

Northumberland YFC

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News for the Northumberland YFC Family!
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"...I am not sure that she's going to make it..."

Sometimes, you see the glory of God in the most unexpected places... Let me share one of our Christmas miracles with you.

On Boxing Day, Daryl and I went to a hardware store to buy supplies to finish a renovation project (Hooray! We now have a closet in our bedroom!) Upon entering the store, the first person we clapped eyes on was "Alice" - a youth from our earliest years in ministry. Apparently I'd met her before, but I don't remember. I do remember the stories; stories to make your hair curl; stories to make you weep. If you've been with us since those early days, you've probably prayed for her.

She was excited to see us, and after Alice finished serving her customer, we had 20 uninterrupted minutes to chat. She has 3 healthy, beautiful children and had just become engaged (to the children's father). As we began to say good-bye, she checked over her shoulder to see if anyone was around, then begged to tell us one more story. It went something like this:

"Do you remember when I stopped by the office several years ago, and asked for some reading material to begin a personal relationship with the Big Guy?" She went on to tell us of a moment of crisis in her life, rapidly descending into a panic attack, when she heard **"a voice, not my own"**, with a message which only made sense to her, which resolved the crisis.

And there it was, in the middle of a hardware store, the glory of God shining from her eyes and radiating from her person, as she said **"I promised myself the next time I saw you (Daryl) I would tell you that story; tell you that 'I've got it', and that you played a big part in that."**

Daryl went on to tell her that she was one of the people we were most proud of. She seemed surprised and asked why. He said, "I remember the days when I would look at you and think to myself, 'I am not sure that she's going to make it', and here you are, years later, strong, healthy with direction, and looking ahead. We are proud of you." Her response was a simple, quiet, **"I remember those days too."**

Thank you for praying for Alice and every other one of the precious youth God sends our way. Thank you for being part of our Christmas miracle. May you see beautiful answers to prayer every day of this new year.

God Bless.

Hope Stogryn

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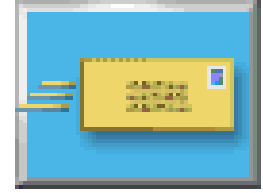
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I'm Glad You Asked...

...about the amount of mail you receive from Northumberland YFC. We get this question periodically, along with questions about public relations spending, using e-mail to communicate and so on. Here is how it works.



For more than 20 years, we have struggled to find that right level of mail to those who are interested in our ministry. We have tried a monthly mailing of our general letter (this one you are reading) and added mailing from individual missionaries and projects. We have tried to move people to e-mail, at the request of many donors. We have tried as many variations as we could think up and sought advice from friends, family, professionals, and more. So, here are our conclusions.

First, as much as we would like to do all things electronically to save on trees and "go green", the bottom line is that our 2 year trial of sending e-mail versions of the general newsletter to those who requested it was a difficult and dangerous experiment. We saw a significant drop in monthly donations and heard complaints from our donor base that they were not "hearing" about what we were doing. **As a result, even though we saved on postage and paper products, we ended up with less funds to work with.** That was a big surprise for us. In consultation with others ministries who have tried the same thing, they had similar problems. The reason seems to be that, if you get a letter and set it aside to read it later, the reading will probably happen. If you decide to read an e-mail or electronic letter later, it will probably get lost in the electronic wasteland of "somewhere out there." So, we went back to paper.

As for frequency of mailing - it goes like this. We send out our general newsletter 6 times per year beginning in January, every other month. This newsletter tries to cover the broad picture of our ministry. On the off months, people who are known to be supporters of a particular area of ministry may get a letter, no more than 6 times per year, from a particular missionary or project. In general, most people get 6 to 10 "news - type" letters from Northumberland YFC. In addition to that, each year our board chair sends out one (always at Christmas) and sometimes two (one in the spring) updates and appeals. These letters from the chair are usually paid for by a separate donation, and rarely come entirely out of our general fund.

In short - this seems to be the best stewardship, balancing our resources in terms of how much we spend to communicate our ministry and raise the finances to run it. One thing that you can be sure of is this: our expenses for fundraising and public relations are some of the lowest in the charitable sector (**please see the pie chart on page 4**). We value your partnership, we respect your wishes to be good stewards of the resources you share, and if we can find ways to save money and maintain or increase the levels of support we need, we will try it.

God Bless you for what you do - and for asking questions - it shows you care.

Daryl Stogryn,
Executive Director.

PS - thanks to Michael Calderwood for the "I'm glad you asked..." format, which I am not ashamed to confess that I stole!

In the news.... a recent CBC report stated that a study on the roots of youth violence found a common theme while interviewing youth. **They want the adult world to "care about them"**.

What a blast! Loosely based on the Survivor Television Series, the idea was to come up with a team champion and an individual champion at the end of the six weeks. No one was voted off the island (a reference to the original tv series) instead we really tried to reward good work and effort by encouraging words. It was very "neat" to see the teens pick up on that as the weeks went by and at the end of the six weeks we had a team winner: "The B.B.'s" and an individual winner: Dylan.

