

APRIL 2012

# YFC Canada Newsletter



Dear Partners in Ministry:

*“Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.” (John 12:1-3 NIV)*

Peek in the window of this home in Bethany. Lazarus “lives” here. Not “used to live here before his tragic death.” Jesus had raised him back to life and this home was filled with joy! No wonder a dinner is happening in honour of Jesus! And no wonder Mary pours that expensive perfume on His feet, those feet which would have spikes driven through them within a few short days!

Now come with Katy and I as we journey from home to home around the country; seeing and hearing first-hand where Jesus is bringing life out of death, joy and light into dark places, setting young people free from the bondage of painful home situations, sexual and physical abuse, cutting, alcohol and drug addictions. Is it any wonder that we want to give Jesus all the honour due to Him!

In January and February we were able to spend time with over 200 YFC staff serving the Saviour in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. And we heard so many stories of God’s grace and met many new staff who were themselves brought to know the Saviour through a YFC worker.

Specifically, we were encouraged this winter by:

- YFC staff starting prayer groups for their ministries
- YFC staff serving kids in the elementary and junior high schools; helping with homework, running breakfast, after-school, cooking or soccer programs – just to name a few!
- Melissa connecting with other believers who are beginning to work together in her community in the Yukon
- Kids being reached with God’s love through theatre in Mission, B.C. (<http://www.jesters.ca/>)
- YFC Wolf Creek running a Stepping Stones Program for teen moms
- Those who serve faithfully year after year where God has placed them and dreaming of “going to the regions beyond”

We arrived home from all our travels Saturday night, February 25, exhausted but amazed at God’s work, done through God’s people and with His provision through those who partner with us in the work. So we simply thank you and pray that the Lord will bless you and encourage you as you encourage us.

**Dave (Katy) Brereton**  
National YFC Director

## Help a Teen Today

We need your support so we can continue impacting youth for Christ. We appreciate your partnership in this ministry. To make a secure online donation, you can visit [www.yfccanada.org](http://www.yfccanada.org) and click Donate or visit [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) and search for Youth for Christ Canada. Cheques can 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.



# Developing Kids of Character

## How Technology is Influencing Families

The digital age is much more than communications and images. It is about how a whole new world of technology is shaping how we live and how our families function. Most of life is now lived in front of some sort of screen, big or small. Most parents do not understand the impact of technology in their own homes or in their own lives. Canada is one of the highest users of technology in the world. Statistics Canada says over 80 per cent of Canadians (21.7 million) aged 16 and older used the internet for personal reasons in 2009. In the same year 98 per cent of people aged 16 to 24 went online.

And it's not just youth! Those 45 years of age and older are the fastest growing age group to tie into technology. Tim Challies, author of *The Next Story* (Zondervan, 2011), believes that technology has become an idol to many of us. The implications are serious. "When we give our lives over to idols, we hand them the keys to our heart. We become 'possessed' by them, driven to use them, we find our satisfaction in them. Rather than owning our gadgets, we become owned by them. We begin to structure our lives around them, and our actions and our choices are motivated by our need and desire for the blessings and benefits that idol provides for us."

The Family and Technology Report released in May 2011 by the Barna Group (Ventura, California) has some interesting findings which we Canadians need to note as well:

1. Parents are using technology and media almost as much as their 11-17 year olds. Adults watch the same amount of TV and movies and use the internet for just as many minutes; they actually spend more time on the phone and emailing.
2. Most family members, even parents, feel that technology has been a positive influence on their family. Nearly one-third of parents feel it is making their families better while over one-half describe the influence as neither good nor bad.
3. Very few adults or youth take substantial breaks from technology. One-third of parents and nearly one-half of their children say they

never really intentionally take a break from their screens. This explains why kids can sit at a dinner table texting each other rather carrying on a conversation. This begs the question, "Do we control technology or is technology controlling us?"

4. Families experience conflict about technology, but not in predictable ways. One-quarter of the parents said they had strong disagreements about the limits on media and technology on a weekly basis. Nearly half the parents worry about technology wasting their children's time. The other area of conflict dealt with the cost of equipment and the need to always have the latest gadgets.

5. The majority of parents and young people interviewed had not heard any kind of teaching from any church or religious institution on how families can best use technology. In other words, most families are not getting any coaching or assistance when it comes to integrating technology into their family life. Barna also suggests some practical helps for parents. First, focus on character and not just rules. We, as adults, need to have regular conversations with our children about the limits we set and why we have them. Our goal is to develop 'kids of character.' Second, prepare them for independence. Young people need to know we want to help them grow into healthy adults; knowing how to control media usage and its impact is part of that journey. Finally, encourage a broader circle of influence. It is important for our kids to have other adults involved in their lives. A good word from a youth volunteer, pastor, relative, or even trusted neighbour is valuable. The amount of time spent with media and technology is not going to shrink. The futurists predict there are only more, smaller, faster, and more complicated devices coming our way. It is the new "cultural soup" we are all swimming in and it will continue to influence family life on both sides of the border.

Excerpt from a new seminar by Youth Culture Specialist, **Paul Robertson**.

