



Youth Unlimited™
YFC QUINTE



UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

**FALL
2021**

Inside this issue:

EXECUTIVE NOTES

Unusual Suspects by Colin
Blast from the Past by Andrew

YOUTH CENTRES

Park Outreach by Mike Fuller

PERFORMING ARTS

Spirituality by Rikki-Anne

GRAPHIC WORD

Unusual Partners by Mike Wilson

STUDENT OUTREACH

Be the Moon by Eli
Thinking Deep by Ben

INTERNATIONAL

Bolivia Update by Don & Tania

★ **BONUS!** Click the star next to staff photo to see their family pic, prayer list, finances & more!



Can you "Find Dawn" hidden in this newsletter? Tell us when you find her and we'll buy you a treat in a socially distant kind of way.

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UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

by Colin Leaver
Executive Director

We all have our quirks, flaws and distinct features. Our mothers called us unique. Others call us weirdos. The Bible uses the word "unusual".

Recently our YFC team read Hebrews 11 together. With our focus on fall ministry it was an encouraging for us to read this "Faith Hall of Fame". We summed up the passage with one word: "unusual". Here's why:

First, the events listed in Hebrews 11 are unusual. The creation story, the flood, Sarah giving birth at 100.

I remember very clearly receiving my first pair of Nike shoes for Christmas in 1989. It was unusual because they cost alot and were hard to get where we lived. If it was common to receive gifts like that, it would not be special and I would not remember it.

God is doing something special and He invites us to "watch and be utterly amazed" (Hab1:5). We have a front row seat for the redemption of humanity in a "choose your own adventure" story!

Second, you could say lots of people have faith, but Hebrews 11 tells about an unusual kind of faith. A faith that is willing to be put to death, a faith that fears God not man, a faith that even amazed Jesus (Matt.8:10). This is the kind of faith that pleases God (Heb.11:6).

At a school lunch program I once asked some new teens "What does Christmas mean to you"? One said presents, another said family. Then a 16 year old named

Shayne replied "It's the birth of my saviour Jesus Christ". One year later Shayne died. At his funeral I shared Shayne story – the faith story – because he didn't follow the crowd.

3. Take a look at unusual suspects in Hebrews 11. These people are as unique as their circumstances. We can learn from them but we can't pretend that we are them. God has an unusual call for each of us.

Like the unusual people who work for YFC – and those who support them. Together we believe and work to seek and save lost teens. What else is unusual: did you know that YFC staff have to fundraise just to do this ministry! Is that normal?

Finally, teens are unusual (do I really need to elaborate?) and they are in their own unusual event: the practice run for the rest of their lives. Youth for Christ is here to make sure they move forward with faith.

This newsletter has stories about the unusual suspects in our lives and ministries. Please take a moment to read it and respond. 📧



**SUMMER
MUSCLE
GROWTH**



Youth Unlimited depends on PARTNERSHIPS
Everyone has something to give.
Connect with us to see how you can make a difference for local youth!

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

QYU TEAM RETREAT



BLAST FROM THE PAST

by [Andrew MacKay](#)
Associate director

20 years ago when I was heavily involved in skateboard ministry, I volunteered many hours maintaining and improving the ramps at the skatepark in Picton. One day when I arrived at the park, it was unusually quiet. There wasn't a skater to be seen, but as I got closer I could hear voices coming from under one of the ramps. Three young skaters had found a sheltered area that was perfect for smoking weed.

Upon seeing me, they tried to hide what they were doing. All I could think to say at the time was "You probably shouldn't be doing that." I wanted to correct them, but I didn't want to come on too strong, as my desire was to befriend them and hopefully become a Christ-like role model for them.

God is good! Despite our awkward introduction I became a trusted adult for those guys. Over the years we had a lot of fun together, and they got to hear the message of the Gospel. But as teenagers do, they graduated from High School, and I didn't see them as much anymore.

