



Dear Partners,

During the month of May, a few of the National YFC team had the privilege of updating our donors who support us in the work. In Montreal, Cambridge, Burlington and Toronto we shared what the Lord has been doing for the furthering of His Kingdom through our Youth for Christ staff. It was encouraging to have Laura Bronson travel with us and spread her excitement of being able to share the Lord through graffiti and skateboarding with teens and young pre-teen kids who in some cases had never heard who Jesus was! Ten years ago, in his book, *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*, (2003), George Barna indicates that 73% of kids between the ages of 8 and 12 already had the internet as their favourite media medium and on average intake about 48 hours a week of this mass media! (p. 23). Barna and sociologists discovered that moral and spiritual foundations are generally determined by age 9 (p. 47) and the probability of someone embracing Jesus as his/her Savior is:

- 32% between the ages of 5 and 12
- 4% between the ages of 13 to 18
- 6% between the ages of 19 or older

In his newsletter, *Understanding Today's Youth*, (2008), youth culture specialist Paul Robertson enlightened parents that Maclean's magazine (Oct. 6, 2008) featured an article on the growing trend toward toddler bras and sexy lingerie targeting 6-12 year olds! Therefore, in a time when the clothing markets and the media are molding the minds of our young people and research by George Barna shows that 40% of 9-14 year olds feel pressure to have sex, we as an organization are responding to the urgency to reach this younger age group in the name of Jesus! As a result, across Canada, our YFC staff are currently running nearly 100 mentoring, sports, breakfast, lunch, and arts programs, Bible clubs and summer camps – to name a few – all programs geared toward the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of our country's pre-teens.

Please read the testimonies below of two young girls who have been impacted by YFC programs and join us in fervent prayer for the souls of our country's pre-teens, many of whom are attending YFC camps this summer and hearing about the Lord for the first time – hearing that they are loved and valued by the God who created them! As Katy and I head into a busy summer schedule we would also appreciate your prayers. We need wisdom and discernment and those who work with us need grace! We would especially value your prayers for the up-coming **National Ministry Conference** which packs a lot into 7 days.

June 27 - Young Leader Advisory Board Meeting

June 28 - Board of Directors Meeting

June 29 - National Day of Discernment...asking the Lord together to guide us forward.

June 30 - Annual General Meeting

June 29 to July 2 - National Ministry Conference in Collingwood, ON

July 3 - National Staff Meetings

Thank you for partnering with us on this mission to reach our generation with the message of Jesus.

Because He loves every child,

Dave and Katy

Change a Life Today

To make a secure online donation, you can visit www.yfccanada.org and click 'Donate.' Cheques should be made payable to: "Youth for Christ Canada" and mailed to: Youth for Christ Canada, PO Box 93008, #135 - 19705 Fraser Hwy., Langley BC V3A 8H2. To make a donation by phone, please call us toll free at **1.888.649.2011**.



"I can read now very well and I'm addicted to it."

Annalee's story

Annalee started coming to the YFC Literacy Centre in Brandon, Manitoba, 3 years ago. Now she is in grade 7. This is an excerpt from a video hosted on <http://www.yfc.ca>.

Annalee says, "I came because the school thought it would be a good idea to come to the Literacy Centre because I had a hard time reading and everything. My grandmother has a bad time talking and writing and everything because she had to quit school early. So she tried her best to raise me to pronounce everything right. So when I came here I became a better reader by 2 years, so right now I'm in grade 7 but I made it up to a grade 9 level. So they are all happy with me. I can read now very well and I'm addicted to it. It helped with my pronunciation mostly. I remember I had to be excused from class a lot because my pronunciation was terrible. So like I said, the worst thing ever was that no one understood a word I said and yet I'm English, so they thought that was really weird. It got me kind of mad that no one understood what I was saying.

"So when I started coming here (YFC Literacy Center), they started helping me. They said words and I would always repeat things in my mind and when I got home, I started practising them out loud, saying, 'I got this!'

"I was pretty proud that I started to 'get' things and my vocabulary is great and my teacher says I'm one of the best writers in the class but they also say I write too much now. They say it's unique that I have good ideas and some other kids have a hard time coming up with good ideas but they said that I can make up a whole paragraph in a minute."

YFC staff Roxanne Dyck coordinates the Literacy Centre in Brandon, Manitoba



"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope."

Kofi Annan
Former UN
Secretary-General

Your Legacy is Chantel and Annalee's Future!

The young women featured in this newsletter are typical elementary youth across Canada that YFC is impacting. We would appreciate you considering YFC in your will and estate planning. Need more confidential information? Call, write or phone Gary MacDonald and he will send out a package for you to read. Your privacy will be honoured.

gary.macdonald@yfccanada.org / 1.888.649.2011 Ext 7 / See address above in "Change a Life Today."



Setting the stage for an 11-year-old's success

Chantel says, "YFC has given me the opportunity to act in front of people and practise public speaking. I am less nervous in front of people now. This club is probably the best acting club I've been a part of. This confidence I've gained has helped me take opportunities by saying YES much more quickly. Usually in the past, I would say 'no' because I was afraid. Now, I'm not afraid to take opportunities that are challenging.

"Everyone is so nice and they accept you. I've probably made about 10 new friends in the past year. My fun rating is 10 out of 10 because of all the activities - especially the theatre games. I am interested in theatre long term. I'm hoping my career will be an actress. This has given me experience for this. I need talent, confidence, and the ability to say 'yes' to hard things. You can't be afraid to go out there and start to work toward your career. Jesters has helped me in all these ways.

"YFC has helped me understand that God loves me no matter what. I find that Christian leaders seem to be happier because they believe in God. They are nice and accept you. God may be sad when I do wrong, but He always loves me. When you ask God a question, He won't always simply give you the answer. He wants you to find the answer yourself. I've learned that God sent Jesus down to earth to help people, tell stories, feed the poor, and die on the cross for all our sins. Now we don't have to sacrifice anything for the sins we do. Now I am also reading the Bible. I chose to start reading Matthew and Mark."



Chantel, a grade 6 student, is actively involved in YFC through Jesters, an innovative Christian-based performing arts team in Mission, BC. YFC staff member Sharon Weibe is the Jesters' Director.

