

YOUTH FARM BIBLE CAMP



2019 Annual Report



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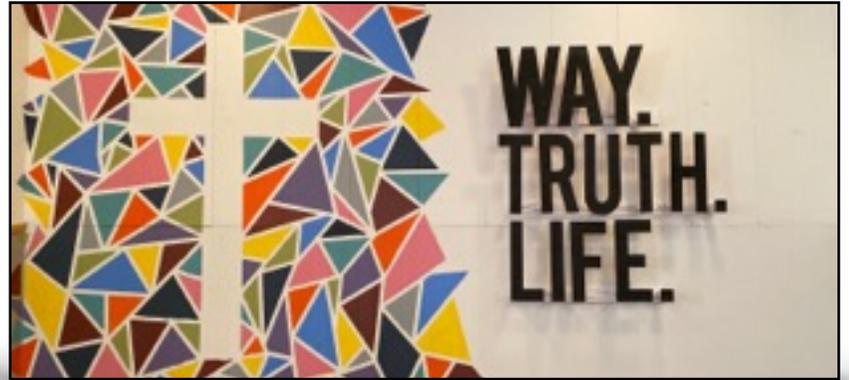
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LOVE GOD - LOVE PEOPLE

YFBC at One Arrow Treaty Day - May 15, 2019





Jesus said, "I am the **WAY**, the **TRUTH** and the **LIFE**. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6

The theme that was chosen for our ministry year was **Way Truth LIFE!** These are words from the mouth of Jesus helping us understand what He does for us. Jesus is the **Way**, Jesus is the **Truth**, Jesus is the **LIFE**.

On the first day of camp, we answered the question "Who is Jesus?". This laid the foundation for who Jesus is and why we need Him. He is part of the Trinity, in existence before creation. The story of our God creating was used to explore God's power and creativity in making this world. We shared about sin and human brokenness, and how we are in need of redemption, in need of a saviour.

On the second day, we shared how the only way to reconciliation with our God is through relationship to our God. A relationship to Jesus. We are called to follow Jesus example - instead of

greatness or fame, we are to seek servanthood. To love God and to Love People - that is the Jesus Way.

This world is so confused about what truth is. We live in a time considered post-truth. We know that Jesus and His word is the ultimate truth to be relied upon! Our life can be built on this truth. We heard stories from staff whose lives were built on this truth.



Jesus gives us His life. When we believe in Him, confess our sins, give our lives over to Him, we find life. Both in this world today and the world to

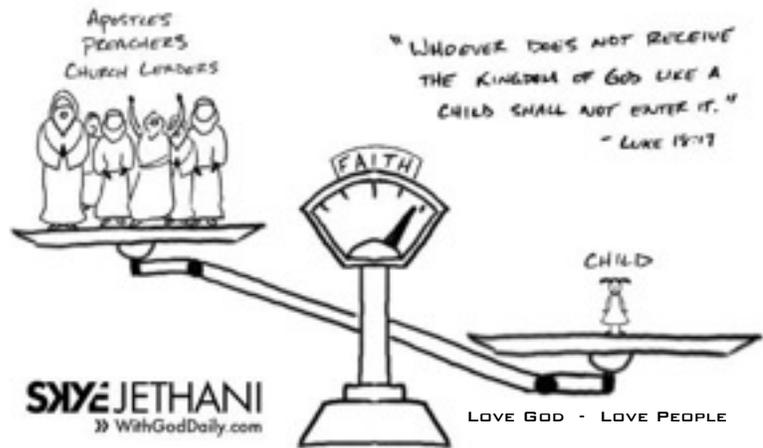
come! Handing Jesus the reins of our life, the steering wheel of our life brings us freedom.

We recognize that our identity needs to be in Christ and not in ourselves. We are children of God, fearfully and

wonderfully made, God's workmanship. Loved. Chosen. Rescued and bought at a great price. Forgiven. A new creation. Free forever from condemnation!

Paul states in 1 Corinthians 1:20 "God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish" and in verse 25 "This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest human plans". Jesus says in Luke 18:17 that we must receive the kingdom of God like a child.

