

Northumberland YFC

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News for the Northumberland YFC Family!
Vol. 22 No. 03

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May - June 2007



We laid an old (young) friend to rest the other day.

Kirk Chapman - student leader, volunteer - died recently. He served with us for many years, in many ways. And he served YFC in Kawartha as well. We wanted to pay tribute to this inspiring young man, and so asked another friend if we could use what he shared at the funeral.

- By Pastor Peter Panabaker (former NYFC staff member)



"For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made, your works are wonderful I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in that secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. ALL the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be" Psalm 139:13-16

I sat in a stunned silence as I struggled to comprehend what I had just heard: Kirk Chapman, my long time friend and student leader had passed away. As I spoke with God about it, Psalm 139 kept coming back to me. Kirk lived an intensely challenged life physically. The world would say he wasn't the prettiest or the coolest or smartest and yet God reminded me here in the Psalms that Kirk was just as he was intended to be - made in God's image for God's glory and Kirk was here just the right amount of time - the time that God "ordained".

Almost 10 years ago the Chapman family moved to Campbellford and "The Fishing Hole" youth centre opened. It wasn't long until Kirk showed up asking questions and making sure we knew in no uncertain terms that he was a born again follower and friend of Jesus Christ.

With all of his being Kirk took part in all the activities in the centre, giving freely of himself to everyone he met there. Now let's remember that Kirk's acts of faithfulness go far beyond what is asked of most of us. Kirk did not have a great memory or strong command of the English language. Other people didn't always want to talk to him or interact with him and yet he did what Jesus would do. He turned the other cheek and loved them anyway. He understood deep down inside the call to love God first and love your neighbours. Kirk understood the great commission and acted on it. Kirk's whole being was intent on learning more about and getting closer to God through Jesus Christ and sharing the gospel message with others.

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Kirk participated in volleyball tournaments, red shield appeals, dinners, drop in centre duty, cleaning, building, moving. **Whatever** it took, Kirk was ready and willing to do it for Christ. And he had fun. When something hit Kirk's funny bone he had a laugh that started in his toes and went up through his body until it shook so much he would fall back in his chair.

Kirk and I shared a thousand discussions about faith and life over the pool table in the Fishing Hole. We played so often that Kirk got bored and found new games to play just for a change and he taught them to me. (He was actually tired of beating me.)

The bottom line for me is that Kirk came into the world very challenged physically but he had parents who never gave up, never stopped praying believing and hoping and they taught their faith to their kids. Kirk rose above all of his challenges to serve Christ in ANY way he could, looking for any opportunity to share the gospel and along the way he had some fun and he affected more people than we will ever know. I know that I am forever changed because God put Kirk Chapman and his family in our lives.

I think it is easy to see that Kirk took to heart the scripture from Phil. 4:13 *"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."*

At this moment I feel like I've been in a best 2 out of 3 pool game with Kirk - it is tied 1-1 and he just called a shot to sink the 8 ball - the last one - and with a gleam in his eye and a smirk directed at me he takes the shot, sinks the 8 ball, and says - "Beat you again. I win. I'll see you at home some day."

Good bye my friend. Enjoy heaven, and health, and the fellowship of our Lord as he says, *"Way to go Kirk Chapman - well done oh good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness."*

Running on empty...

When you work with youth, even the best laid plans can go out the window in a heartbeat.

A few weeks ago I lived with 2 young teenagers for three days while their Mom and Dad had to be away. I was hanging out with them after school when I received an urgent message on my cell phone. A young pregnant client (still well before her due date) needed me ASAP - she was being transferred by ambulance to a special hospital and things didn't look good. Agh! I flew around making alternate arrangements for the next couple days, posted a quick message to some online friends to let them know what was happening, and made it to her hospital bed in record time.

Thankfully things had settled down by then; the danger which had necessitated her transfer, had passed. I stayed with her until she fell asleep late that night, then went back to the parking garage where my car was waiting - with a gas gauge which read "Empty". I had known I was running low as I drove into the city, but there were NO gas stations to be seen and I didn't have time then to go looking. I have only run out of gas once, and the fuel gauge that time had been higher than it was now.

I sat in my car and said *"Okay God. You know the Old Testament story about the poor woman whose oil jars don't run dry? I need you to do that. But with my gas tank."* (See 1 Kings 17:8-16 and 2 Kings 4:1-7). I held my breath and turned the key..... my car started! The fuel gauge said "Empty", but I made it all the way to a gas station which was open in the middle of the night, even after multiple wrong turns.

When I checked online the next day, I discovered that many people had been praying for the situation. God answered those prayers - not only were my client and her unborn child kept safe from harm, but I was too! God is good, and his mercy endures forever.

