



# Youth Farm

# BIBLE CAMP

2016 Annual Report



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*A huge thank-you to all the Youth Farm Bible Camp friends & family - volunteers, staff, cultivators, donors, and corporate sponsors - Thank You!*

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## Youth Farm Bible Camp

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# UnShakable

THE THEME FOR OUR 2016 CAMP SEASON WAS UNSHAKABLE. WE HEARD STORIES EACH FEATURING A STONE, ROCK OR BOULDER THAT ENCOURAGED US TO MAKE CHRIST OUR LIFE FOUNDATION.

Throughout the summer as we gathered as a camp each morning for chapel and each evening for campfire, digging deeper into the promise and building our faith bigger on the One and only foundation sturdy and strong enough to stand **UnShakable**. David wrote in Psalm 62, "My soul finds rest in God alone. My salvation comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation. He is my fortress. I will never be shaken." The second half of this verse was our launching pad into the encouragement that Jesus is the unshakable foundation of our faith.

When King David was still a boy, he spent many long days in the pasture protecting his father's sheep. When a bear or lion would come along, David would bravely defeat them and rescue the sheep. When it came time for someone to stand up against Goliath, David willingly goes to battle with the giant. David knows he's a good shot. He's had practice in that pasture over and over. His confidence is not in his talent with a sling though, but in the Lord who had been his defender in the past and would be in the future - the God of the armies of Israel, whom Goliath and his army had defiled. David knew that the unshakable name of the Lord was far greater than sword, spear, or javelin.

Jesus ended His famous Sermon on the Mount with these words, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." No matter what quality of materials you use, no matter how carefully you join the frame together, no matter how skilled your craftsmanship may be - if your foundation isn't solid on the Rock, your house will lack integrity. Building our lives on the solid rock foundation of Jesus, obeying His teachings, believing His ways are the way to life to the full, is the only way to keep our house standing when the storms come. A house is always being built, storms will always come, the rock we build on is what matters.

Jesus was crucified on the cross because God loved the world, you and me, so much that He would send His One and only Son to die a criminal's death and pay the price for our sins. Three days later the stone was rolled away. The tomb was empty. Jesus was alive - resurrected from the dead! Now nothing, not even death, could separate us from Him! We are invited to have a relationship with Jesus. Nothing stands in the way or separates us from Him.

Believing Jesus is our Rock, our Salvation, our defender lets us boldly echo what David wrote - I will never be shaken!

He alone is my Rock and my Salvation. He is my fortress. I will never be shaken.

**Psalm 62:2**

## Memory Verses

Psalm 62:2 - He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will never be shaken.

Matthew 7:24 - "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

1 Corinthians 3:11 - For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:39 - No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.



# Reflection from a Camp Pastor

**JEFF SIEMENS HAS BEEN A CABIN COUNSELLOR, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, BOARD MEMBER, AND CAMP PASTOR IN HIS PERSONAL YFBC HISTORY .**

One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them. (Mark 10:13-16 NLT)

The theme for summer 2016 at YFBC was **UnShakable**. It came from Psalm 62:2 where it says; He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will never be shaken. God is unshakable, even to the point of the Son of God on the cross. In all humility and sacrifice, Jesus submitted himself to the cross and was unshakable as death could not hold him. It is this Jesus, who has all authority, that has a deep love for children. And it's Jesus who is saying to all of us, "Let the children come to me."

The heart of ministry at YFBC is to introduce children to Jesus and I saw that clearly this past summer. The hope that was being shared with the campers was that, while we are surrounded by a confusing culture full of pressure, we find truth and life in Jesus. We live in a shaky world and we can place our trust in Jesus who is unshakeable.

It was an amazing privilege to be a speaker at one of the children's weeks this past summer. I enjoyed the daily connection with the campers as they shared the memory verses with me. I was blessed to get to know them, speak to them, and pray for them.

It was also a joy to have my family there with me for the week. My children are still young, but the Youth Farm is a place where I want them to be for many reasons. The staff show a great example of living a life after Jesus, the campers are cared for and encouraged, and camp is an experience full of life and fun.

The Youth Farm is a wonderful place. The programming is creative, it's a safe place for children to be children, the campers are cared for and invested in, and the good news of Jesus is shared with invitation and grace.

After being involved as a counsellor, a program director, a board member, and a camp speaker, I continue to see children being brought to Jesus to be truly blessed and loved.

