

GRANT'S PORTION:

March Madness? While I would usually use this term to be referring to the great college basketball tournament that takes place in the US, unfortunately today I'm using it to refer to these crazy times that we find ourselves in. Between the Covid-19 outbreak, strike days, and the rest of the things going on in our world, there certainly is a lot on the go right now. If one spends any amount of time paying attention to the news or media, it probably won't take long to start feeling overwhelmed with feelings of fear, anxiety, and panic. Similarly, many of the youth that we have the honor of working with, look at the world around them, their circumstances, and what's going on in their lives, and also struggle with these very same feelings and emotions.

Joshua 1:9 - *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*

While I most certainly don't know what the future holds, and I too certainly wrestle with fear and worry, I also know, in my heart of hearts, that the same God who created the heavens and earth, and knit each of us together in our mother's womb, is still in control, and is with us wherever we go (even if it doesn't always feel like it). May God's supernatural peace be with you and your family today, and always.

KATE'S PORTION:

It has been quite the whirlwind since our last group newsletter! God blessed me with **full support** at the end of December, and I have been doing **full-time ministry** ever since (YAY!). January was full of surprises (or mini-crises, depending on how you see things), but God carried us through and provided



for us each step of the way. **1 Peter 4:12-13** served as a great reminder that these trials serve to strengthen our faith in and relationship with Christ, and fortunately, February went more smoothly!

I've started running our **social media** accounts, and what I thought was a simple administrative task has turned out to be a cool way to reach youth and minister to them! **Working in the school** has been a joy, and it is absolutely incredible to see how much the girls I mentor have grown and opened up in the short time that I have been meeting with them! Our weekly **lunchtime drop-in programs** at the school are a blessing for building relationships and a strong community within the new "blended" high school. Please be praying for God to reach these kids through our relationships with them as we continue to work in the school, and that he will build a student-led faith family within the school!

SUZI'S PORTION:

2 Corinthians 5:17

I am excited to tell you about my friend! She is an old friend and by that I mean I was introduced to her 4 years ago through the school. I began mentoring her and would say she was a typical grade eight student. Over the years our mentoring relationship has changed and grown as she began to mature. She decided to engage with me outside of our mentoring times at the school. I began seeing her at our lunch clubs at school, she began showing up to the youth group I volunteer at and began asking some very deep questions as it pertains to faith.

Through our time together I have truly seen what Paul was talking about in 2 Corinthians chapter 5 when he talked about the old becoming new. I have seen Godly transformation right before my eyes!

My young friend loves Jesus and grows every day in her relationship! She is making amends with those who have wronged her in the past and reconciling broken relationships in her life. She is inviting friends to lunch group and youth group

and has agreed to come on our Florida and has invited several friends along as well! She is a new creation!

Please join me in celebrating my friend and be praying that God continues to transform this young lady who is slowly becoming a leader among her peers. I am truly blessed to know this young lady.

SHANE'S PORTION:

What a gift it is to work in Stratford schools; apart from running lunch groups, I also have the privilege of personally mentoring a dozen students. I meet weekly with each student for about 25 minutes, and it's one of the best parts of my "job". Mindful of the thirty year relationship YFC has with Stratford schools, I'm intentional in how I share with these students. I continually pray that God will stir up in them a deep spiritual hunger, driving them toward deeper questions. If a student initiates conversation about Faith, I am then empowered to speak of my own experiences. Sometimes students' questions are ambiguous, and I am cautious not to run ahead. Other times, like yesterday, there is no ambiguity whatsoever. A grade seven student, we'll call him Jeff, initiated our cafeteria Uno game with: "I've been wondering about the meaning of life – what do you think it's all for?". Knowing better than to jump right in, I ask, "What do you think?". He's not really sure and begins speaking of his belief that "there must be some kind of God out there". After roaming around the conversation for a bit, he paused and then unabashedly inquired, "Can you teach me everything you know about Jesus?". Stunned, I replied, "Funny you should ask, that's my favorite thing to talk about". And so, the spiritual journey of Shane and Jeff collided right in the middle of Matthew 7:7. Celebrate with me as I thank God for answered prayers!



MINISTRY CELEBRATION BANQUET

Mark your calendars for our annual fundraising banquet, happening Saturday April 25th, at 6:00 PM at the Arden Park Hotel. This year, in addition to exciting ministry updates, a silent auction, and delicious food, we're pleased to have live jazz music of the Sean Habermehl Trio throughout the evening!

For tickets, call our office at 519-272-1614, or email us at info@yfcstratford.com.



THE TOUR FOR TEENS!

Want to spend some time cycling through the countryside or Perth County, while also raising funds for valuable programs for teens? Mark your calendar for the annual Youth Unlimited/YFC Tour For Teens, happening Saturday June 13th. Riders can choose from either a 25 KM, 50 KM, or 100 KM route, and are asked to raise a minimum of \$250 to participate. To register or for more information, call 519-272-1614, or email us, at info@yfcstratford.com



TEE OFF FOR TEENS!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
YFC/Youth Unlimited Stratford Fundraising Golf Tournament
Thursday September 10th, 9:00 AM
To register or for more info, call 519-272-1614.



EMAIL NEWSLETTER OPPORTUNITY:

Do you prefer to receive email over paper mail? If so, please consider signing up to receive our updates via email. Not only will this get delivered to you quickly and easily, they will also save the organization valuable funds, which can then be used for direct ministry with teens! To sign up, email info@yfcstratford.com.



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