News from the Beacon Youth centre in Brighton

The Centre moves outside the box

With the nicer weather now upon us, the Beacon Youth Centre is finding itself moving outside into the parking lot and beyond. Dan Koets brought with him some hockey sticks last Thursday evening which were donated by the local Canadian Tire store, and played street hockey outside with the high school crowd. The last three Tuesday evenings have seen football (touch *and* tackle) as well as Frisbee played at the nearby Brighton Public school playing field, and inside, Sue Vandertoorn continues to do crafts on Wednesday evenings. We're looking forward to a bike clinic and some bike trips in June, and even some camping in July!

Talk about food!

Meals continue to magically appear at selected lunchtimes, thanks to a roster of volunteers coordinated by John Major, and Andrew occasionally gets to take some kids out to lunch and talk with them. At Friday's meal with two of our guys, Andrew was able to challenge them to listen for the voice of God in their lives.

Training

At the end of April we had six of our volunteers take a non-violent crisis intervention course, taught by John Stanford, a long-time volunteer with YFC. Carla Van Reewyk and Dave Deur have just come back from a seminar on mental health - Andrew and Diane will be attending a seminar on explosive anger in youth.



Prayer

We're looking for individuals (or groups!) who will pray for our young people. Toni DenHollander has volunteered to be our prayer coordinator – stay tuned for details on how you can get involved.

More volunteers signing up!

We're in the process of interviewing two new volunteers, and have our sights on two more. There are lots of ways you can help out part-time, or to try it out – give us a call!

Finances

We are so thankful for those who have joined up with us as partners in so many different ways. Our main expenses continue to be our monthly rent, utilities, and salaries. Now that Andrew is in the office more, our phone bill is higher, but we share a dial-up internet account which saves money. Thanks to the seniors group who have saved up a “coffee collection” for us, and we're inviting everyone to our “Second Annual” yard sale, coming up soon. God is good – all the time!

A tip regarding investing and giving.

Did you know, that if you currently invest in GIC's, you can invest in a similar manner through CSS (Christian Stewardship Services), get the same or better personal rate of return and support Northumberland YFC at the same time!?? Pretty cool.

Call Pat at CSS for more information. 1 800 267 8890



The Power of Positive Words

We have a really cool group of young teens who hang out at The Silverworks on Tuesday evenings. They bring a lot of energy with them when they arrive but they also bring a lot of negativity. You can hear it in the way they address each other and refer to themselves.

I've been thinking and praying about this and working on ways to combat the sarcasm and cruel words. I was interested to read in the recent newsletter from Impact Society some of these thoughts from Jack Toth. (Impact Society "Leave Your Mark, spring 2007)

"Negative words...limit, and in turn harm and destroy hope. They end up not seeing their real self because they begin to believe they are the person others say they are."

I see this very clearly in one young girl who comes out. She has bought into all the lies that she has been fed about who she is and her anger spills out in hurtful words to all around her.

Toth goes on to say that "...no one has the right to destroy another's spirit with negative words; 'We are to be people-builders; people-builders choose to build, rather than destroy'".

The rules at all our youth centres are as follows.... "Respect....yourself,others,....and the place." People who respect themselves and others are often people-builders!

As we move into spring and "turn over a new leaf!" Please pray for the staff of "The Silverworks" that we might first of all be people-builders, and that we might encourage and challenge the teens to use positive words to build rather than negative words which destroy.

Respecting and building up each other is another way of reflecting God's love to and for each other. Please pray that teens might see and recognize the source of all love.

Christine Moss, Cobourg Staff

Jack Toth, CEO Impact Society - "The Power of Our Words" Spring 2007
<www.impactociety.com>

Please pray for the staff and volunteers at "The Silverworks" - Christine, Dave, Denis and Maryjane.

Please pray for the teens at "The Silverworks" - Amanda, Mike, Zach, Tammy, Miguel, Victoria, Tyler, Liz, Destiny, Margaret, Helen, Conner, and Hunter, Adam and Sam.



Convicted of Murder... But making a positive impact!

Early in April, we had the opportunity to connect Mike Yarema, who is serving a life sentence for first degree murder, with a local church youth service. Many of you will know that Mike, on supervised passes, has volunteered his time for us on a number of occasions to tell his story of pain, anger, murder, and transformation.

About 15 or more youth from the Beacon went to the church to hear him speak. Many were very moved by what they heard as Mike shared his story of growing up, making terrible decisions that led to a man's death, his time in prison, and the change that has occurred since his conversion to faith in Christ.

One young man's response was very telling. Shortly after Mike's talk, a young man confided with Andrew, "**I don't think I am strong enough to ever change that way.**"

Although sad in one sense, it is encouraging to note that at this point, the young person at least recognizes the need for change. For him, this is a huge step forward.

Please pray for him that God would touch him and provide the strength to change.

International Ministry continues to compliment local ministry.