- Jeff Siemens

## *The beginning of* **CHILDREN'S RETREATS**



Staff for the first children's retreat

1947

A strong conviction for child evangelism was the push to add children's retreats to the programs on this yard - believing that children needed to be reached for the Lord, and that they needed to hear the message of the gospel, that God loved them and that Christ had died for the.

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# Adult Special Needs Camp

THE ASN CAMPS ARE ALWAYS A HIGHLIGHT FOR OUR STAFF WITH THURSDAY NIGHT TALENT SHOWS BEING THE BEST OF THE BEST. WE WELCOMED 255 CAMPERS DURING THESE FIVE WEEKS.

This summer was my fourth summer working with adults with special needs (ASN), and I was not disappointed. It was just as fun and blessed as it's ever been! I was a counsellor for the second summer this year, and the ASN camps produced some of my favourite memories.

A few highlights include being called "Bubble Tim" for a week, joking around with the campers, and watching a quiet camper become more vocal! I also had the privilege of making Batman and "Cat-lady" masks (for the third summer in a row), and I look forward to doing it many more times! One of my favourite moments from the ASN camps this summer was watching a camper named Steven let it all loose in chapel, and teaching him actions to songs. He is typically very reserved, but there were times that he would yell almost as loud as he could while we were singing in chapel, and it was so amazing (and entertaining) to see!

This summer did not fail to live up to the past ASN weeks I've worked—and I don't think ASN will ever let me down! This summer was just as hilarious, joke-filled, and fun as it's ever been at camp. But it did not lack seriousness. Each summer, I'm reminded of the real reason I love ASN camp as much as I do: the faith of the ASN campers is often some of the strongest I've seen. A lot of them know that Jesus is the only Way, and they find life in it. When their situation seems to make them "the least of these," they are often the ones with the greatest faith. That is why I love them. They show me what it is to have a child-like faith—to simply believe. I look forward to the weeks I get to work at ASN camps in the future.

- Tim Fehr; Male Counsellor



## *A little about our ASN camp history...*

Camps for adults with intellectual disabilities began in the late 1970's when Henry Friesen had the desire to start a camp for some of the people living and working on the yard. Others heard about this camp and asked if their adult children living in Saskatoon could attend also. One of their sons is still a camper today! Every five to ten years another week of ASN camp was added to the summer schedule, and since 2005 YFBC runs 5 weeks of ASN camp each summer.



### 2017 ASN Camp Dates

- June 25- 30
- July 3-7
- July 17-21
- August 7-11
- August 20-25

# Children & Youth Camps

OVER OUR SIX WEEKS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH CAMPS WE WELCOMED 278 CAMPER THIS YEAR.

Throughout the summer, we, as staff, got to show every camper what it means to live an 'UNshakable' life. I found sharing this in devotional time to be one of the most impactful times for the girls in my cabin by not only sharing my testimony about how God has worked in my life, but also opening it up to the girls. They had the opportunity to ask questions, and I would try my best to answer them. It was very encouraging to see girls ask serious questions about my faith and general questions about God and what life with Him is like. Whether it was chapel times, memory verse, campfire, or devotions everything pointed towards having Christ at the centre.

An unique characteristic of Jesus is that he always accepts people where they are at. Following Jesus' example, an important aspect of camp was being able to meet kids where they were at. Whether that was spiritually, emotionally, mentally, it didn't matter what place they were at in life, I would try to connect with them. I found it to be beneficial to spend one-on-one time with each girl in my cabin. By doing this I was able to really grasp what each girl needed, and minister to their specific needs - getting to know the campers, supporting them, loving them. There were always opportunities to share Jesus and how He can impact their lives. We watched joy spread across the campers' faces as they did the different skills, but one of the best parts was watching the cabin bond together.

Throughout the three children's weeks, I got to see and reconnect with many familiar faces, but I also got to minister to new ones. Although each week is unforgettable, the one week I was put into assistant director position is one that stands out. Not only was I out of cabin, but I had the privilege to plan the worship night. I took this responsibility very seriously since this could be a very impactful time during the week. Having prayed about it, I was so encouraged by the response from the campers. For some, it was the first time that God's love became real to them. Nights like those, where the campers make a connection with God, are incredible to witness.

It is amazing how impactful one summer can be. Watching God move and meet people at camp was powerful. My prayer is for all those who came out to camp is that the verses they memorized and the friendships they created will always be remembered. My prayer is that they always remember that, "He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will never be shaken" Psalm 62:2.