Then, last week, to my surprise, I got a Facebook message from one of those old skater buddies. It read, "It turns out that we have a mutual friend in Mike Fuller". He and Mike had connected through a mutual interest in video games, and when he learned that Mike did Youth Ministry, he shared about the positive impact that a Youth Pastor had on his life as a teen. It didn't take long for Mike to realize that he was talking about me.

We never know what God will do with the seeds we plant, but when we faithfully honour God with our lives, we can trust that God will do good things.



PARK OUTREACH

by [Mike Fuller](#)
Brighton Beacon director

"God can do whatever he wants to do, however he wants to do it. He chooses to work in our lives because he loves us, because he is good." This is a quote from the movie "Facing the Giants". God used this film and particularly this quote to remind and encourage me in a particularly difficult season of ministry.

This fall we have the opportunity to again engage in ministry at Rotary Park across from the schools. Many students come over during their lunch hour. **It is a humbling experience as I go to them on their "turf", so to speak, without the rules or structure that the Beacon offers.** My only agenda is just to speak with them, encourage them and plant seeds of hope and truth of God's purpose and love for them. I've struggled at times when standing out there doubting - "Am I truly making a difference in these kid's lives?" But I see God at work time and time again and some of the kids who I have met at the park have started coming out to the evening Beacon hours. These youth are struggling; many are coping through less than healthy means and I see that God is using the connections made at the park to draw them to the Beacon ministry and I see God at work to show them there is hope; we care and Jesus cares.

The Beacon is now open again a few evenings a week! Although the day-to-day format of how the Beacon runs has changed because of Covid restrictions, we are so thankful to (still) be up and operating!

Several of the local youth have started coming back and are so excited to have a place to go again. It is such a blessing and I am so thankful to have the Beacon open again. I have seen God's faithfulness through dedicated volunteers, prayer partners and financial supporters who have been so faithful in giving so that the Beacon can continue to operate! Thank you to all!



OCTOBER GOLF MARATHON

YOUTH CENTRES





★ SPIRITUALITY IN UNUSUAL PLACES

by [Rikki-Anne McNaught](#)
Performing Arts director



PREPARING FOR ANNIE JR.

"I am a spiritual person. I pray to the spirit of the trees."

These were Frank's [*name changed] words to us when we told him that we were meeting in the restaurant parking lot to pray for the kids in our summer camp program. Frank was staying in the motel across from where we prayed on Friday mornings. We met Frank because his dog was friendly. While we were giving his pet attention,

Frank wandered over to us and asked what we were doing. We told him that we were running camps for kids, and we were meeting to pray for them.

Frank lit up when he heard us say we were going to pray. He was excited to share his spirituality and that he often spent time leaning on and praying to the spirit of trees. **We told him that we do not pray to the spirit of trees, but we do**

pray to the spirit who created trees and the spirit who answers our prayers, Creator God. We invited Frank to pray with us and he said, even offering a "Thank You God Prayer" of his own. We never did see Frank again, but I continue to pray for him. I pray that in his pursuit of spirituality that he will find Creator God.

Frank is one of many who are seeking "spirituality" trying to connect with a higher power or being. We believe that Jesus is the way to true spirituality and eternal life. Please pray for us as we lead children and youth to Jesus, who will lead them to Father God, the Creator. 🗨️



★ CREATING A SAFE HAVEN

By [Dawn Bailey-Elbourne](#)

"Start warming up 20 mins before you arrive, stay away from dairy, NO smoking and NO yelling!" Do you know where this teen is going?

Yes! Choir practice/rehearsal at Spirit Borne. From the outside the young team look inconspicuous, not like real gangsters or private school preppies but just themselves - an unusual bunch of suspects yes! But working towards success, as Robert Collier wrote "Success is simply the sum of small efforts, repeated day-in and day-out."

Our teens are learning so much more than music: there's teamwork, confidence building, conflict resolution, musicality and above all we are pointing into them the hope that is Jesus.