In late May, Joseph Aryee, Director of YFC West African Region, will visit Northumberland YFC for a couple of weeks. While here, he will speak in various places from Brighton to Peterborough to Mississauga, offering thanks to those who have supported the ministry in Africa and encouraging those of us in the west to continue partnering with them.

While here, Joseph and Northumberland YFC will plan a short term mission for February 2008. A team of adults will go to Ghana to meet with the people we have worked with for years and investigate projects that local churches can be involved in long term.

This mission will be designed to build on the ministry we have accomplished so far - at the YFC site in Ghana, and with various local churches through southern Ghana with whom we already have contact.

We are looking forward to Joseph's visit. Please pray for us as we plan for future ministry together.

Just for a bit of context....

We recently finished our annual report on activities for 2006 for submission to our National Office. Here are some numbers that you might find encouraging.

We contacted over **680 different youth** in 2006.

The total number of connections between adults (full, part-time and volunteer staff) and youth, throughout Northumberland county numbered **in excess of 7271!**

125 young people were offered an opportunity to place their faith in Jesus and at least 20 did!

In addition to our normal activities, we began a new program (Doula Ministry) and fielded a 17 member team to Ghana.

Sometimes I feel like I repeat myself.....

I met a young person named "Ali" last week. One of our conversations went a bit like this.

Ali - "What do you do?" Me - "I work with teens and families, I run a Christian ministry to youth."

Ali - "I don't believe in anything." Me - "Why?"

Ali - "Because anytime I have tried to believe in something, it changes...and then I can't believe in it anymore...it's hopeless!"

Me - "What's hopeless?" Ali - "Believing in anything."

Me - "That makes me sad." Ali - "Me too."

I feel like I repeat myself, because I seem to be forever telling stories like this. However, I guess it bears repeating - yet I worry sometimes if people don't just get tired of hearing about it. I hope not. Because if we do, then Ali will be right - "...it's hopeless."

There is a lot of stuff that goes on like this. Whether it is the hopelessness of the local youth who can't believe in anything, and makes decisions appropriate to that way of life, decisions that are dangerous to herself and others; or the issues of poverty in this amazingly affluent county we live in; or the environment....or....or....or....and it goes on. Some things need to be repeated, over and over. And some things need to be listened to, over and over.

Elizabeth Barret Browning once wrote,

*"Earth's crammed with heaven
and every common bush afire with God;
And only he who sees takes off his shoes -
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries."*

Awareness of the burning bush was crucial to Moses' response. Awareness of the issues facing youth, families and our world are crucial to our response. Will we take off our shoes....or pick blackberries?

Young people **need you** to hear their call. They feel hopeless and unheard. When one of us - full, part-time, or volunteer missionaries, is successful in entering their world and offering hope, then they see some of heaven.

We continue to need your support, and that of others, to stay in the world of youth. Last year we had over 7000 contacts. That was only possible because you made it so. We long to do more.

It's spring, that time of year when we experience the newness of life springing up to grow and flourish. It's also one of those times of year when we experience an annual downturn in financial support. People get busy, sometimes distracted - it's seasonal norm - but it's hard. Right now, all of our full-time missionaries are feeling that downturn. Some to the point, where they are trying to live on 50% of their salary. But your missionaries are committed to "taking off their shoes" and responding to God's call to be there for youth. They trust that you and others will also take off their shoes, walk toward that burning bush...and then away, transformed and ready to work together in the name of the one who calls us higher, ever higher. **"Earth's crammed with heaven."**

Peace be with you

Daryl
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:

- ★ For the donation of a 'like-new' washing machine and dryer to one of our missionaries.
- ★ That Andrew and Diane have successfully purchased their first home.
- ★ For two students who attended the Leadership Retreat in February, and are now preparing to be baptized in a local church.
- ★ For the donation of a 'like-new' refrigerator to another of our missionaries.
- ★ For a successful first year of ministry at The Beacon Youth Centre in Brighton.
- ★ That Joseph Aryee, Director of Youth For Christ/West Africa will be visiting us May 22 to June 11.
- ★ That we have been invited to meet with representatives from a local school board about assisting parents in their understanding of Restorative Practices in the home.

PRAY WITH US:

- ★ For the Manifest Concert in Port Hope May 15.
- ★ For the many students who dread the summer away from the stability and relative safety of school.
- ★ For our youth summer camping trip July 10-12.
- ★ For safety and fun as the Bike Club kicks off a new season on June 2.
- ★ For the National Ministry Conference of Youth For Christ/Canada at FairHavens June 23-27.
- ★ For the many youth our staff and volunteers interact with every day.
- ★ For the fundraising yard sale in Port Hope, June 2.
- ★ For our Annual General Meeting May 28th.
- ★ For the Beach Volleyball Tournament June 9.