During our summer camp program, our adults with intellectual disabilities, our children, our campers help us understand God's plan. They receive the message of the kingdom with excitement, love and acceptance. We learn from them. As directors, counsellors, staff, we recognized that we must **serve** God, **sacrifice** our own desires, **share** our lives with others and always **seek** to grow in faith. We learn this from our campers.



We are called to a new identity in Christ. We need to approach kingdom living similarly to a young child or adult with intellectual disabilities.

YFBC Mission - Share Jesus with People and Provide a Place to Serve
 Core Values - Serve, Sacrifice, Share, Seek
 Developed in the 1940s

Memory Verses

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. John 1:1-2

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31b-32

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 1 Corinthians 5:17

Camp @ YFBC

OUR SUMMER BIBLE CAMPS ARE AT THE CORE OF OUR MINISTRY. THESE NINE WEEKS FROM JUNE TO AUGUST ARE FILLED WITH ACTIVITY, COMMUNITY, FRIENDSHIP, AND TRANSFORMING LIVES.



2019 in numbers

26 staff

42 volunteers

31 junior staff

254 asn campers

296 children & youth campers

Adult Special Needs Camp

BERNIE POLIQUIN

It is a profound truth of our faith that we find our rest and renewal when we serve others. This summer, I had the privilege of returning to Youth Farm as a counsellor after 11 years away, and during a tumultuous time in my life, I was able to rediscover the love of God through service.

One of the most unexpected ways I was able to experience the heart of God for His children was in managing the daily hygiene routines of my campers -- in particular, shaving. I was surprised to notice that campers' demeanours change while they are being shaved. They relax, they breathe more deeply and evenly, they are still and calm. They trust you with a blade against the skin of their face and neck, and you reward that trust with gentleness and care. Shaving another person is a bonding experience. You don't need to say a word, but some of my most meaningful conversations with campers happened during their morning or evening shave.

Plus, it's surprisingly rewarding to see campers' pride in their freshly shaved faces, and gratitude for a moment in time shared together in peace. Shaving my campers helped me understand how special shared moments with us are to God, and that He delights in us when our needs are met as we trust Him.

Another consistently great way of connecting with my campers was through the tabernacle. The significance of the cross came through to our campers in a brand new way when they could see and touch the truths behind it. One of my campers was so impressed by his tabernacle experience that he used his craft time to draw a picture of the tabernacle furniture and the cross for Eleanor. For many of my campers, their time in the tabernacle was an experience I could draw from to help me understand where they were at in their thinking about the gospel, and how I could help reinforce that understanding. The tabernacle was

an amazing reminder for me as well, that God offers release from our burdens -- He doesn't want us to have to carry them, we can lay them down before the cross and leave them behind. What an amazing God we serve, that He who is so beyond our strength and understanding should want to serve us. I am very grateful to all of you who supported the ministry happening at YFBC this summer, and over the years. You aren't only helping change the lives of the people we serve, but also those who serve. Thank you.



Bernie Poliquin was a staff member from 2006-2008 and came back to work for the summer of 2019!



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Children & Youth Camps

TORI JOHNSON

I was privileged to spend the summer as a counsellor at the Youth Farm. It was the first time I was able to dedicate all 9 weeks to their ministry, and I couldn't have been more grateful! I entered the position knowing it would grow and stretch my faith, and that's exactly what it did. I've spent a lot of my life sharing the gospel and loving on kids, but nothing can compare to being around them 24/7. That's when I could really see how my own love and patience were nothing compared to the love and grace the Lord wants to pour through us... and all we have to do is ask! It was encouraging to see how God truly does provide all we need when we are seeking His Kingdom first and foremost.

Each and every kid the Lord put into my care had such a beautiful heart. I sometimes feel like I learned more from them than they did from me! Even the ones most would see as more "difficult" clearly just craved love and acceptance. They just

craved Jesus, and I was more than happy to demonstrate His love for them. Others showed a love and kindness I can't remember ever having at their age, as siblings selflessly cared for each other, showed true joy at the chance to be creative at camp, and so much more. So many memories from camp will stick with me, and I wouldn't have it any other way. This was a summer that has grown and changed me in so many ways, and I couldn't be more grateful at how God has used it to change my life.