Contact for more seminar information: [www.paulrobertson.ca](http://www.paulrobertson.ca) / (416) 383-1229 Ext. 300 / [paul@paulrobertson.ca](mailto:paul@paulrobertson.ca)

Kaelynn and Cierra



## God Works in Mysterious Ways

People have been telling me for as long as I can remember that "God works in mysterious ways." I honestly didn't believe that until the day I saw those two red lines appear on the pregnancy test to announce my pregnancy. I was devastated. I was in shock and I didn't know what to do. Before I got pregnant I wasn't making the best decisions. I was into illicit drugs, I wasn't making the best choices in boyfriends and I wasn't attending school on a regular basis. My life was going downhill and quickly. People were worried my fate would be the same as a friend of ours who is into prostitution and drugs to this day. When I got pregnant though, my life did a complete 360 degree turn around. God was able to help me through my pregnancy (and there was a lot to help me through!) People were physically and verbally abusive at school and I almost got kicked out of my home.

Things were terrible but God was by my side the entire time. Physically, I pretty much sailed through my pregnancy with no complications and very few stretch marks. Upon delivery however, my daughter acquired a severe lung infection due to the inhalation of meconium and was put in an incubator for about a week. During delivery I was totally calm, in very little pain, and frankly it probably wouldn't have been like that if I hadn't had such faith in God the entire time. The complications during labor could have been a lot worse but God kept me strong and kept both my daughter Cierra and me safe. Cierra is now almost five months old and happy as can be. And I hope to show her God's love the way that people have shown it to me.

**Kaelynn and Cierra – Greater Vancouver YFC**

To learn more about a YFC teen-mom program in the Vancouver area: [www.steppingstonesbc.com](http://www.steppingstonesbc.com)

# 90-year-old Leaves Powerful Legacy

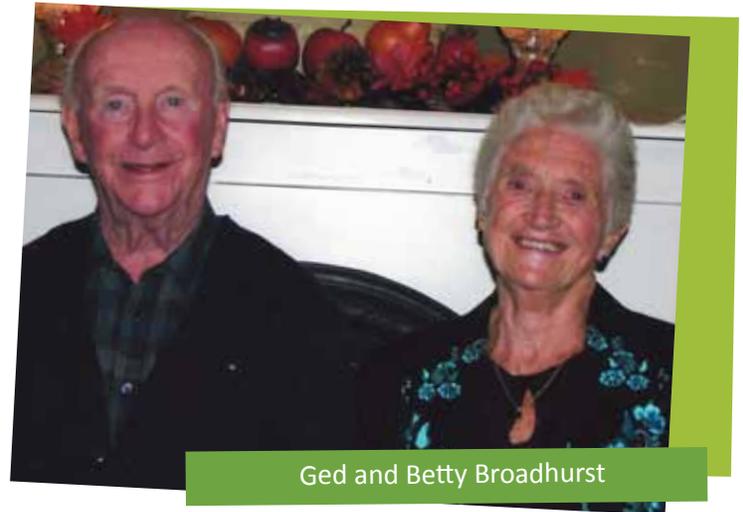
“Ged Is Dead.” This was the three word poem written by 90-year-old Geddes (Ged) Broadhurst. Before Ged passed away, he directed his son-in-law to read the poem at his funeral. Ged’s funeral celebration was held on January 2, 2012. Ged’s earthly life is completed, but he is still making an enormous impact.

Ged will be remembered by his YFC/Youth Unlimited family as a pioneer in developing the successful “Satellite Model” – a model which helps establish and grow effective community-based ministries across Canada. For example, in Southwestern Ontario, Youth for Christ has 23 satellite locations serving youth in over 30 communities, touching the lives of thousands of teens throughout the region. Ged is reaching teens today through more than 50 staff, who are on the front-lines, talking with and reaching out to hurting teens on a daily basis. This is a powerful legacy.

At the age of 58, Ged, along with his wife Betty, came on as full-time staff with YFC in the London, Ontario area. They have been very active as volunteers for the past 20 years.

(If you had to find one negative of about Ged, it was his snoring. Ged’s snoring had the same decibel rating as that of a jet engine. At a retreat, Ged would always find a secluded bed at the other end of the camp. Staff and students were thankful).

Ged’s passion in being an advocate for teens throughout his life grew from his fiery passion for Jesus and gratitude for the grace he personally experienced. As his wife Betty said recently, **“Ged was willing to take and deflect any hard knocks, if doing so would help teens experience the love and forgiveness of Jesus.”**



Ged and Betty Broadhurst

## What will be YOUR Legacy?

By including YFC in your will, you ensure that a young person has someone whom they trust to turn to for help. Will you help?

For more information on your options for leaving a legacy through YFC, please contact Gary MacDonald at 1.888.649.2011 Ext 7 or by email at [legacy@yfcanada.org](mailto:legacy@yfcanada.org), or visit [www.yfcanada.org](http://www.yfcanada.org).

## Feedback

We welcome your comments, questions and suggestions:

[gary.macdonald@yfcanada.org](mailto:gary.macdonald@yfcanada.org) / 1.888.649.2011 Ext 7

By mail: Youth for Christ Canada, PO Box 93008, #135 - 19705 Fraser Hwy., Langley BC V3A 8H2