-Latisha Martens, Female Counsellor; Assistant Program Director (Junior Teen Camp)



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## 2017 Camp Dates

Children's 1 - ages 6-9	July 9-14
Children's 2 - ages 9-12	July 23-28
Children's 3 - ages 7-12	August 13-18
Junior Teen - ages 12-15	July 30 - August 4
Teen Trail Ride - ages 13-17	July 16-21
Day Camp - ages 4-8	July 31- August 4 9am-4pm

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# Junior Staff Program

CHEYENNE WIEBE ONCE AGAIN FILLED THE ROLE OF JUNIOR STAFF DIRECTOR THIS SUMMER, DISCIPLING AND ENCOURAGING 38 TEENAGERS AS THEY CAME TO SERVE AT YFBC AS COUNSELLORS IN TRAINING, WRANGLERS IN TRAINING AND KITCHEN HELPERS.



Think about how incredible it would've been to be a disciple of Jesus! To witness His miracles, to sit under His teaching, to be commissioned by Him. After Jesus rose from the dead, He left His final instructions with His disciples: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8) As powerful as it must have been for the disciples to hear these words directly from Jesus' mouth, they are just as powerful for us today. We are Jesus' disciples, He has commissioned us, and we are to go and be witnesses!

Being a witness was the theme for the YFBC Jr. Staff this summer! We followed the disciples and Paul through the book of Acts, watching how they made sharing the Gospel a priority in every situation that they were in. Whether it involved persecution, jail time, or shipwreck, these disciples were faithful to the end, knowing that there is nothing more valuable than the message of the cross.

Each of the 38 teenagers that participated in camp this summer received the opportunity to live out Jesus' commission. They loved the campers in practical ways, did things that may seem ridiculous, let themselves be stretched, challenged and pushed out of their comfort zones. They taught kids how to ride horses in very hot weather, they braved the never-ending stream of dirty dishes and they openly shared what God has done in their lives in cabin devotions. I was so blessed by the love and energy that these young people exuded! This group was a bunch of world changers, and my prayer is that serving in camp ministry will only fuel their desire to love Jesus more and live sold out for Him!

If you have any questions about our Jr. Staff program at YFBC or are interested in joining our program next summer, please email [cit@yfbc.ca](mailto:cit@yfbc.ca) or apply online starting January 2017.



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# Israel Learning Tour

IN JANUARY WE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF TRAVELING TO THE HOLY LAND. OUR SMALL GROUP TRAVELED AROUND ISRAEL FOR EIGHT DAYS TAKING IN THE SIGHTS, HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THIS ANCIENT LAND.



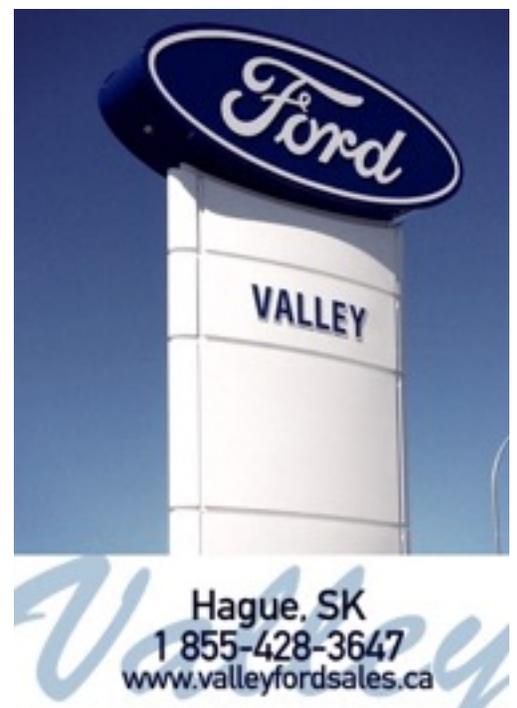
Over our eight day stay, we took in as many sights and experiences as we could. Starting on the west side of the country, we visited Caesarea, the town where Cornelius, the first gentile convert, had lived. We walked through the 2000 year old ruins of the governor's home, a community bath house, and the hippodrome. The view of the Mediterranean Sea was stunningly beautiful from the stone bleachers high above this oval track. It was already amazing to be walking in the land where all the Bible stories are set and we had only just begun.

We traveled next to the area around the Sea of Galilee, starting with a stop at Capernaum, a special and central place of Jesus' ministry. Standing before the synagog threshold, it all of a sudden hits you - this is where Jesus stood, walked, taught! It brings a whole new perspective to being 'star struck'. This is no Hollywood walk of Fame. This is where Jesus, fully God, who did not think of equality with God as something to cling to, gave up His divine privileges and took the humble position as a slave and was born as a human being, had walked! And we get to follow in His footsteps! What an honour and privilege to be in the land He loved so much and called home for His time on earth.

