

TYSON MURRAY

PERSPECTIVES

I recently caught up with some youth who attended programming at The Door a few years ago. Over the course of our conversation the guys started to reminisce about programs past. They laughed about funny memories, told stories about adventures like exploring in the bush, canoeing, camping, fishing, and paintball.

As we chatted, each of them shared just how great those memories were for them. I loved hearing their stories, because often times, I had no clue what they are picking up. Many of these guys were the rambunctious leaders who I often had to walk home from program early due to behaviour. Some of these guys had even punched me in the face and openly expressed, through very colorful language, exactly how they felt during these times. A couple of them remembered these instances and thanked us as staff for sticking it through with them and continuing to make memories amidst the difficulty.

This reminded me that each day, regardless of how I feel a program goes, the kids are being loved, having fun, and making memories that will last for years. I love the saying, "People often don't remember what you said, but how you made them feel." This is something that keeps me going on tough days because God can take a rough program and turn it into a memory that reminds a kid they are loved.

Annual Fundraising Banquet

Our annual fundraising banquet will be looking a little different this year. Stay tuned as we adapt to the Covid-19 restrictions. We will let you know more in our next newsletter.



Youth for Christ

Youth Unlimited™ PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

60 Tupper St. N., Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 1W8
(204) 239-6763 www.yfcportage.com info@yfcportage.com

STORIES

A YOUTH FOR CHRIST PORTAGE NEWSLETTER

ART SCHROEDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMPELLED!

We desire to see every young person and their community changed by God's love. As our mission statement states, young people and their communities matter to God, and they matter to us as well. Over the past 50 years, we have seen thousands of youth living defeated, broken and isolated lives. Being filled with Christ's love and seeing such hopelessness, we are compelled to reach into the broken lives of youth, to share the life changing message of the gospel!

In Ephesians 2 we read that we too used to be slaves to sin BUT GOD IS SO RICH IN MERCY, AND HE LOVED US SO MUCH, THAT EVEN THOUGH WE WERE DEAD BECAUSE OF OUR SINS, HE GAVE US LIFE WHEN HE RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD!!!!!!



SUMMER
2020

Friends, there are far too many youth that don't know the good news of Jesus. We are not ok with that. We want to bring the good news to them. As we do we are seeing God work. Here are a few examples of what He is doing:

- There was a young man who came to our drop in and knew very little about Jesus. Today he is serving God in ministry.
- There was also a young lady that use to come to our programs in the North end and today she is walking with Jesus and seeking to know His will for her life.
- Another young lady began coming to our girls club and started a relationship with Jesus, and just recently started to go to church.
- This summer a young man was challenged to read the Bible. He took up the challenge and reports back to our staff on how much he is reading! He now wants to start volunteering with YFC/YU!

Christ continues to offer life to youth and youth are still responding to Him. Praise God!! As YFC seeks to minister to the youth in our area, please remember us in your prayers.

JOEL GOERTZEN

LIMITED CONNECTIONS



As is true for many people during this pandemic, life has been very different for the work in Gladstone. Joel was with his family in Ecuador when countries started to implement COVID-19 lockdown measures. When they re-

turned, many things had changed, and of particular importance, schools were closed. This has always been our best in person connection with students, and without it, our only option was online. Thankfully, over the years a good reputation has been build and Joel is connected to many of the students through the various social media platforms that they use. This allows a small window into their lives. However, it is now more evident than ever,