Tori Johnson has been involved at YFBC ever since her family moved from Texas in 2010!



the 411 of the Youth Farm Bible Camp



We exist to share Jesus with people & provide a place for people to serve

1. Camps we run

We are excited to welcome children to camp as young as age 5. We offer day camps for little ones, ages 5-8, wanting to sleep in their own beds at night. Once campers are ready for overnight camp they can join us for one of our kids camps, ages 6-12. But teens want to be a part of camp too! We have junior teen camp and horse focused day camps.

Since the 1970's YFBC has also run and expanded our camp program for adults with special needs - running 5 weeks throughout the summer. This is a powerful program that sees people with intellectual disabilities looking forward to there week of camp.

2. Activities

Making use of this amazing farm yard YFBC sits on, we run outdoor activities everyone will enjoy. Let me list them for you (ok, maybe not ALL of them, but here is a start.) Horse riding, swimming, archery, wide games, canoeing, jumbo pillow, climbing wall, water games, corn maze, petting zoo, and low ropes.

Because we desire for Christ to be the centre of what we do here at YFBC, after breakfast we start the day with chapel and end each day with campfire, a time for singing and a Bible story from our camp pastor.

3. Get Involved

Maybe you are too old for camp or you have a desire to serve here at YFBC. There are a few opportunities for you! Our junior staff program runs for young leaders, ages 14-18, wanting to help out in the cabin, the kitchen, or the horse program. Summer staff positions are for anyone finished high school. And we can always use kitchen helpers!

YFBC Core Values

Sacrifice - Die to self, live for Christ

Share - telling the gospel with words and deeds

Seek - desire to know God more, and people better

Serve - Put the needs of others ahead of self



Junior Staff Program

CHEYENNE ELLIOT

What a blessing to be part of another summer at the Youth Farm Bible Camp!

Every summer over 30 teenagers ages 15-18 come and volunteer their time to invest in the lives of the hundreds of campers. They serve in the cabins, in the kitchen and around the yard in positions of maintenance. This year many of our senior staff came from a position of being junior staff not too long ago- and we're so thankful for that!

Our junior staff theme was to "Run the Race." A theme that is spoken of many times in the Bible. Hebrews 12:1 tells us to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us," and 1 Corinthians 9:24 encourages believers to "run in such a way as to get the prize." Junior staff were encouraged to love Jesus all summer, and then to keep going during the school year, bringing their love for Jesus into their everyday lives.

I believe that learning to serve Jesus as a teenager can change the course of your life. It changed mine. When I

came to YFBC as a junior staff, I learned that following Jesus meant more than just going to church and having people tell me about Jesus. It meant that I had to do something about it. I had to share my knowledge with others, how Jesus is the WAY, TRUTH and LIFE.

That is my prayer for this year's junior staff, that their love for Jesus and desire to serve Him would permeate every area of their life.



Cheyenne has been a staff member at YFBC since 2010!

YFBC Mission - Share Jesus with People and Provide a Place to Serve
Core Values
Serve, Sacrifice, Share, Seek
Developed in the 1940s



LOVE GOD - LOVE PEOPLE

Tabernacle of Moses

“God’s Masterpiece”

BY ELEANOR FUNK

I would like to thank Mark Wurtz, the Youth Farm Bible Camp director, for affording me the opportunity to share about the Tabernacle of Moses at the YFBC this past summer. Next year will be my 40th year studying about and teaching on the Tabernacle of Moses, considered by many Bible scholars to be the “Spine of the Bible”.

The Tabernacle courtyard measures 150 feet long by 75 feet wide, and depending on the size of a cubit one uses, the Tabernacle proper measures between 12-15 feet wide and high by 36-45 feet long. (I used the lesser.) There were also seven pieces of furniture all of which are described in detail in Exodus 20-40.

The Tabernacle was included as one of the half-hour activity sessions available for the campers during their week at camp. The campers were divided into groups of 10-12 for the activity times which worked out to each camper group receiving three half-hour sessions of Tabernacle teaching for the week.



There was only one gate into the courtyard which was at the east end, which represents Jesus who said, “I am the way, the truth and the life”, which was this year’s camp theme. Upon entering the gate, the campers encountered the Bronze Altar and the Bronze Laver, representing our sin nature and our daily sins.

The second day the campers would enter the Holy Place which contained the Golden Lampstand, the Golden Table of Shewbread and the Golden Altar of Incense, representing the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and Prayer, respectively.