These teens carry large burdens and have so much to deal with that a safe, fun, two hours a week can be a haven in a crazy week.

The second ministry I'm involved in is a craft club for our Trenton crew. Many thanks to the Pentecostals of Quinte that allow us to share their beautiful House. These young ladies will be creating and possibly selling their goods. After the first week one young lady came back with her Christmas list to make jewelry for. We are also looking to teach life skills like budgeting, cost of materials, mark ups etc.. All of this with a weekly devotional and again a safe, trusting space to be yourself and ask your questions.

I am looking for a female volunteer for this Thursday evening program, so if you're an artist or just want to be, follow through with a call or email. 🗨️



★ UNUSUAL PARTNERS

by [Mike Wilson](#)
Graphic Word

When I say partners in ministry, you may have an image of a middle-aged couple who are looking to invest in a community cause. You may picture an elderly grandparent who wants to support their grandchild make an impact in ministry. However, I have lately seen a new kind of partner in ministry. Partners who are personally involved in our programs and vision. I am alluding to student partners!

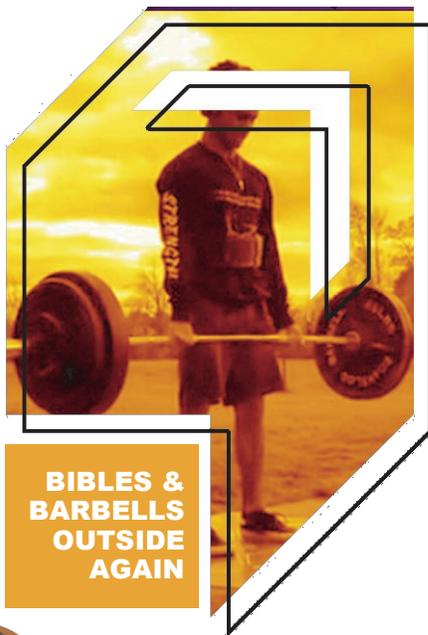
It was a regular night of video gaming with students. Hanging out online, playing a game together, and sharing life. While sharing about our lives, I told them that I had been having appointments with people to share the vision of the ministry and the opportunity to partnership. With perked-up tones of interest, they asked if I could do a demonstration for them. In my most enthusiastic voice (akin to a monster struck rally announcer), I shared with them the opportunity to partner with the ministry. Promptly one student spoke up, "Wow, cool! I would love to partner in the ministry." After hearing the comment, I chuckled at it, thinking it was just an encouragement to the obviously goofy presentation, and thanked him. However, he quickly responded back, "No, I am serious. I'm on your website now, filling out the form." **My jaw hit the floor with such force, I am sure the people online, as well as in my home, would have been able to hear it.**

More recently, this has become a more common thing for us. Seeing students that have been, or currently are, involved in our ministry come alongside and either partner financially, volunteering, or supplying for needs in programs, has blown us away.

Will you follow the lead of these bold students and partner in the ministry? 🗨️



WE SEE THE HOPE & POTENTIAL
IN EVERY YOUNG PERSON



BIBLES &
BARBELLS
OUTSIDE
AGAIN

INTERNATIONAL



BOLIVIA UPDATE by Colin, Don & Tania

On Thanksgiving weekend QYU attended the grand opening of the new youth centre (Centro Juvenil Bernabé) in Bolivia. Since traveling was out of the question, Don, Warren and I watched on Zoom. We were surprised to receive encouragement and insight from them. Here's what happened.

The presentation included videos, stories from youth, description of YFC Bolivia ministry and a walk through their new youth centre. There were about 18 people watching online with a live audience of a few dozen also. They projected the Zoom audience onto a screen so our faces were just as visible as everyone else.

Although this accessible by Zoom it was still hard to fully engage. The digital divide, cultural differences, muffled by masks, background noises, and the language barrier made understanding very difficult.