Our journey took us to a few places around, and on!, the Sea of Galilee, getting to visit sights and churches sitting on significant places of Jesus' miracles and teachings. We also found our way to some national parks, often created around ruins from even older days and Old Testament story setting and cities. As we traveled south and away from the central locations of Jesus' life on earth, we came closer to Jerusalem, the location of Jesus' death and resurrection. But before we arrived in Jerusalem, we stopped for a swim in the Dead Sea and, when in Israel, a ride up a mountain on a camel, following a 3000+ year old road!

Our day in Jerusalem started with meeting our guide, Stan Goodenough. He did a tremendous job in recreating the Passion Week and sharing how the land of Israel is in our past, present and future. We overlooked the city at the Mount of Olives, stood by the Garden of Gethsemane, and visited the Garden Tomb, a possible site of the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of our Saviour. It was not easy remembering what Jesus went through, but the experience of walking through this city definitely strengthened our love and relationships with Christ. As our Israel journey came to an end, we had full heads of processing thoughts and full hearts of a deeper understanding of the Bible and our Lord to head home with.

To read more about our time in Israel find our blog at  
[www.yfbc.com/blog](http://www.yfbc.com/blog)



Loving God Loving People Since 1941

# Youth Farm Bible Camp

## 75th Anniversary Celebration



## Celebrating 75 Years

IT WAS 75 YEARS AGO THAT THE MINISTRY WE NOW KNOW AS THE YOUTH FARM BIBLE CAMP STARTED SHARING JESUS AND PROVIDING A PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO SERVE.

It was June 1941 when sixty young people from all over the province of Saskatchewan gathered on this very yard where the Youth Farm Bible Camp sits today. They came for a weekend to focus on the Lord, away from the pressures felt from the secular life pressing in on them day to day. They gathered for praise and worship, evangelism and revival. These young people paid 50¢ each to participate in this first weekend retreat, sleeping in the hay lofts and eating on long planks of wood pushed together as dining tables beneath the trees. Inspirational talks were given, digging into Romans 12:1-8, encouraging these young people to live for Jesus in a life serving Him.

This retreat was the hope and focus of many prayers said by J.C. Schmidt, Henry W. Friesen, and Isaac Epp. Their desire was to purchase this land, still an experimental farm during the first retreat, and have these youth retreats continue annually. The addition of children's retreats followed a few years later.

Although the permanent summer camp program only started in 1965, the focus of sharing Jesus and providing a place to serve had been the central mission of this yard since 1941 and continues to be the reason YFBC exists today.

You can read more about the history of the Youth Farm yard, watch the "God Giveth the Increase" documentary from 1957, and see some great Throwback Thursday photos on our staff blog all on our website at [www.yfbc.com](http://www.yfbc.com).

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On June 4th 100 friends and family of The Youth Farm Bible Camp past and present gathered together to celebrate all that the Lord has done in this place. The day started out at noon with a lunch of the very, very traditional watermelon and rollkuchen! Looking through photos from at least the past 50 years, this meal has been on the camp menu for decades and is still enjoyed each Friday before we say farewell to the campers. The afternoon included camp activities, skills, and visiting followed by a supper of pulled pork, salads and dessert. A new camp menu tradition!

During the evening service we sang familiar camp songs through the decades and heard stories and memories from past retreaters/campers, Truth for Youth attendees, camp staff, and camp staff kids. Willie Friesen joined us from Calgary and shared memories of his father, Henry W. Friesen, who helped start this ministry and worked here faithfully his entire life. Willie shared with us a bit of the heart behind why and how this ministry began and how YFBC loved God and loved people through the years. His stories were a huge testament to the power of prayer and the faithfulness of the Lord.

It is because of the determination and prayers of J.C. Schmidt, Henry W. Friesen, and Isaac Epp and many others that this land was purchased for the purpose of sharing Jesus and providing a place to serve. The prayers of these men, and the prayers of many friends, supporters, and prayer warriors over the past 75 years have been the water under the ship. Without water, the ship stops. For this reason we decided to host a 75 hour prayer room leading up to our June 4th celebration. This was a huge success as we welcomed young and old, couples and individuals, long time friends and new ones to spend an hour of their time thanking the Lord for all He has done in this place and saying, "Your will be done", for the future. The camp was truly blessed by these hours of prayer.



