

Northumberland YFC

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News for the Northumberland YFC Family!
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EXTREME MAKEOVER - LEADERSHIP EDITION RETREAT 07



What a blast! 15 teens and 6 adults camped out at John and Brenda Stanford's home and alpaca farm, Oriole Acres, for a retreat weekend. We had fun while learning about leadership during the second weekend in February. (Which was very cold by the way!)

We talked about how God calls us into

relationship with Himself and what our response to that calling should be. We talked about servant leadership and being part of the body of Christ. We worshipped together and we had time to be quiet and just listen. There was also the fun of meeting the alpacas, sledding down the huge hill, and participating in the Amazing Race (NYFC edition).

When we run a retreat, our deepest desire is to build relationships which can help bring about positive change in the lives of the young people we are spending time with.

At the end of the retreat, one youth responded with **"Now I know what God is calling me to do when I get back (to daily living)!"**

Another said, **"I need to start breaking down the walls I hide myself behind"** And yet one more **stopped smoking.**

Laughing together, crying together, relationship building, little changes, big changes...all are important.

THANK YOU to John and Brenda Stanford for hosting us (you made a difference through your hospitality)

Christine Moss, Cobourg Staff

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Ministry in the moment!!



I went cross-country skiing....

...For the first time in 22 years!! Our volunteer extraordinaire, Sally, invited youth from the Port Hope drop-in to come to her place in the country for an afternoon of skiing and sledding followed by chili & hot chocolate. We had an amazing time with the youth who joined us.

At one point I was skiing alongside Rebecca. She became a Christian last summer and has been instrumental in her friend Tammy coming to the Lord. Rebecca told me that earlier that morning, she and Tammy had gone to church with Sally. She said it was awesome, and that they took communion, which she really seemed to feel was an important thing to do. I asked her if she understood what it was all about, and she said she thought it had something to do with Jesus having a meal with his followers. Standing there on my skis, amidst the snow and the wind, I was able to give Rebecca a two minute lesson on the importance of communion and why we do it. Then we continued skiing.

I never cease to be amazed by the opportunities the Lord gives us to speak into the lives of youth, using teachable moments to pass on eternal truths. When we take the time to be with youth, to care for them and to be a part of their lives, then discipleship can happen anywhere. For Rebecca and Tammy, this occurs even on cross-county skis.

Jeff
Port Hope

More from the front lines of ministry...

Two of our volunteers took some girls from a youth centre to a Christian Musical (at the girls request - and these girls would normally never do this!) Here is the story...

“Last Sunday, Dan and I took S*****, S***** and K***** out to dinner and then to see the Spirit Borne production in Belleville. On the way S***** said that she did not believe in God (but does believe in the devil) but the funny thing was that when the performance was over she thought that she would like to join the Spirit Borne team next year...which is another story altogether. We were very impressed with the girls and for the most part they were well behaved. Which leads to the prayer request.

Please pray that these girls will come to understand what respect for themselves means.”

Pat, a volunteer

Michael Frost in Cobourg

It is amazing how God works in the hearts and minds of people.

When we scheduled this conference and invited Mike to come from Australia, our goal was to provide a high quality resource to the Christian faith community in Northumberland. We felt that Mike had a message about living missionally in a post-Christian world that people needed to hear.

Over 200 people heard all or part of Mike's message during those first few days of February. What surprised us was who came! While we did have some participation from within the county, (not nearly as much as we hoped) we had people from as far east as Shearwater Nova Scotia, London, ON in the west, Sudbury in the north, and many point in between!! We had no idea that word would spread that far.



The reviews have been very good for the most part. Some people raved about what they had learned regarding how to authentically live their faith everyday, and now want to become better at interacting with the world around them. On the other hand, some were less than thrilled. They said things like, "I hear what he is saying, I agree, and I won't change - it is just too hard." Those reactions are sad, but they do happen.

Here is some feedback we received, right from the evaluation forms.

- **"What Michael is talking about is very relevant and needs to be heard."**
- **"When only a handful of speakers are swimming against the tide, we need to hear this kind of thing repeatedly, or we get stuck in conventional ways of thinking."**
- **"Excellent! Biblical, thought provoking and applicable. 10/10"**
- **"Fresh and prophetic. I thought that the speaker (Mike Frost) was exceptionally relevant with his material. I felt that it was perfect for my current situation. Thinking about repackaging and rethinking the church as a whole (and not just something like 'becoming a contemporary church') is extremely necessary in our postmodern culture."**

We look forward to more learning opportunities like this in the future.

P.S. Mike's messages are available online for download at www.nyfc.org.

A note from the front lines:

Pray for our young people's language. I had to run outside the other night, and I thought I had mistakenly arrived at a sailors convention! Their need for expression needs to be tempered with respect to our language and their surroundings.

Ellen, a volunteer

Tearing Down The Curtain

At Northumberland YFC, each staff member is responsible for an article for the general newsletter every 2 months. Almost every time I submit an article to be reviewed, it comes back with a comment something like "Great story Sarah. But where is God in it?" My fellow missionaries reviewing the article see God in the story, but recognize that some people could ask the "where is God?" question, because I don't usually 'spell it out'.

