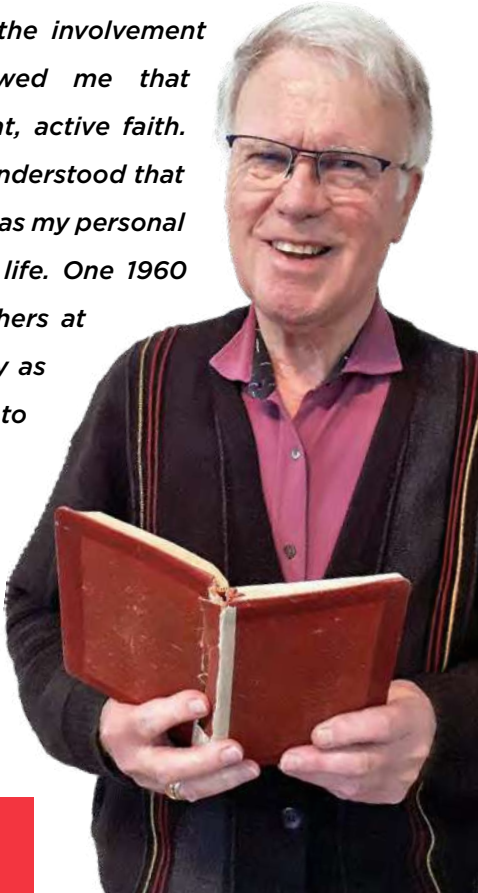


me as the only male and churchgoer in my family. In 1956, our family emigrated to Canada, finally settling in Vancouver, where I attended Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

In 1959, I saw an advertisement in the Vancouver Sun for the movie Seventeen being shown at a Youth for Christ Rally near my home. I knew nothing about Youth for Christ, or the church, but I was intrigued on that Saturday night to find a large church packed with teens. I sat next to a young man named Bob. By the end of the meeting, I realized that this type of event was not what I as a devout Anglican was used to, and I told Bob that I would likely not come again.

But God had other plans, and a few weeks later I began attending the rallies regularly. The music, the enthusiasm, the excellent speakers, many of them missionaries, and the involvement of young adults, showed me that Christianity was a vibrant, active faith. By the following year, I understood that I needed to trust in Jesus as my personal Saviour and Lord of my life. One 1960 spring night, I joined others at the front of the YFC rally as a public commitment to Christ.

Those of us who came forward that evening were counselled, and given Bible study material to complete.



Dear Friends,

The first Youth for Christ rally in Canada was on December 30, 1944, at Massey Hall in Toronto. As we look forward to celebrating 80 years of Youth for Christ Canada, we thank God for His constant faithfulness as He works in the lives of young people.

Youth for Christ has a rich history of sharing the Good News of God's love with young people across Canada. Starting in the mid-1940s, Youth for Christ was known for its rallies where thousands of young people attended to hear God's message of hope and love for all. Throughout the decades, we have remained true to the message of salvation by being geared to the times and anchored to the rock.

Michael Packer became involved in Youth for Christ in 1959. He shares how the local paper advertised a Youth for Christ event that changed and shaped the direction of his life as it laid the foundation for a life of Christian service:

"I was born in May 1941 during World War II in Blackpool, England. My father died when I was 10 years old, leaving



We were encouraged to meet weekly as a group with Associate Director Ralph Lemke. Ralph introduced me to using Our Daily Bread for my Scripture study. In time he had me give a public testimony at a Saturday night rally. I don't remember what I said, but I know that I ended indicating that I wanted to serve the Lord by quoting Matthew 5:16: 'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'

In time I became active in an evangelical church, growing spiritually through Bible teaching, prayer meetings, and College & Career Fellowship. God used the year of Youth for Christ follow-up to lay a firm foundation for the Christian service God had planned for my next six decades.

*I am so grateful that Youth for Christ encouraged me to daily read my red YFC Bible (which I still have), to let the Holy Spirit apply the Scriptures to my life, and to listen to our pastor's sermons for guidance. Thank you, God and YFC."**

Fast forward to today, and we still have rallies to share the Good News of God's love with young people in Canada. Now these rallies are called **Change Conference**. In October 2023, we had over 4,000 youth attend events in Toronto and Ottawa with over 1,300 making a decision to follow Jesus, like Michael Packer did in 1960!

"I was at the Toronto conference and I wanted to say that I felt God's presence at the conference, specifically during worship and have really been encouraged to start reading my Bible more and being more open with my faith to others and building my relationship with Christ, so thank you thank you thank you for this amazing opportunity!!!"

- CHANGE CONFERENCE 2023 PARTICIPANT


Thank you for your faithful partnership with Youth for Christ and our mission of seeing every young person living fully in Christ. As you celebrate the birth of our Saviour this Christmas, I pray that God would put it on your hearts and minds to be praying for the young people of our nation.

Grace and Peace,

Tim Coles

National Director

*This is an excerpt of Michael Packer's story. To read the full version and learn more about Michael, please visit yfc.ca/michael

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"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." MATTHEW 5:16 CSB