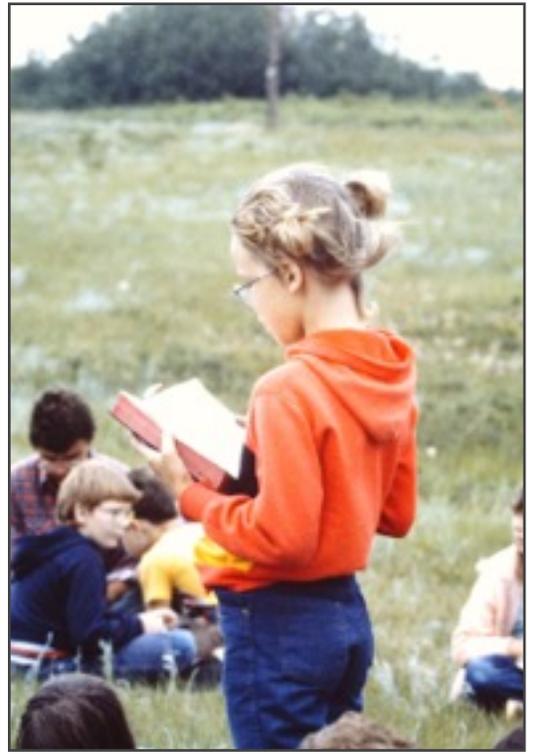
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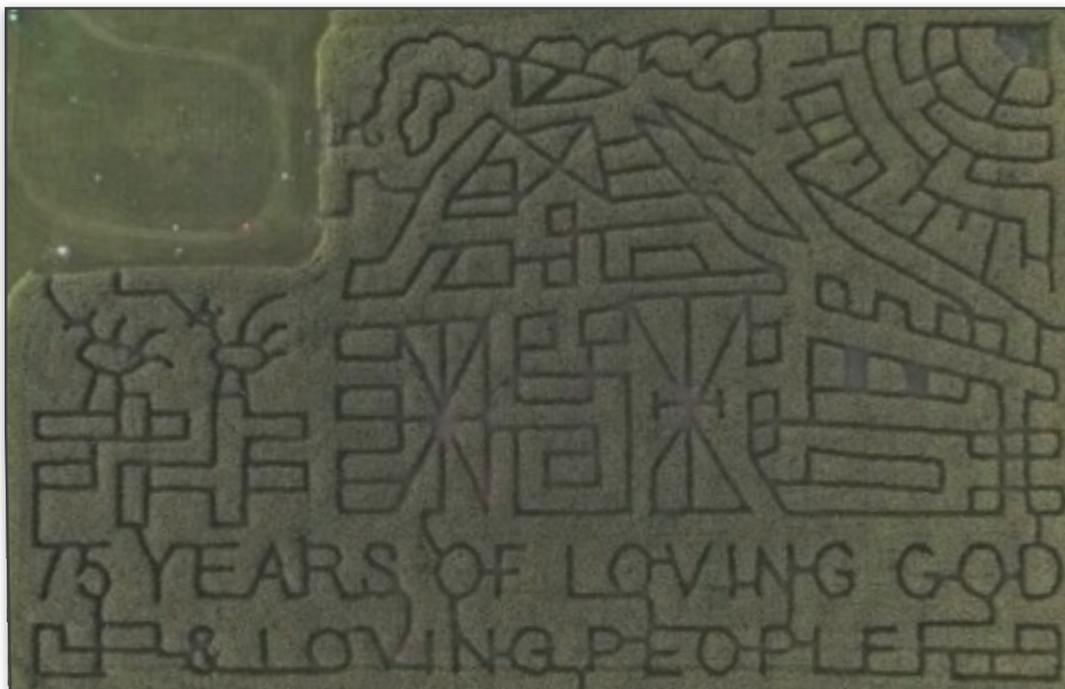
# Celebrating 75 Years in Pictures





Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

**1 Corinthians 3:5-9 (KJV)**



# Mexico Mission Trip

THIS SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP IS BASED ON SERVING THE LOCAL CHURCH IN MEXICO, WHILE CREATING CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING THROUGH DIRECT EXPOSURE TO THE MEXICAN CULTURE.

My 2016 Mexico mission trip has given me many memories, friendships, a view of poverty, and increased faith just to name a few.