I believe God exists in the ordinary JUST AS MUCH as in the extraordinary. I believe God is in the colours and the fragrances and the textures of the world. I believe God is the source of all life (Genesis 1:1) and love (1 John 4:7-8) and truth (1 John 5:6), so wherever you find those things, you find evidence of God.

This isn't a fringe worldview. My seeing God in the ordinary is simply me recognizing that the world and all that is in it, is God's (Psalm 24:1; Jeremiah 23:24) I believe that anything or anyone who displays life, love, or truth, is in fact displaying at least a small reflection of the Creator God. I look for God's good reflection everywhere. I find God's good reflection in many (sometimes unexpected) places. I believe that "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17 NIV.

We're such a word-focused culture though, that sometimes we miss seeing/hearing/feeling/smelling/tasting God outside of our books and lectures. Sometimes I wish we weren't such a word-focused society. I mean, language has POWER and that can be useful, but there are other means of communication too. Do you wish sometimes that instead of hearing a sermon on God, the pastor would play an amazing piece of music and allow you to just listen for God? Do you ever wish that we were encouraged to **feel** God on a newborn's skin? To **smell** God in a wet grassy lawn? To **taste** God in a fabulous meal?

As postmodern as our world is becoming, many pieces of it are still modern. So many pieces of our world are word, logic and science driven. In these places the holy and the everyday, the so-called sacred and secular, tend to exist in two different spheres. But when Jesus died, the curtain between the holy and the ordinary was torn apart

So let me tell you a story... A few weeks ago I was hanging out with friends when I received a text message. It came from a young woman asking if I would be her birth doula. When I met with her a few days later she was excited, and nervous, and a little overwhelmed. She was thankful to be talking with an adult who cared. She was relieved that I didn't mind the laundry on the sofa, held one of her children while she got their meal ready, and was willing to be part of her world for a while. As I reflect on this meeting, I marvel that I was one of the first people she chose to share the news of her pregnancy with. I am reminded again of how vulnerable a pregnant young mother is, and how carefully I must handle the trust which she places in me. I look forward to walking alongside this young woman in the coming months, and to seeing the trust in our relationship continue to build and grow. I look forward to the day when she asks me about the hope within me, or why I care so deeply. But even if she never asks, I will love her and care for her just the same.

Thanks for reading. As we approach the season of Easter, I encourage you to ask yourself: "In what ordinary places and spaces might I experience God? The curtain has been torn after all (see Mark 15:38). .

Sarah Stanford

Comments from a Youth Centre Volunteer

They call me the 'funny guy', I take that as a compliment. It appears that we've opened a bonding opportunity for our young people at lunch.

David

If it was easy...

Life at The Beacon (the youth centre in Brighton) is a bit crazy these days. To be blunt, we are dealing with some of the roughest and rudest kids we have ever seen. Not all of them... But the select few who fall into this category are a challenge.

It reminds me of a comment made by a YFC Missionary years ago when he said, "**If it was easy, everyone would be doing it.**" The experience of ministry at the Beacon reflects this. Let me explain.

Years ago, there were a few basic assumptions that we could make about the youth we were working with. These included some relatively common understandings about how youth perceived adults, what youth thought was acceptable (or not), how they might listen to adults, what youth "valued" and how those "values" related to us. In short, it seemed like we knew where we were starting from. But to quote a famous movie, "...we're not in Kansas anymore."

Now, don't get me wrong - the volunteers who work at the Beacon are not complaining. And even on the days when it gets really tough and they say that they don't know how long they can put up with this...they still know that they are strategically placed to make a big difference.

In a meeting the other day, one volunteer commented on how a young man, 4 months after an incident, went out of his way to say sorry for treating her as he did. **4 months later!!**

Some of these kids are so hurt and broken, they have virtually no social skills. One seems to be unable to relate to anyone without it involving a scream or a punch.

Please - pray for these kids. They need hope, stability and love. And pray for the volunteers who need grace and peace to offer themselves in the name of Christ.

Andrew and Daryl

Northumberland Youth for Christ & Christian Stewardship Services

NOW TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP to build a strong financial future for **Northumberland Youth for Christ**

Would you like advice on how to continue to support YFC for many years to come?

Would you consider leaving a gift to YFC in your Will?

Now CSS can help!

CSS offers professional, confidential and free advice on:

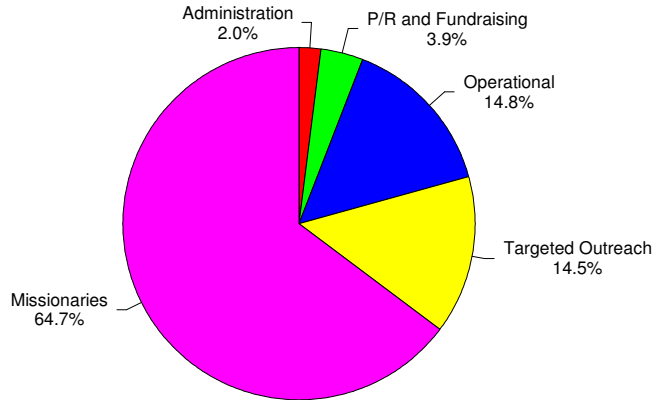
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Please call CSS toll free at 1-800-267-8890, or email our Central Ontario Representative Patricia vanOostveen at: patriciav@cssservices.ca to receive more information, or to arrange a Personal appointment.