During the talk times we focused on Survivor Stories such as: Bethany Hamilton, the young female surfer who lost her arm when it was bitten off by a Tiger Shark. Just 3 weeks later she was back on a surf board and now competes internationally. Her story is intertwined with her faith story and the teens noted that very quickly. As well, we watched a portion of Joni's story, another survivor who speaks very clearly about her faith and how it has helped her survive. She became a paraplegic when she dove into a lake and broke her neck. She is now an internationally known speaker and singer. The teens learned these things about survival: 1. Perseverance is important. 2. Believing in yourself is important. 3. Having people who support and encourage you is important. And finally 4. Having a faith in God is important.



Thanks for praying for these teens and their ability to listen during talk times....we discovered that if the individual challenge was based on Talk Time then they listened more closely. Please keep praying, as it is always an ongoing battle to keep their attention.

Thank you to MJ, Denis and Dave for their faithfulness over this past year. Thanks to John who has come out to help in this time of needing volunteers. And thanks to Mary and Pat who helped with baking for our Christmas party! It was yummy!

God Bless each of you for your interest, prayers and support. Happy New Year!

the
SILVERWORKS
YOUTH CENTRE

Urgent Prayer Request for the Silverworks Ministry....

Dear Friends,

I have asked for prayer for volunteers before but the need is very **urgent!!** My regular crew of three volunteers has been decimated.

Maryjane and Denis are taking a leave of absence because of health reasons and Dave just informed me this morning that because of work commitments he will not be available for the next few weeks.

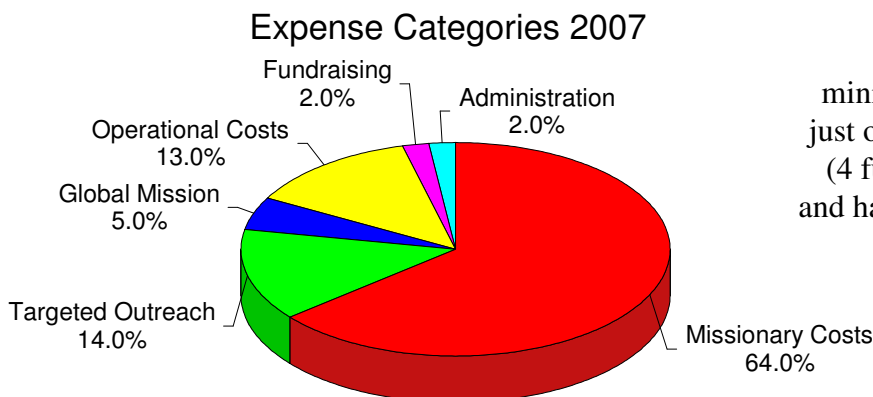
This means it is down to John (a "new/old" volunteer) and I, but if one of us is sick or can't make it, then we will have to shut down for the night. I don't want to do this....the relationships are too fragile and we have come such a long way this past year! So please pray and perhaps even consider volunteering your time as well?

Thank you!

I know that God is at work in the lives of the teens we see come out each week. I trust that He is working out our latest challenge.

Christine

How the funds were spent in 2007



This chart represents the different categories of spending required to run a ministry such as this. We received and spent just over \$300,000, employed 6 missionaries (4 full time, 2 part time) over 80 volunteers and had more than 6,000 contacts with youth, which includes seeing about 230 on an ongoing basis.

We have seen significant change in many youth, in terms of behaviour, openly seeking spiritual direction, and a renewed sense of purpose.
Thank you for your part.

Bits and Pieces

24 hour prayer update.

In December we invited you to join us for a 24hour time of prayer. Over 40 people (that we know of) participated in a variety of ways, including other chapters from Youth For Christ across the country. It was very cool to know that people had set aside specific time to pray for youth and families around the world. We will do this twice per year. The next time we invite you to join us for 24 hours of prayer will be April 23/24, 2008

Rev Canon Mark Tiller from the Niagara region presented a dramatic presentation of Paul's First Letter to the Christians in Corinth, on Dec 7th. It was very well received, and even saw youth from The Beacon attend! We raised a bit of money and heard from God in a new way.

 In our last newsletter we informed you of the possibility of donating shares to YFC. A couple of our supporters did so, taking advantage of an incredible tax break and supplying us with much needed funds to close out 2007. For those of you who used this method to support our ministry we thank you. We encourage others who may be considering this to contact us for more information. It is a great way to make a big difference in the lives of youth!



"Adopt Me, Andrew!"