I decided to go on this trip for a few reasons. I had heard many times in church when the people from previous trips were saying how everyone should have this experience, and how you come home with a new understanding. I thought maybe someday I would give it a try, but still was a little reluctant on following through. Then when the next opportunity came up, I started seriously thinking about it, and so did my youngest daughter Marley, which gave me even more incentive to go, especially when she said "I will go if you go too." I had decided that I was going, but my daughter was not told of this until she had decided to go as to not influence her decision when in fact it was her wanting to go initially that had influenced me. I could feel the Lord at work, making this a possibility for both of us.

When we arrived at the Amor headquarters and saw that the house we were to build was nothing more than a large garden shed, by our standards, it started to sink in. We were in for a really close look at poverty levels that we only see in the media. It really made me appreciate everything that we have here that we simply take for granted.

The Amor camp is just one huge campground, with everyone there to help other people. This camping is not quite like our camping, it was more like roughing it but this is nothing compared to the conditions the people of Tijuana live in.

When we went to a local church, you could feel the conviction that these people have for Jesus. I believe that for a lot of the people their faith is the only thing that they have.




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2016 Team

As we drove to the site to build the house, I noticed that every turn we made, as we got further off the main roads, the worse the conditions got. It was hard to believe that people lived in these conditions all the time. It seemed very bleak with no hope.

Building the house was difficult due to the fact that the previous foundation needed to be removed and that all the supplies for the house were much lower than the build site. Once we all pitched in and worked together things started to work out.

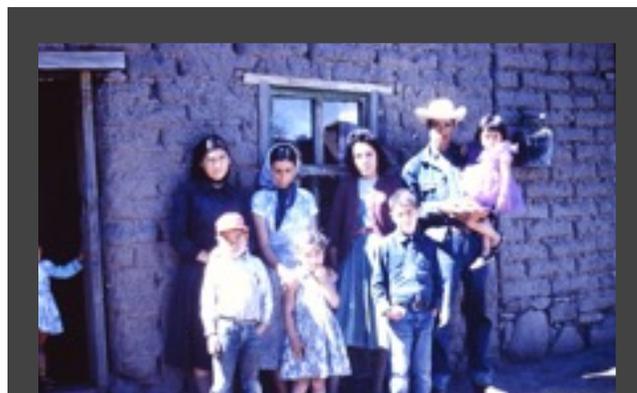
Having all the local children as well as the family wanting to help with the build was great to see. The language barrier didn't seem to matter as we are all there working together.

It is a great feeling to be able to help a family in need. I had a sense of pride in the house that we built together. It may not have had electricity or running water but I felt that it was a " home " not just a house.

There were also friendships formed that I didn't really expect, whether with the Amor staff, the family that we were building the house for, or the other people that we were on the trip with. You bond well with everyone on a trip such as this because you are all working toward the same goal, helping others.

This was a huge blessing for me as I am sure it would be for any one who goes. This trip not only changes the lives of the family you help, but changes your life and your view of poverty.

- Tony Giesbrecht



## *Serving beyond YFBC*

Since the late 1940's there has also been a desire to serve beyond the borders of this yard. The early days saw outreach programs and support of missionaries within Saskatchewan, then further to Montana, and even overseas to Japan and India. There was even a small group who went down to Chihuahua, Mexico in the 1950's to lead DVBS for Mexican Mennonite families. This trip happened more than once and now, 60 years later, we are in the middle of planning for our tenth trip to Tijuana since 2006.



## *Who?*

We partner with Amor Ministries in San Diego, California. They have been building houses for Mexican families in need since 1980! Their mission is responding to poverty in both a physical and spiritual way.

## *What?*

This trip is a short-term mission trip based on serving the local church in Mexico, while creating cross-cultural understanding through direct exposure to the Mexican culture. We are not just building a house along side a family in a developing nation. We also are going to understand the conditions of poverty through immersion.

## *Why?*

Most of the families we build houses for are trying to survive on \$400-600 per month, often with the adults in the family work 6 days a week for 10 hours a day. Their current houses are commonly poorly built shacks with no floor and a leaking roof. But when a home is built, there is hope for the family. Meeting the tangible needs of the poor is a vehicle to sharing the love of Jesus with families and keeping them together. This trip, however, not only changes the lives of a Mexican family but is also life changing for each of us

# Youth Farm Corn Maze

**WE WERE EXCITED TO HAVE A FARM PICTURE DESIGNED INTO THE MAZE THIS YEAR TO HELP CELEBRATE OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY. OUR FIRST PICTURE MAZE EVER!**

This was the ninth year that the camp has operated a corn maze. It is an exciting time of year with some days having well over 1000 people in attendance. We also had many new developments at the corn maze to make it the best ever and a premier event for families from all over Saskatchewan.

