

"Lots of kids got saved last week, it was powerful."
Laura Bronson, director of Keep it Real

"One of the boys in the Saturday Hoop 2 Hope basketball program who has been attending regularly was shot dead in the neighborhood yesterday."
Ben Osei, Jane-Finch Ministry of YFC Toronto

Dear partner in the calling to reach this generation of Young people with God's love,

The summer has flown by and fall is upon us. Within YFC this means that camps are now memories of seeing God at work changing lives - hundreds of decisions to follow Christ across the country, each one unique and special. Thousands heard the message clearly and in a setting where they could focus and understand - day camps, overnight camps, and many who came to our camps as kids are now following the Lord in their own lives and were back at camp as counsellors. The above two quotes in my email inbox last month tell the story. God has called us to sow the seed and to be His witnesses in fruitful but hard ground. And this summer has been no different. There have been lots of encouraging times but also lots of heart-ache and sadness. Some of our staff and volunteers are gifted evangelists and teachers. However, most are like you and I - simply folks who love God and who are called to passionately share, love, and build into the next generation.

Now as we begin the school year, please pray with us:

1. That we will be welcomed back into the schools where we served last year and that we will be invited into new schools.
2. That God will continue to call staff and volunteers to serve with us (for the last few years we have grown across Canada by about 50 staff per year).
3. That the Lord will provide for all the needs of YFC including providing ministry partners who will support our staff in prayer as well as financially.
4. That the Lord would be pleased to use us to reach many more hurting kids.

For Katy and I the fall is a season of connecting with kids and grandchildren, traveling to visit staff, ministry centers, and our partners, and ever so often...a day at home! Please pray with us for health, safety, and wisdom.

Blessings as we serve Him together,

Dave



Jason, Montreal YU Day Camps



Katy's Corner

Running summer day camps at Terra Nova Youth Centre, Jason, a new Montreal staff, reflects on the 6 weeks of camps as a time of testing! Not only being soaked by water balloons but entering into the world of children who do not feel wanted or loved, children who don't feel they are "good at anything" or those who are just utterly cruel to each other. With a theme of LOVE from 1 Corinthians 13, Jason daily challenged his counsellors, calling them to live the life of love that Jesus calls all believers to. He relates, "At the BBQ on the final night, nearly all the parents wanted to pre-register their children for next year. This was very exciting as half the kids came from completely non-churched backgrounds and I had had several opportunities to share my personal faith!"

The Challenge of Artificial Maturity

It is hard to believe that growing up used to be a fairly simple process. Parents taught their kids right from wrong, modelled solid character, and set them up for a life of fulfillment as best they could. However, information technology has changed all that forever. Anyone working with young people has sensed the cultural shift but it has been hard to identify. Tim Elmore is one of the few who has his finger on the pulse of Generation iY. His book, "Artificial Maturity" (c. 2012) is a manual for raising kids who can handle the real world of adulthood.

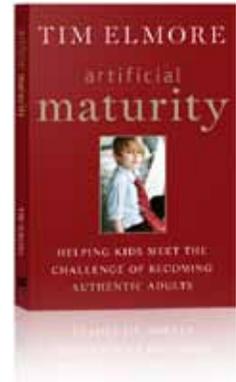
According to Elmore, today's Generation iY (young people growing up with the Internet) and Homelanders (children born after the trauma of 9/11) are overexposed to information at an earlier age and at the same time underexposed to meaningful relationships and life experiences. "Artificial Maturity" addresses the problem of what to do when parents and teachers mistake children's superficial knowledge for real maturity.

Elmore begins by laying the foundation of what Generation iY looks like. This generation is made up of kids whose phones have never had cords, kids who don't need an adult to get information, few of whom know how to write in cursive, and who find e-mail too slow and too old as a form of communication. They live in an instant world where everything can be accessed on the World Wide Web.

After identifying a number of growing problems for this generation such as the capacity to delay gratification and the ability to do what is right even when acting alone, Elmore goes into detail to describe what we need to do to help young people balance autonomy with accountability, responsibility with ownership, and information with application. All of this is couched in a practical, hands-on model for coaching and guiding youth into true maturity. This book provides adults with a guide for understanding and practicing the type of leadership that kids so urgently need to mature in a healthy manner.

Perhaps the greatest strength of the book is the dozens of practical submissions from parents who are working hard to help their kids to mature - simple applications of the life skills and values Elmore is talking about. They are called "Exercises for Maturing Kids" and provide "experience" to go with all the "information" that clutters their lives.

YFC highly recommends this book to parents, teachers, and anyone working with young people. It is a valuable tool in our effort to raise young people of character and integrity.



Pop Culture got your kids? YFC wants to help

Paul Robertson is the Youth Culture Specialist for Youth Unlimited (Toronto YFC). He is available to speak to groups across Canada. Link through his web site: <http://paulrobertson.ca> or email paul@paulrobertson.ca (416.520.6831)

"I don't think we have a generation of bad kids, but a generation of kids who know too much too soon."

Tony Campolo



Perspective at age 15

Three things a girl needs in order to grow up healthy!

When 15-year-old Mattie was asked what advice she would give to parents and youth workers, she stated, "Give us clear boundaries; be someone trustworthy we can talk to and show us real faith in your own life."

She volunteered these past two summers at a Youth for Christ / Youth Unlimited day camp in the Bobcaygeon & Fenelon Falls area, which are small communities in rural Ontario.

"I'm entering grade 10 and many kids at school are experimenting with drugs and are involved in dangerous sexual relationships with guys. It's scary to think they would choose this lifestyle without considering the short and long-term consequences. One of the girls is dating a guy who is a known drug dealer! I know they're just looking for acceptance and love. They come to me as a person they trust and tell me everything that's happening. High school is kinda hard. Your actions in grade nine determine what kind of person you'll be labelled as, all the way through. It sticks with you!

"I've been able to stay strong because I have parents who stand together and set clear expectations for me. My dad sets the bar high and does not budge on anything. I appreciate that. Also, my faith in God keeps me grounded. My local YFC worker, Melissa, and her husband Adam encourage kids like me to volunteer and serve. This past summer was an incredible experience. They introduced me to a spiritual discipline known as Lectio Divina. It's a slow, contemplative praying of the scriptures. At first I thought it would be boring stuff, but it's helped me to grow a lot. The exercise forced me to take time and listen to what God was saying to me. I also see the way Adam and Melissa live their lives in faith and obedience to God, and it inspires me."

Help us reach Generation iY

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**.

Would You 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. gary.macdonald@yfccanada.org / **1.888.649.2011 Ext 7** /