

December 2011

YFC Canada Newsletter



Katy's Reflections

You haven't heard from Katy and me in a while. That is because we took a few months of pseudo-sabbatical! We weren't lying in a hammock reading books, but spending time with our kids and grandkids, getting our personal affairs in order, and yes...reading and listening to the Lord as to His direction for our lives and for YFC here in Canada.

Meanwhile, the YFC National team witnessed great things as they served our staff across Canada. We were encouraged as God allowed us to be a part of the following:

- Some physical and spiritual needs were met in two young men in the Kawartha area.
- Regina YFC opened another U-Turn House for young men and women who are no longer able to live at home.
- Dan Hungerford in Landmark, MB has had a very large number of kids coming to Christ and being discipled.
- Edmonton has increased its ministry and mission capacity with the addition of a new Director of Operations, aiding the visionary Bill Rice to pursue a new youth centre in partnership with a downtown high school.
- Winnipeg prepares to open its brand-new youth centre in the downtown area.
- Just to name a few!



National YFC Staff

And, as we add up the numbers for 2011, we believe the Lord has allowed us to connect with some 200,000 teens and pre-teens across Canada. During the week of December 5th, Katy and I hosted our National team in Montreal. Our theme verse was "They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters, these see the acts of the Lord and his wonders in the deep" (Psalms 107:23).

Thank you for your partnership in this ministry in 2011. May the Lord give you and your loved ones a meaningful time of celebrating the incarnation of our Lord this Christmas and may you be blessed and encouraged in 2012.

Dave Brereton / National Director

Over the last month, Dave and I have seen some stark contrasts; comfortable cozy homes filled with peace contrasted with filthy messy rooms in which others miserably survive one horrible pain-filled day after another. We heard someone say recently, "For those who don't know the Lord, earth will be the closest thing to heaven they will ever know." However, there are many homes at this time of year filled with overwhelmed people in the depths of despair. This is the world in which our YFC staff work...and this is the world into which our Saviour came.

At the YFC General Assembly in Denver we heard the following analogy:

A sweet fresh-smelling newborn comes home from the hospital with his proud parents. A knock at the door and two little neighbourhood kids with tangled hair, snotty noses and lunch still on their faces are there to see the new baby. They are

invited in and sitting down eagerly on the sofa, they reach out their filthy hands to hold the brand-new infant. Mom puts a bit of sanitizer on their hands and then carefully hands over her sweet little boy.

This is a true story told by Dan Wolgemuth, President and CEO of YFC USA, about his grandson. He went on to remind us that in Luke 2, God placed His new little Son into the hands of this filthy world (and no hand sanitizer)! He sent His only Son, knowing that this world would kill Him. And God did this for us!

So, as we shop, bake and bustle around this Christmas season, we want to keep in mind that "Jesus is the reason for the season." We are celebrating the coming of Jesus to this sin-contaminated world. His first bed was a manger, and His birth announcement was shouted from the skies by "the armies of heaven," accompanied with the radiance of God's glory, to the smelly dirty shepherds watching sheep in the darkness!

"Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord!"
Luke 2:11





Examples of those seeing change

Bob Greenaway, Rob Gin and Jamie McMahon are examples of Youth for Christ (YFC) staff members seeing exciting change in the lives of the people to whom they have committed themselves.

- In a recent story, Bob, Executive Director of YFC Prince George, shares about connecting with a young boy who had physically attacked his mother. Bob counselled the boy and his parents, being very straightforward about what he saw as issues in the family. Last year, the boy's grandma came to Bob with tears in her eyes and told him that he had rescued a family! "That's how much turnaround she'd seen in that family," he says.
- A young man formerly living on the streets, David Blanchard, recently credited YFC Toronto staff member Rob Gin as being a redeeming person in his life. David has gone from a life of drugs, and at his darkest point ready to take his own life, and is now on a journey to a different way of living. He is currently completing a leadership course and has a vision for the future that includes leading his friends on the street to the new kind of life he has found.

- Haliburton-Highlands Youth for Christ (YFC) Director Jamie McMahon, also tells a story of a young man who has come to a place of being very fired-up about having a relationship with God. "This youth used to visit the drop-in centre to jam and hang out. He would often end up sharing some of his life-story over a game of pool. As with all YFC's connections, it was all about meeting him "where he was," and being open to talk about spiritual matters and about God, if this young man indicated an interest," says Jamie. After attending a Christian gathering, this youth not only began to change his own life, but he also started a church group at the centre for youth called Church of Rock, which he now leads regularly. Jamie describes the young man's journey as a "pretty cool" experience for both him and those of YFC who have been prayerfully walking with him.



YFC partners with government to assist homeless youth

U-Turn is a response to the needs of homeless youth between the ages of 16-18 to assist in their development from dependence to independence. U-Turn was developed in 2000 by YFC Brandon, MB, where 3 U-Turn homes are in operation. The U-Turn program has been able to move 60% of its youth to independence.

It is not a group home but a semi-independent housing complex for youth. U-Turn is the house parents' home as well, which means they live alongside the youth. All tenants must apply to get into the U-Turn program and must want to be in the program and work on a personal development plan. Involvement in U-Turn requires individuals to be either working full-time, looking for employment or enrolled and participating in schooling and education.

YFC has a growing partnership with the Federal and Provincial Governments who continue to assist with capital and operational grants. As well as in Brandon, U-Turn homes are operating in Steinbach, Moose Jaw and Regina.

What will be YOUR legacy?

Does your heart break for lost and hurting youth? When you're gone, who will be there to ensure that current and future generations know and experience the love of Christ? By including YFC in your will, you could touch the life of a young mom who needs the support and prayer of a young mothers' group, or you could provide staff to meet with that shy 12-year-old boy in a caring and supportive drop-in centre. Your legacy could be many young lives transformed by the Youth for Christ ministry. 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@yfccanada.org, or visit www.yfccanada.org.

Investing in our youth!



We need your support in order to continue impacting youth for Christ. We appreciate your partnership in this ministry. To make a secure online donation, you can visit www.yfccanada.org and click 'Donate' or visit 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**.



we see the *hope* and *potential* in every young person

All YFC Canada National Staff links can be found through www.yfccanada.org