Is Canada any different? Even in English, youth struggle to understand what the Gospel means. Even without masks, youth filter the Bible. Even face to face, youth are still distracted by the background issues in life. Youth and church culture collide.

Here's some encouragement: *Centro Juvenil Bernabé* is named after Barnabas from the Bible. Known as *Hijo de consolacion*, the son of encouragement, which means he can lift others up. **That's what YFC does! Around the world, we lift up youth who struggle.** We lift their names in prayer, we lift their eyes to the cross, we lift their spirits when they are down. We even lift each other up when needed.

QYU partners with JPC Bolivia with missions teams, moral encouragement and funding. Would you consider getting involved too? 🙌

Curious where donations to Student Outreach Ministry will actually go? Read all about it at www.QYU.ca/SOM

STUDENT MINISTRIES



BE THE MOON

by Eli Verkuy
Student Outreach director

Over the summer I joined millions of people in listening to the popular podcast by Christianity Today entitled "The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill". I had followed Mars Hill for several years from afar, and have since tracked with Mark Driscoll as he's planted the Trinity Church in Scottsdale Arizona. Though, if we're honest, as we survey several key leaders in Christianity over the last 10-15 years, Mars Hill is one of many tales of caution. While their collapse is nuanced and unique in nature, it is one of *many in a larger cultural problem*.

As more and more episodes have been released I find myself soul searching and asking myself the tough questions:

"Are my giftings promoting me faster than my integrity can handle?"

When surveyed with an honest inventory, these are tough concepts to grapple with. I've long been aware of the inherent toxicity of fame, even in small local amounts. **Success is a dangerous breeding ground for pride.** Simultaneously, *I do long for maximum kingdom impact and advancement of the gospel to as many as will listen. I suppose the relief of this tension comes down to motives of the heart, which, when honest, are seldom fully pure. There is always bit of ego tied to success.*

I find it interesting that the Bible always seems to intentionally discredit its human "heroes". In fact the only example of one who *appeared qualified for leadership is Saul, who failed miserably as Israel's first king.*

As a lingering result of these musings, I've concluded that there's space between squandering your talents, and building your own kingdom. I've taught it to the students like this:

You're supposed to be the Moon. Without the sun the moon is just some big dull space rock. There's nothing special about it. BUT when the moon *properly situates itself it can reflect the light of the Sun. This reflection can light up the night sky. The moon is not the source, it is the mirror. The same lies in our giftedness; any athletic prowess, any musical abilities, any magnetic charisma, any well formed bone structure or any eye for detail are all gifts that dont begin with you. Be the moon. Light up as many dark places as you can, but don't think that the light originates in you.* 🙌



THINKING DEEP

by Ben McEwen
Student Outreach director

It is always encouraging to develop hidden skills that as a coach I didn't previously know were there. Volleyball attracts all kinds of teens with various abilities and talents. I always love to be surprised by a student who really has a passion for the game or an extraordinary natural ability. One such student is so excellent at passing the ball that it creates exactly the kind of opportunity a coach is looking for. When a pass is high and straight to the target the next play is that much easier to get just right. Everything seems to go more smoothly from there. From the skills of volleyball we can talk about seeing God in sports. What a great opportunity to introduce young people to the work God has done as shown all around us.

I recently had a discussion with a group of teens. I began sharing how we can see God in our everyday life. We discussed seeing God in creation, God in our five senses, God in how He has ordered the world, and the invisible protections God has placed over the earth. **We found during this discussion that we could see how God's way of doing things can be seen in volleyball, soccer and even oil changes.** It was a great discussion of focusing our thoughts on God for a time and not just ignoring all the things in life that we should be thankful to God for. Sometimes we should gather those around us and just ponder all the things for which we are dependent on God for each day. It may amaze us to see that without God holding all things together our lives would quickly unravel. We don't think about the gift of breathing until it becomes difficult to breathe. In those moments we are not thankful for the 40 years of good breathing previous, we are just desperate to get the blessing of our next breath. 🙌