"Tyler" is in grade 8 and has been coming out for only a few months. He gets along well with mostly everyone and is generally well-behaved, if rambunctious. We connected from the beginning, and he began asking which nights I would be there,

saying that he would be looking for me. We've played road hockey a couple of Tuesday nights with a couple of the other guys and Dave Smith, one of our volunteers. One of those nights Tyler hung around after we closed with two of the girls, and we all talked about Jesus for just a few minutes. This past Tuesday he wanted to stay afterwards too, and suggested that we "talk about God again". When I challenged him about it, he admitted that he just wanted an excuse to stay later, since his Mom would probably be asleep when he came home anyway. (His Dad is often away because of work). He just happened to run into me a few minutes later when I was getting gas across the street, and since he had never done it before, I showed him how to use the gas pump. We talked again for a while. Earlier that evening he had mentioned that I should check the "suggestion box" we have in the centre, and when I checked it later, I found a note which read simply: "Adopt me, Andrew" – and signed his name. I have that note in my wallet right now, and I'm still not sure how to feel about it.

We've been here for nearly two years now, and another volunteer, Glenn, mentioned how he had noticed that the behaviour of the kids had improved and how we were having fewer problems lately. Some of our difficult kids are not showing up, and since one youth with a bad attitude sets the atmosphere for the crowd, when they're gone, everyone relaxes and can have fun. It's a difficult trade-off, but we give the rougher kids the benefit of the doubt as much as possible, while still enforcing the rules. It needs to be a safe place here for all of them. And besides, we pray for protection, and I think God is answering those prayers.

We're finally about to start a real Bible study; time and place not certain yet, but likely at the youth centre, and possibly on the weekends. Keep praying for us; there's likely a few youth who will come (especially if there's food!)

WHO'S WHO.....

Daryl Stogryn,
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Jeff Snow, Port Hope Area
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Andrew Fortier, East
 Northumberland Area Ministries
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Andrew Fortier, for The Beacon

Over the past months, a few of the youth who come to our drop-in nights have been asking about ways they can serve the poor, particularly the homeless in Toronto. I reconnected recently with a Toronto pastor whose church serves dinner and distributes clothing to the poor every Saturday, and as a result, we are going to join their outreach on January 19th.



Five teens expressed an interest in going. To gauge their commitment, we required two things of them. First, that they attend a special meeting where I could share with them what to expect on the trip, and share some biblical teaching on serving the poor. Second, we joined a local church outreach that serves dinner to residents of a local motel that is home to many low-income families. Our five youth did an excellent job of helping, and in particular of befriending other young people who came to the dinner. Our goal was to begin to stretch those youth not used to this kind of ministry, as well as to show them

that, while it is exciting and important to go to Toronto, charity does begin at home! (Since that first visit, one of the youth has returned to this dinner on her own to help out!)

Three local churches have supported this effort by collecting bags full of winter clothes to be distributed. Two of our drop-in centre adult volunteers will be joining me and the teens for the outreach.

These five youth are all at various places in their faith journey. Some are Christians. Some are very interested but haven't placed their full trust in Christ. As well as sharing the love of Jesus to dozens of needy people in Toronto, my hope is that by giving of themselves, these five students will see how God is pleased to work through them to touch other lives, and that they will understand even more how much God wants to touch their own lives as well.

Jeff - Port Hope

The Last Few Lines:

Well, a new year is here. Lot's of people have phoned or shaken hands and wished us a happy new year. That's nice, and we are blessed by these expressions of good will.

Our prayer this year is simple. "Help us O God, to understand the mission you have called us to. Grant us the courage to carry it out, without losing heart. Help us to carry it out with wisdom, discernment and energy driven by Your Spirit. Grant us the resources we need to do this well; resources of time, talent and treasure. May we be good stewards of the gifts you grant us, and never take for granted the cost, borne by many, of taking hope to the youth and families we serve in your name."

Our hope for you, is that you will continue to partner with us in the many ways you do, and that new partners will join us.

Please pray for us this new year, that God would touch the hearts of people to provide what they can in terms of time, talent and treasure, that we may reach more youth and more families with less stress and more effectiveness than ever before.

God Bless you all for reading. Please share the good news with others and "pray without ceasing," for in praying you team up with God and become agents of grace in a world, that for many, is very dark.

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 BN13217 7296 RR0001)

My Name and Address are:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

Praise God With Us:

- For a new year, with new opportunities for ministry!
- For the opportunity to assist a local church in an international mission project - to take place in February.
- For the funds which came in over Christmas to relieve some of our financial strain. We ended the year only \$10,000 short of our goal, which is way better than anticipated.
- For the gifts of food and supplies given by many to our staff, to assist us during the financial strain.
- For the more than 15 new financial partners we saw join us in 2007.
- For the people who joined us in a time of prayer over 24 hours during Advent.
- For a local church which assisted us in a temporary repair of our roof. It will make it through the winter!

Pray with us for:

- Safety while traveling to Africa in February.
- Eastern Region YFC Conference Jan 28 - 30, 2008.
- Students who have exams coming up.
- A less stressful financial 2008.
- Our on-going roof issues at the head office in Cobourg. We will need it replaced this year!
- Youth Centre Volunteers needed across the county, especially in Cobourg.
- Board members. We are trying to fill at least three spots to fill out our board.