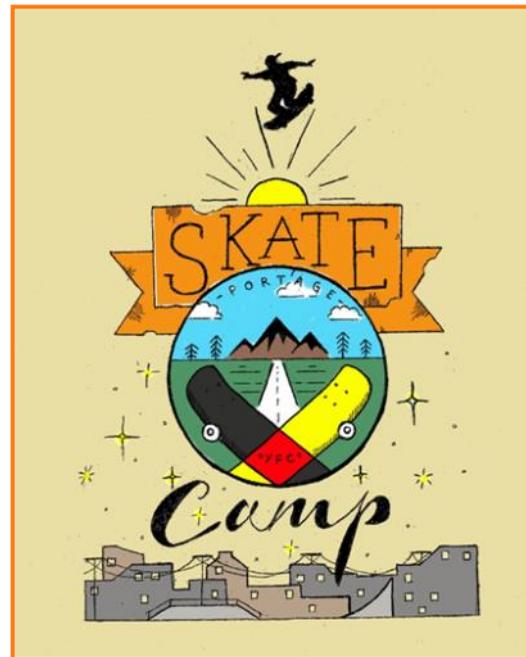
STEVE HILDEBRANDT

SUMMER OF OPPORTUNITY

Unfortunately in this season there are a lot of restrictions on what ministry looks like. Churches and Summer Camps are having to rethink how they do outreach. At YFC we have the same struggles. We do have ministries that are not as affected as others. For example, the skateboard ministry happens outdoors and it is easy to safely distance ourselves while building skills and relationships. This puts us in a great position to expand our ministry to fill the gaps where others are unable to operate. In partnership with the United Way, we are able to run 5 weeks of skateboard day camps. These camps will operate in 3 communities including Dakota Plains, Dakota Tipi and Portage. We are anticipating an exciting summer where we are able to connect with large numbers of youth who are looking for something fun and creative to fill their summer.

that the impact of online-only connections is limited. And that translating the virtual into physical can be challenging.

We look forward to seeing what God has in store for His work in Gladstone, and humbly ask that his Spirit would open doors for a significant impact in the lives of those we serve in this community. Thank you for joining us in this request.



Prayer Points

- Pray for the mental health of our youth, that they would be free from depression and boredom.
- Pray that our families would have the patience and grace they need for one another.
- Pray that those who were close to making a decision for the Lord would not fall backward.
- Pray for the summer programming which began July 2nd.
- Praise God for the summer staff which were still available. Pray for their unity.
- Continue to pray for the finances of both the staff and the office. Praise God that He has continued to supply our needs.
- Pray for the fall planning, including the annual banquet. Pray that we will continue being able to support our schools as we have in the past.

PAUL WARTHE

FISHERS OF MEN

How many of you watch fishing programs on TV or over the Internet? You don't? Me neither. Aside from being on at times I'm busy, fishing doesn't really interest me. I have caught the ending of a few shows and have noticed that the fishermen in the show are often just standing there—in the middle of a stream with their hip-waders on, or on the shore, or sitting in a boat in the middle of a lake. And they are waiting for the fish to pass by. When they do, the fishermen hope to lure them closer in order to catch them. Entice them with a big juicy worm or a fly, hook them, and reel them in. The fishermen, however, never move. They don't go chasing the fish.

That is one "strategy" that is employed here at YFC-YU. We have a presence at the corner of Tupper and Lorne and people pass by all the time. Sometimes they stop and come in, and when they do, we try to entice them to come closer, by loving on them with the love of Christ. They have heard of us and they see the sign, so they come in, hoping for help and hope.

Sometimes they get away. However, sometimes they turn around and come back. One particular man comes to mind. He came in about a year ago, trying to break free from his former life. He found the road tough and returned to it last fall. He called us recently seeking help to leave it, once again. The enticements of his former life were not panning out after all. Perhaps we did get a hook into him as he passed by last year.

Another strategy I've seen in fishing is to climb into a high speed boat, strap yourself into a chair bolted to the deck, and chase down a "big one". No standing around here. The fishermen take the hook, line, and sinker to the fish.

We also use a similar strategy at YFC-YU. We are in the process of launching our summer programming. We will be taking the love of God to others who need it around the city of Portage, snacks, games, and God Talks in tow.

So pray for us, whether we wait for the fish to bite or go chasing after them this summer.

Ways To Donate

ONLINE

Visit the "Donations" page at www.yfcportage.com

MAIL or IN PERSON

YFC Portage Inc.,
60 Tupper Street North
Portage la Prairie, MB, R1N 1W8

CREDIT CARD

Call the YFC office at 204.239.6763.

LEGACY & PLANNED GIVING

More information is available on our website at www.yfcportage.com or call our office at 204.239.6763.