

Dear Friends,

I write you this letter on Tuesday September 6th – the day after Labor Day, and the unofficial first day of fall, when summer vacations are officially over, students return back to classes, and many students, families, schools, and churches get back into a new routine for this next season.

I am a big fan of this time of year! As a youth worker, I very much operate on the school year calendar, so the start of September for me, is very much like January 1st for many people – a new year, new opportunities, new goals, and so on. And yet, in the midst of these exciting possibilities for this next year, I also recognize that there will also be challenges and things that will really stretch me over this next year. As a planner, I love to look ahead at this 2022/2023 school year, with ideas, dreams, and goals for myself, my family, and this ministry of Youth Unlimited YFC! But, that being said, I also recognize that as much as I might try to plan, and have my own ideas on how things might go, ultimately, it's God that deserves my hope and trust, not my best laid plans, as it's He alone that knows what's in store for us.

Over the last couple of years, there have been some highlights and things we really enjoyed, but there's also been quite a few things that might feel like they have been pulled out from underneath us, so it's no wonder that when people are looking to this year and what might be in store, there might be some worry, fear, or concern. However, I'm so thankful to God that we can know and trust that He really does have a plan in store for us, and it's a good one!

***For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. Jeremiah 29:11-12***

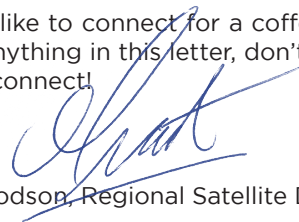
I'm so thankful for these words of promise from God, that can be such a reassurance for us as we journey through this coming year. We don't know what's in store, but God does, and He loves us more than anything, and is worthy to be trusted!

As we embark on this new school year, there are a few areas I would ask for prayer for:

- **Suzi Higgins** – Many of you know and love Suzi, as she is one of our staff who has been a huge part of Youth Unlimited YFC over the years. Suzi is currently on a **Compassionate Caregiver** leave, as she cares for her mom who is battling cancer. Please be praying for Suzi and her family.
- **Shane Wiebe** – After almost 5 awesome years of full time ministry with Youth Unlimited YFC, Shane has moved on to another great entrepreneurial opportunity for his full time employment. We are so thankful for Shane, and are thankful that he'll still be local and involved in Youth Unlimited YFC Stratford. Please be praying for Shane and his family as they navigate this change.
- **Family Move** – My family has sold our home, and are currently waiting for God's direction on where we should move to next. We are planning and hoping to find a place in the country, but close to Stratford. Please pray for us as we are in this transition, and as our kids start off their school year (Sage – grade 9, Noah – grade 12).
- **New Year of Ministry** – Please be praying for our organization as we plan for this next school year of ministry! We don't know exactly what it will look like, but we know that God is going to do some great things as we love and serve the youth, families, churches, and schools of Stratford.

If you'd like to connect for a coffee or to chat more about life or anything in this letter, don't hesitate to reach out, I'd love to connect!

Peace.



Grant Dodson, Regional Satellite Director



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

September 2022

Dear family and friends,

I hope that you have all had an amazing summer! While the season has been a bit of a whirlwind, we're excitedly looking forward to the fall, and next steps in our ministry programs.



I think this summer will go down in my books as **"the summer of fun"** - we took a group of students to Canada's Wonderland in June (it was a blast!), hosted a campfire night in August, and wrapped up the summer with a trip to a waterpark (the race slide was a hit, as you can see in the picture!). I'm so grateful for these **opportunities to connect with students** when our regular programming is on hold over the summer - this means we can continue building relationships throughout the year!

The next few months are going to be busy in the most wonderful way: I'll be returning to part-time classes at Emmanuel Bible College, and I've been taking on a bigger role in planning our **annual Golf Tournament**, happening in September. I'm also laying the groundwork to kick-start a **new after-school drop-in program a couple nights a week** this fall, and we are one again co-hosting a **ONE Night Stratford Youth Rally on October 26th**. I have the privilege of speaking that night, so please **pray for hearts to be open** to the message that night, and in the following days!

*"I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me."*  
- Isaiah 65:1 NRSV

Isaiah 65 recently came up in a daily devotional podcast that I listen to, and this verse really jumped out at me. **Jesus is ready and waiting** for our students who don't yet know that he is what they are seeking, and I love to see how he reveals himself to them. Although our ministry continues to go through some changes, **we are encouraged** to know that God is the ultimate author and director of how we serve in this community. I can't wait to see how he uses us in this next season!

**Thank you so much to all of you**, who lift our team up in prayer and financially support my ministry - I would not be able to serve our local youth without you as my co-workers! If you want to become a financial partner or increase your monthly support, **would you fill out the enclosed form?** Your involvement grants us greater security and the confidence as we plan the future of this ministry.

**To donate online**, please go to: [www.yfcstratford.com/donate](http://www.yfcstratford.com/donate) or scan the QR code below.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch using my contact info below if you would like to get together - I love catching up with you, and I hope that you have a joy-filled fall!

With much love,

Kate Heyen  
Campus Ministry Staff & SWO Social Media Manager  
226.820.3932 kate.h@yfcstratford.com

