



Seeing the **hope and potential** in every young person

SUZI'S UPDATE:

I had the privilege of meeting with a couple of my senior students recently and was struck (and saddened) by the thought that I had missed an entire year really journeying with them.

I met these 2 beautiful teens when they were in grade 8. Now, sitting in front of me were two 18 year old young ladies; one had graduated high school but was doing a 5th year and the other still trying to graduate. One was driving with a G2 license, both had jobs and were working. They had hit so many milestones and I felt such a sense of loss because I had missed it all!

We caught up with all that fun stuff, then came the hard stuff. Amidst everything else going on in our world these two young ladies have faced many big hurdles and difficult family situations over the past 6 months. (I knew something was up when they went 'radio silent' and had not been returning any of my messages I was sending to check in with them)

Despite not having spent any amount of time with me in over a year both felt safe and freely shared their struggles and difficult situations they were currently experiencing. Ah, the gift of authentic relationships.

I gently pointed them to Jesus and encouraged them to lean into Him and others because they never have to walk alone in this life. Joshua 1:9

Would you please continue to pray for all our precious teens during these trying and difficult days.

KATE'S UPDATE:

Well, here we are: another fall. I suspect you may feel like me... Instead of being excited for a return to routine, I feel overwhelmed by the brokenness of this world: the lack of compassion demonstrated by many, the division and animosity running rampant, and the suffering I see everywhere. When will people's eyes be opened? When will they see the hope of Jesus in spite of the hopelessness of humanity?

"For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly..."
Romans 8: 22-23

"For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling... For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened...so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life."
2 Corinthians 5:3-4

I can't help but feel that this is a time when we should be crying out to God constantly. We long for the completion of his work, and we feel the brokenness around us acutely because the agony of this world is so intense. Isn't this what calls us into ministry? The lostness of people should compel us to share Jesus and the Gospel more. Pray with me, not only for the youth we serve, but for the world: that eyes will be opened to truth, that the message of salvation will spread freely, that God will give us boldness to proclaim his glory, and that those around us will experience the peace and healing that only Jesus can bring.

Under Christ's grace and love, Kate



SHANE'S UPDATE:

STOP! Don't do anything until you *read Isaiah 40:25-31* (you can just type it into Google). Okay, welcome back. I don't know about you, but I've sure appreciated those special times this summer when I've felt the power of God RENEW my strength. Whether it was digging up radishes in the garden, making cheese, hiking on the Sunshine Coast in BC, zipping down waterslides, freefalling on coasters at Wonderland, walking through Birds Hill Park in Winnipeg, jumping in the waves at Pinery Provincial Park, turning a school bus into an RV, fishing in Lake Erie, or stargazing in Muskoka, my heart has been continually encouraged by God's grace for me. ***"Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the Earth"***. Many times during the past two years I have felt weary, exhausted, and frustrated. But God - in His infinite grace - has renewed my strength today, and He'll do it again tomorrow (and the day after that) as we remember that it's only when we put our hope in HIM that our strength is renewed. And from this refreshed place, I'm privileged to continue telling young people how they, too, can put their hope in the Lord. It's been a wonderful summer of ministry, and it turns out we really can take God at His word - ***so let's soar on the wings of eagles. Who's with me?***

GRANT'S UPDATE:

We are blessed. Over the last number of months, and even years, God has really been reminding and teaching me about the need and importance of not taking things for granted. Far too often I have been guilty of not fully appreciating the things, people, and blessings that I have in my life. For me, I am convinced that some of the greatest gifts I have been given, other than the grace and forgiveness of God, are the people in my life. My family, my friends (who I consider family), my colleagues, the youth I work with, etc. Over the last number of months I have had some really incredible times with these people - these gifts from God, and it has been SO life giving for me. There have been countless times throughout this season we are navigating, where God has used the people in my life to support, encourage, and equip me. This reminds me of a familiar passage from the book of Ecclesiastes.

Ecclesiastes 4:12

12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Community is a beautiful and wonderful thing, and I am so thankful for people like you, who are a part of my life and this awesome ministry of Youth Unlimited YFC Stratford! If you'd like to connect, please reach out to me, I would love to hear from you!



Buy a Christmas turkey, and support us at the same time!

Christmas will be here before we know it! Plan ahead and order a Christmas turkey from Youth Unlimited YFC Stratford. Not only will you get a delicious turkey for you and your family, but you'll also get a tax receipt for \$75, and will be supporting a great local organization at the same time. Or, you can donate your turkey to a local family in need, and you would receive a tax receipt for the full \$100. To order yours, fill out and mail in the enclosed turkey order form/donation slip.



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