The third day the campers got to enter the Most Holy Place representing the Presence of God. The campers were awed with this place because in here were the Ark of the Covenant and two life-size models of Cherubim (angels as described in Ezekiel 1 and 10) surrounded on three sides by lights and mirrors which gave the illusion of infinity in all directions.

One of the campers during his second week at camp interrupted me three times during my presentation stating, “I know that part; can I tell it?” The ultimate moment in any teacher’s life!



The Tabernacle courtyard measures 150 feet long by 75 feet long.



It was such a blessing to see how receptive all the campers were towards the Word of God. The first few days as I witnessed the energy level of the campers as they approached the model I was wondering if it would withstand the same, but I was totally amazed at the innate respect there was for God. I was especially blessed when a couple of the summer campers came through during the corn maze to show their friends and family.

The corn maze weekends were an opportunity to share God's Word with many people who might otherwise not hear. About half of the approximately 1000 persons who came through for a tour, and received a booklet and mini-Bible, had never heard of the Tabernacle of Moses much less the meaning of it. Even the initially skeptical were

grateful for the experience. To God be the Glory!

A huge thank you to everyone who made this year's "Camping with God" such a memorable experience.



Eleanor Funk has been presenting the Tabernacle for 39 years!

YFBC Mission - Share Jesus with People and Provide a Place for People to Serve!

REGISTRATION FOR ALL CAMPS, SUMMER STAFF POSITIONS AND THE JUNIOR STAFF PROGRAM OPEN ON
JANUARY 1, 2020

ALL INFORMATION IS ONLINE AT:
WWW.YFBC.COM
LOVE GOD LOVE PEOPLE

Youth Farm Corn Maze

“Loving God and Loving People”

Sunday, September 22, was a beautiful fall day. The temperature was 26 degrees and sunny. It was the last day in 2019 that was that warm! It was also a beautiful day to be at the Youth Farm Corn Maze. We had a record amount of people come through our gate - 1565 to be precise. They first met Gustavo and James when they came to park their car. Gustavo welcomed them and pointed them to where to drive, James found a spot for their vehicle and let them know where to find the front gate. Gustavo and James had to be quite creative to find spaces for all of the cars!

Next at the front gate, Bernie, Jacob, Mark, Cheyenne and Connor were waiting to let the families know about all the options we had available. We let the families know that they should start doing the activities when there were no lines, since we were expecting a pretty busy day! We gave first timers some hints of where to go and what they could all do at our farm. One of the first places people go when they come into the gate is meet Alex at

the pumpkin barn. She will gladly take a picture of the family posed with all our pumpkins, straw bales and other decorations.

Families who bought activity tickets or wrist bands will meet Jake at the pedal carts, Desean at the climbing wall or Sydney at the Rider Pride Train. These are all students from THRIVE at Bethany College. We greatly appreciated this partnership that brought Jake, Sydney and Desean on our staff for the Corn Maze season.

Everybody at some point ends up at the petting zoo, where they cuddle with a bunny, hug a

llama, feed goats and sheep, watch a potbelly pig dig through mud, check out chickens of multiple breeds, say hi to our donkeys and check out all the other animals.

When families were hungry, Candace, Jennifer, Alysia and Cassidy sold them great tasting burgers, loaded hotdogs, turkey legs, cheesecake on a stick and more. Michael, Katelyn and Midge were ready in the basement cafe for people to come try out the many treats!

And we haven't even got to the Corn Maze yet... so much to do!!

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Over 17,000 people visited the Youth Farm Corn Maze with many staying more than 3 hours!



Spiritual Impact of the Youth Farm Corn Maze

by Jacob Wielinga

The corn maze this year helped me to create a greater trust in God. So much about life is outside my control. The attendance to the corn maze is one of them. I just need to do my best in preparing things and trusting God to do the rest. Do you know the way? This became a real topic for those who were lost in the corn maze, our summer camp theme, and the tabernacle. God used all this to help the staff share this theme with those who came during the



We exist to share Jesus with people & provide a place for people to serve

corn maze. There are so many choices and decisions to make in life, and that includes figuring out why we exist and how do we deal with what life throws at us. We were given opportunities of walking alongside people who came to the corn maze. In all this seriousness, a lot of fun happened too as families engaged in all the activities and enjoyed the food that was available. The weather this fall was favourable in having very good attendance.