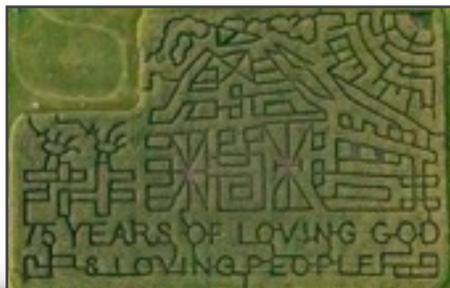
New for 2016 was the Jumbo Pillow, a 35 x 70 foot inflated pad for up to 20 people to jump on at one time. The pillow is a very exciting addition. We decided to dedicate the pillow on September 10 to the memory of a very special lady – Joyce Adrian – you can find out more about the connection at [www.yfbc.com/joyce](http://www.yfbc.com/joyce).

This was also the first year that we had the maze professionally designed. The eight-acre corn field was cut out in the shape of a hip roof barn with a fence, chickens, clouds and the sun. At the bottom of the field was written 75 years of Loving God & Loving People to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that we celebrated this summer.

A few more additions were the 3000 pumpkins that were on display in the Pumpkin Barn, the second climbing wall that we received in a partnership with Tisdale Day Camps, the Pedal Karts and track that was added with the help of Ranger Lake Bible Camp, our own Food Trailer, a larger Corn Pitt, a soccer and football throw and some new animals at the Petting Zoo. All these developments have also had a very positive impact on our Summer Camp program. We are excited about planning what we could add to the Camp and Corn Maze for 2017!

## *Before the* **CORN MAZE...**

**Our farm setting has been the perfect backdrop for bringing young and old out to the corn maze & petting zoo for an afternoon of good ol' fashioned family fun. But long before the corn maze helped generate financial support for the operations at YFBC, this yard also used the farm setting to bring in some income - a full dairy to bring farm fresh milk to the families in Rosthern.**



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# Mark's Report

MARK WURTZ HAS BEEN YFBC'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SINCE 2001 BUT HIS YFBC STAFF HISTORY GOES BACK TO THE EARLY 1990S. MARK HAS WORKED AT 94 ASN CAMPS OVER THOSE YEARS.

What happens when you mix 80 campers, 30 high school aged students, 15 young adults and a handful of 30/40 year olds together and add water? You get our last week of children's camp in 2016. We had a blast, even though it rained every day! Excitement, joy, compassion, love, and friendship that grew out of the five full days of camp that we experienced together. It helps one realize how important this ministry is, on a site that has been having retreats for 75 years!



One thing we do at the Youth Farm Bible Camp is take people aged 15 and up and expect them to grow spiritually, show compassion to campers, and develop into leaders. A summer of camp gives a ton of life experience for the people that come out to serve. They learn what it takes to be a servant of Christ. They realize that they must sacrifice so that God can work through them. They share the gospel message to the campers, through both words and as living examples. They seek to grow closer to our Lord through prayer, scripture reading, worship and fellowship. The journey they take prepares them to be leaders and disciples in our churches. Are we as churches ready to take these summer leaders and give them the 'keys' to the church?



Over the years, I have seen many of our staff impacted by working at our Adult Special Needs (ASN) program. The barrier to authentic living side by side with someone with intellectual disabilities is broken in a few short hours. Sometimes all it takes is a good game of "drop the hankee"! By serving at YFBC people experience a cross cultural experience with the ASN program. We learn so much from people who see the world in a much simpler way. The Kingdom of God is so fresh at our ASN chapels and campfires.



The excitement of camp, the discipling of young leaders and the special needs program is what keeps me engaged as the Director of YFBC. This is a special place with a 75 year history of **Sharing Jesus with People and Providing a Place to Serve**. It was the desire of Henry Friesen and JC Schmidt to live out that mission statement. And it's the desire of our 21<sup>st</sup> Century staff and leadership to do the same. Its an exciting time to lead the Youth Farm Bible Camp.

Do not get tired in doing what is good. Do not get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time. - **Galatians 6:9**



# Holly's Report

HOLLY EPP IS THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AT YFBC AND HAS BEEN PART OF THE YEAR ROUND STAFF SINCE 2014. HER EARLIEST MEMORY OF YFBC WAS AS A DAY CAMPER ENJOYING SNACKS OUT ON THE WATER IN A CANOE.



