

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP RAISE UP RESILIENT STAFF?

John and his wife have just made a significant gift in their wills to the new, "Youth for Christ Canada Foundation." They wanted to ensure that YFC staff are there for the youth in their community for many years to come. Would you be willing to consider 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.
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DEAR PARTNER IN THE WORK,

YFC staff and volunteers often use the expression: "being stretched." A great definition of the word resilient is: **"returning to the original after being bent, compressed, or stretched; recovering quickly from trouble."*** This is an amazing quality seen in many YFC staff and volunteers across the country – resiliency!

As YFC missionaries, we all face challenges and experience difficulties, death, loneliness, disappointment and fatigue. We desire to introduce the youth of this nation to the Lord who came to "proclaim good news to the poor....and to set the oppressed free!" (Luke 4:18). So how do we do this when we may be in crisis ourselves? How do we model resiliency and bounce back to our full potential after being stretched and bent? I believe it is in remembering that **"we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us"** (2 Corinthians 4:7). Many staff and volunteers have discovered this secret of joy in the Lord, claiming the promise in Philippians 4:13, "I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."

A great example of resiliency is seen in Desmond from YFC Westman, Manitoba. He has courageously fought cancer the last few years and yet always moved ahead in every area of his life, continuing to care for and love his family, carry on with ministry in proportion to his strength and all the while smiling and encouraging others in the Lord. He is an inspiration to us all. Even though "bent and stretched," Desmond keeps going despite tremendous challenges. He has not quite returned to his "original," but God's love and power, the true treasure in Desmond's soul, shine out from his "jar of clay" to all those with whom he ministers.

Recently Katy and I were enjoying meditating on Psalm 116:

"I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy. Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath! ... How kind the Lord is! How good he is! So merciful, this God of ours! The Lord protects those of childlike faith...He has saved me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. And so I walk in the Lord's presence as I live here on earth!"

What an awesome God we have! Even as God "bends" us, He also "bends down to listen" to our prayers. The Lord answered many prayers May 6-8 as YFC Update and Appreciation events were well attended in Montreal, Cambridge, Burlington and Pickering by many partners of the work. In the Burlington, Ontario, area, our Update Breakfast was hosted by the new Centre for Youth Excellence in Waterdown. Many prayers have been answered in regards to this amazing Centre, and youth were utilizing the space even before the centre was fully equipped and functioning! Yet even as we were attending these events, I was also being "bent and stretched" as my mother lay dying in Burlington and Katy and I were visiting her between each event. Mom entered into glory May 10.

Katy and I returned on July 3 from an encouraging week of YFC Board and National Staff meetings, AGM and Staff Conference held in Regina, SK which contained the wonderful theme of going deeper with God and being in tune with His Spirit. Prior to the conference was our Day of Prayer where, together with many YFC staff from across the country, we listened in the Lord's presence and prayed life-giving Scriptures over each other. We would value your prayers for humble hearts to continue "walking in the Lord's presence as [we] live here on earth!" (Psalm 116).

Because He came so that we can have life, and have it to the full,

Dave Brereton
National Director

* The Gage Learning Canadian Concise Dictionary (2003)



YFC National Staff

HOW DO WE MODEL RESILIENCY AND BOUNCE BACK TO OUR FULL POTENTIAL AFTER BEING STRETCHED AND BENT?

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Stories of RESILIENCY

A few weeks ago, 45 new staff from across Canada attended Summer Institute, YFC's annual training event. As part of our Global Engagement initiative, we also hosted various emerging leaders from across the world to attend this training. Here is a glimpse of their lives.

International YFC Missionaries - (Left to Right: Beverley Burcao/Philippines, Lidia Cutrim-Da-Rocha/Brazil and Ana Asanoska/Macedonia.)



BEVERLEY...

Beverley, who did not grow up in a Christian home, came to Christ at age 14 through a YFC rally event in the Philippines. She dreamed of becoming a teacher/counsellor to assist others, but her family lacked the resources to help. As a young adult, she was mentored and received various scholarships through YFC staff to help her through her Bachelor of Education degree at Baguio University. With 34% of the population under the age of 14, Beverley often encounters the restless hearts of teens who are on a path towards gang involvement. She longs to see her country transformed by seeing youth repent of their ways and find hope in Jesus.

ANA...

Ana first heard about Jesus through her Muslim father. Her mother attended the Macedonian Orthodox Church. Ana suffered from severe depression and felt that her teen years were stolen from her as she was crippled by the effects of this disease. It was a very lonely time. Ten years ago she uttered a simple prayer for God to release her from this depression and she was healed! She then connected to a growing church where she flourished and grew in her faith. Ana has always had a passion to help children and youth but lacked the opportunity until she heard a sermon with a challenge to reach the youth of Macedonia. It was the same great missionary call that Isaiah heard many years ago. "Then I heard the Lord say, 'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?' He answered, 'I will go! Send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8). Ana responded like Isaiah and God sent a YFC regional director from Europe who provided training and connected Ana to the resources she needed to establish a program to reach the youth she loved. The training in Canada was part of that first step.

LIDIA...

The city of São Luís in Brazil is home for Lidia. At age 10, she had a conversion experience but it was not until later in her teen years that she made God the King of her life. She then volunteered with YFC for 2 years before coming on staff at age 20. In Canada, the few weeks of training at Summer Institute assisted her in refining her passions and in reaching out to youth like Thalles, a 13-year-old boy who is fatherless and in jail. Thalles participated in the "School of Life" program where he wrote a letter to God. Lidia, as a YFC staff person, then had the privilege of answering the letter and visiting with him. He committed his life to Christ and is now asking for help to start a Bible study with others in the institution. The circle of hope continues!

DONATE 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, #308, 8047 - 199 Street Langley, British Columbia V2Y 0E2. To make a donation by phone, please call us toll free at 1.888.649.2011.