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Mexico Mission Trip

BY MICHAEL UNGER



To us, a concrete floor may be too hard, cold, and uncomfortable, but to others, it is a blessing.

For a family whose home has no floor, receiving a concrete one can dramatically improve their lives. Keeping off of the dirt prevents children from getting parasites which make them sick.

Their health improves and so do their grades because they are not missing as much school. In turn, parents have lower stress levels and they do not have to worry about their families as much. All these benefits and



more can come from a simple concrete floor.

This is why we have been going to Mexico to build houses for the past 13 years. Each year, our group is matched up with a family that is in need of a better house.

We build them a house, but often it is not just us building; members of the family, or even friends and neighbours join us. This is a project that they want to take ownership of. In this way, our mission trip

is not just a handout, it is coming alongside them and working with them in order to improve their

lives. This preserves their dignity and allows this structure to be more than just another house, but their new home.

Blessings run both ways on a trip like this. We have been blessed by their heartfelt words and their inviting hospitality, which sometimes expresses itself in homemade traditional meals served to us. We bless them with our hard work and serving hearts. We want to help these families, and in doing so, show them that God cares for them. We not only give them a concrete floor, but sturdy walls, a leak-free shingled roof, and a lockable door too. All of these features are not always present in the houses these families had before, which is why we are building more than a house. We are building hope. Hope for a brighter future.

**LOVE GOD.
LOVE PEOPLE.
SHARE JESUS.**

Michael Unger has been on staff at YFBC since 2013.



YFBC Mission - Share Jesus with People and Provide a Place to Serve

Valley Equestrian Centre

CHERALYNE GIBSON

With the completion of the indoor riding arena in February, the Valley Equestrian Centre is now home to a bustling equestrian program. In this past year we were able to offer our Equine Assisted Learning program (a program under the equine therapy umbrella) to two schools in Saskatoon (one which is partnered with MC Sask) as well as Rosthern Elementary and High School, RJC, Almighty Voice School, and several families. VEC has also started offering Therapeutic Riding lessons taught by CanTRA certified instructor Kim Jungman. Our clients participate in our various riding programs offered including western riding, horse camps, working equitation, dressage, and jumping. There is now a 4-H club based out of VEC, and a Pony Club coming soon!



we are providing a place where God's magnificent creation, the horse, can touch and brighten lives. For us, the staff of VEC, people come first. We know we have been gifted the ability to understand horses and people, and as such, we want to ensure that in each interaction with a client –whether they have come to VEC for help in their personal lives or not –that we are always treating them as Jesus taught us to care for one another. This may mean spending a little extra time after a lesson to listen to a client. Or it may mean taking the time to get to know them and understand them and find ways in which our program and the horses, can best impact their lives. For a child with anxiety, this may mean slowing things down, and praising the accomplishments. Maybe even pairing them with our lesson horse Levi that also struggles with anxiety and helping him through it. Or for a client with low self-esteem, it's taking the time to build them up, helping them through the

natural frustrations of life and riding, and recognizing that no one is perfect (not even our lesson horses), but that everyone is loved and unique. Sometimes, it's as simple as providing a place for a person to forget the sadness of their lives, and look into the eyes of a placid, humungous, powerful, yet kind, horse.

I would like to extend a personal thank you to everyone who has made building the riding arena possible. Everything from monetary donations to lending your time and/or equipment, you are a part of something beautiful here at the camp and VEC. I could write a book with the number of testimonials we receive explaining how the horse program has changed lives and given hope to those in dark times. Love God. Love People!

Cheralyne's first summer as Wrangler was in 2012. She has been full-time since May, 2017.



English & Western lessons available

Lesson horses available or bring your own horse

Options for group or private lessons

Lesson groups will be made in accordance with skill level and discipline of choice

**some changes are applicable according to the season*

CHERALYNE GIBSON INSTRUCTOR CREDENTIALS

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Western Instructor

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Experience

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Executive Director

MARK WURTZ



This past year has been an amazing one for the Youth Farm Bible Camp. Our summer camp program is growing and we were blessed by the staff and volunteers that served. We learnt about following the Jesus Way, knowing the Truth of Jesus and realizing he gives Life. What a powerful message to take to this world in need of redemption.