Looking back on 2016 there are some great highlights. Starting the year with eight days in Israel, another house successfully built in Mexico, celebrating 75 years of ministry on this farm, a jam packed summer of camp, and a truck load of pumpkins to decorate at the corn maze! I have loved this year!

My ultimate highlight came one evening during our first week of children's camp. I was sitting next to the orange flames of the campfire with one of our campers having a conversation about the day and what she was enjoying about camp. I then noticed her bible and told her my sister had one just like it when she was a child. Her response was wide eyed and serious, "You mean the bible is older than you?" Why yes, believe it or not, it is. She asked me if people or the bible came first so we talked about creation and how God used people to write His story down. She asked me, so serious and so concerned, why we can't see God. I

explained about the Garden of Eden and about sin separating us from God so we couldn't be allowed to walk with Him in the same way anymore. The best question came next, "What is He going to do about it?" Her concern continued and her desire to have a solution to the separation was real. Jesus. I had such joy telling her the solution had already come - Jesus! Jesus died to pay for our sins and we can now be friends with God again. And it all made sense to her, before I needed to explain further - "He died for my sins so I don't have to?" Yes, dear camper, He died for your sins so you don't have to. I loved this moment. To me, this moment explains why we do what we do here at YFBC and why this place has existed for the past 75 years.

I loved how this camper hit the nail on the head about grace. She didn't ask what we can do about it, but what will He do about it. As I walked through the streets of Jerusalem in January, travelling the paths of Jesus' last week on earth, I was walking through the locations of what He did, to do, about our separation from Him. I was overwhelmed with gratitude for this grace. It was not an easy journey to take. The thought of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, mocked as he carried the cross through the narrow streets, hanging on a cross like a criminal for all to see - that broke my heart. He did that for me. He did that for you. But oh how amazing is that grace. The tomb was empty! His grace and His victory over death brings hope. Hope that keeps me doing and loving what happens at YFBC.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. **Romans 15:13**



# Jacob's Report

JACOB WIELINGA JOINED THE YEAR ROUND YFBC STAFF THIS PAST JUNE AS OUR SITE MANAGER. HE MOVED FROM ORANGEVILLE, ONTARIO WITH HIS WIFE AND FIVE DAUGHTERS.



Spirit (Jesus) lead me where my trust is without borders // Let me walk upon the waters // Wherever You would call me // Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander // And my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Saviour. - Oceans, Hillsong United

As I reflect over 2016 and the ministry that I have been involved with here at the Youth Farm, I am left on my knees in total humility.

It is easy to trust God when I put myself in a comfortable setting and then build a fence around it and only invite people and activities in that I trust. However, this summer God granted me the opportunity to tear down those fences (borders) and lead me wherever He would call me. That leading led my family and I away from the comfort of our home and work in Ontario and placed us here at the Youth Farm Bible Camp. God took me to more deeper water than I could ever imagine and this has caused me to totally trust in Him.



2016 has stretched my skills in areas I sometimes only dreamed about. My role as site manager was made a lot easier this summer because of the great group of people that surrounded me. The physical and encouraging support I received from staff and volunteers was amazing. I thank God for each person that was there to help me this summer. This made it possible for us to re-shingle the Quonset, expand our animal pastures, paint tons of fencing, maintain the lawns, install the bouncing pillow and fencing, replace doors, unclog hundreds of toilets it seemed, fix lots of flat tires, patch up the horse shelter, get the elevator operational (almost done), work on the barn appearance and using it for more animals, converting the steel Quonset into a pumpkin barn, expanding the corn pit, taking care of all the animals. The list can go on and on.



I cannot forget the many priceless hours that were spent with campers during the summer, school groups in the fall, and hundreds of families that came through our gates this fall to enjoy the corn maze. This interaction and ministry with the campers, school kids, and families created God moments that I will never forget. These moments are what you live for and through these moments you see God at work in amazing ways. This is also where I am surprised again and again. The endless gratitude that people show after a hay wagon ride, the beaming smile of a child or special needs camper riding a horse, the screaming and yelling of joy I hear when I am running after a camper while playing a game, the quiet moments that can be spent with a few campers, or the endless "noise" that comes from the dining room. Some days I was happy to eat in the next room over.



May my faith continue to be made stronger as I spend time in the presence of my Saviour serving Him. I am truly grateful for this opportunity that I have been given with my family. Thank you to all from Ontario who helped make this possible and thank you to all here at the Youth Farm who I had a chance to serve with in 2016. It would not have been possible without you.



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