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Expense Distribution for 2006 (Excluding Global Missions)



Some Financial News

We are pleased to report that more than 94% of the funds we received in 2006 went directly towards reaching youth and families! Only 2% was used to cover administration costs and only 3.9% for Public Relations and Fundraising. This is much better than, what many refer to as, “industry standard”.

2006 ended in better financial shape than many previous years. ***We are grateful to God, working through you, for this.*** Our 2006 Global mission to Ghana (funded separately from our daily local work) had a net financial benefit to Northumberland YFC. As a result

of supporting our international work, some new people heard about us for the first time, and began to support the local ministry as well. **Praise God for this!!**

The ‘start of the year financial slowdown’ has begun however. From January to March our income often decreases to about 60% of what we need to operate, pay our missionaries and cover the hard costs of reaching youth. This uses up any ‘end of the year reserves’ very quickly, and this year is no exception. ***As of this writing, most of our missionaries have not been paid at all in March!***

Generally, the trend is that donations pick up again April through June, then drop off in the summer. (When I say ‘pick up’, I mean that they are sufficient to meet our budget for that time, but there is rarely an excess of funding that sufficiently covers the ‘down times’.) This annual cycle is often painful for the missionaries who work full time reaching out to youth. Their dedication however is faultless.

In Ghana we learned that churches often take up two offerings each service. The first is tithes - the 10% ‘first fruits’ offered to God. The second is a “thanks offering” - whatever someone wants to give, as a special way of praising God for something in their life. AS WE APPROACH EASTER - THAT TIME WHEN WE ARE REMINDED MOST POIGNANTLY OF SACRIFICIAL GIVING, AND HAVE MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR, I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER WHAT SPECIAL “THANKS OFFERING” YOU COULD GIVE.

Our missionaries (and volunteers) give sacrificially to this ministry in many ways. The missionaries continue to be there, day in and day out, often with short salaries, sometimes without pay at all, and depending on the grace of God to get them through. Sometimes, when the Fall comes around, we get caught up a bit. Often, that catch up is not quite enough either.

We know! - that many of you give, sometimes at *great* sacrifice, to this and other worthwhile ministries. We want to share the mission with others. Can you help us find people who might be interested in supporting this home mission?? Would consider calling me, at 905 373 4707 to discuss some simple ways that you might be able to help us share our ministry vision with new partners? You’d be surprised how many people WANT to give... if only they were asked!

I hope you will call.
God Bless you this resurrection season!!

Daryl Stogryn, Executive Director

I/We would like to support the ongoing ministry of Youth for Christ through....

Prayer Financial Partnership

I would like to offer a gift in the amount of:

\$ _____ \$60 _____ \$100 _____ \$500 _____

Please apply my support to the following mission area(s)

General Account _____ (core funding)
Daryl Stogryn, Executive Director _____
Michele Shutt, Administrator _____
Christine Moss, Cobourg _____
Jeff Snow, Port Hope _____
Sarah Stanford, Doula and Research _____
Andrew Fortier, East Ministry _____
The Silverworks Youth Centre, Cobourg _____
The Beacon Youth Centre, Brighton _____
The Out Back Youth Centre, Port Hope _____

=====

Please process my support by:

Cheque (enclosed),

Visa # _____ exp. ___/___ ...or

Pre-Authorized Withdrawals (please send forms)

Make all Cheques payable to **Youth For Christ**
(Our charitable # is BNI3217 7296 RR0001)

My Name and Address are:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

PRAISE GOD WITH US:

- The “Church as Mission” conference with Michael Frost
- The Extreme Makeover Student Leadership Retreat
- The incredible volunteers who keep things going - especially when they find themselves dealing with the very difficult situations that sometimes occur.
- The Board of Directors who diligently seek God’s wisdom and direction.
- Tammy, Rebecca, Mikaela, Sarah, Aaron, Isaac, Nathan, Chris, David, Teagan.
- For the love of God - without which, nothing good can happen!
- Our new partnership with Christian Stewardship Services.
- The great teens in the youth centres who are leaders and role models to their friends.

PRAY WITH US:

- ⇒ These young people: Destiny, Conner, Adam, Sam, Brody, Katelyn, Natasha, Tammy, Victoria, Liz, Helen, Hunter, Amber, Christine, Amanda and Margaret.
- ⇒ The cars and vans of our missionaries are used an enormous amount - and they need repairs.
- ⇒ Our main office building **NEEDS A NEW ROOF!** - this could cost up to \$10,000!
- ⇒ Small groups of believers who meet at the various high schools....pray for encouragement, and boldness.
- ⇒ For Marion, an NYFC board member who will be taking a medical leave of absence.
- ⇒ The need for new financial and prayer partners.
- ⇒ Resources for 2007: Strength, direction and protection. Finances. Supplies. People.
- ⇒ A volunteer and his wife who’s young baby is having surgery.