We have 78 years of history at the Youth Farm Bible Camp and we have seen many people grace our yard. This is a holy place where Jesus meets people and transformation occurs. I am truly blessed to serve at this ministry.

In 2019, I have been able to speak at eight different churches to share what all happens on this yard. It has been a privilege to connect with people who pray and donate towards our ministry. It has been great to connect with old friends and start new relationships!

I have had the privilege of raising my family at camp. We started 18 years ago when Brandon was two. Cassidy was born in the first year of serving this

ministry. The blessing is that my wife and children are very supportive at what we do here at the Youth Farm Bible Camp. Each one of them have spent hours/days/months/years volunteering and working at this holy site. This year, Candace took a larger role in the kitchen and was amazing at training our cook and helping everything run smoothly!

Every spring we pray for campers, staff, junior staff, finances and rain. We always see God supply the needs for His ministry. Our prayers were answered and many times in ways that were unexpected!

Spending time at our campfire is something that I cherish. During camp, I am able to speak at a few campfires and share some of my story. This spot at our

camp has seen so many people come through. I still remember the songs and prayers I mouthed 29 years ago when I first came as a Junior Staff. It is a hallowed place where people meet their Creator. During the Corn Maze season, I often light fires for Youth Groups using the area. I linger for a little connecting with groups and seeing many people fellowship and worship. I cannot believe that I live only 150 feet away from this spot!

Mark Wurtz has been YFBC's executive director since 2001.



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LOVE GOD - LOVE PEOPLE

Site Manager



JACOB WIELINGA

As 2019 ran its course here at the Youth Farm Bible Camp it was an honour of again being involved with the staff and volunteers in helping make it run as smooth as possible. I can definitely see that the hand of God led the way so that we experienced His power and wisdom in our lives and the lives of those that came for camp and corn maze. I will do my best to "paint a picture" of how that looked like for me while doing my work here this year.

During our Mexico trip this past April, I was reminded in a devotional that the world was changed when God entered as a human. He showed the world what it means to show compassion, serving others, and dying to self. He is the only way for us to come to grips with the suffering we see on this earth. He changes lives. This trip gave me an opportunity to see individuals who were on the trip and the family whom we built a home for grow in their understanding of what God can do. Seeing the impact that Amore Ministry has had and for me being a participant of that in Mexico let me again in awe of God's truth. The

family we helped also reflected that love by engaging with us on this project and by the hospitality they showed. People felt valued, accepted, and encouraged. The challenge is to make this a part of our daily lives.

It seems that each year is so unpredictable for me. Sure the repairs and preventative maintenance looks relatively the same. There are the check lists of what to do each spring and what to do to prepare for camp and corn maze. However, what all happens around that is where all the surprises come in. Last year I reflected on the value of working alongside campers who want to help me in my work. Taking time to listen, being patient, watching campers using their skills. This is one of the values of the work that I do; seeing and hearing from campers and talking life, God, Truth together.

Three incredible surprises for me this past summer were the Tabernacle, weather, and round hay bales. I was in awe of how our theme and Eleanor's Tabernacle idea fit so well here during

summer camp and the corn maze. What an awesome teaching tool for YFBC to share that Jesus is the only way for anyone to totally understand Truth. Also, we had the opportunity to receive enough land to almost triple our hay production from a year ago. I cannot share all the details here, but land became available in miraculous ways for me to swath and bale so we can use that to feed our animals. This was a real concern for me this past spring of where our hay would be coming from. The weather has not been in our favour either. We had a dry spring and fall. Our water levels are really low. But the corn and hay still managed to grow. How hard it has been this summer to not worry about feed and corn, and yet it all worked out.

I can definitely admit that 2019 was a wonderful year. I cannot end without acknowledging all the staff and volunteers who helped make 2019 a success. They are all such a wonderful blessing to me and to those who came to camp or the corn maze this year. Thank you for all your hard work.



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Jacob Wielinga has been serving as Site Manager since 2016

Youth Farm Bible **CAMP**

Summer 2020



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Day Camp . Children's Camp . Junior Teen Camp . Adult Special Needs Camp . Horse Camps

Youth Farm Corn Maze & Petting Zoo

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