

2014
Report Book

CHRIST CENTRED,
FARM ATMOSPHERE,
EMPOWER PEOPLE,
GLOBAL VISION



SUMMER CAMP
PAGE 4



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PAGE 12

YOUTH FARM BIBLE CAMP



SUMMER CAMP 2014
CORN MAZE
MEXICO MISSION TRIP
STAFF REPORTS



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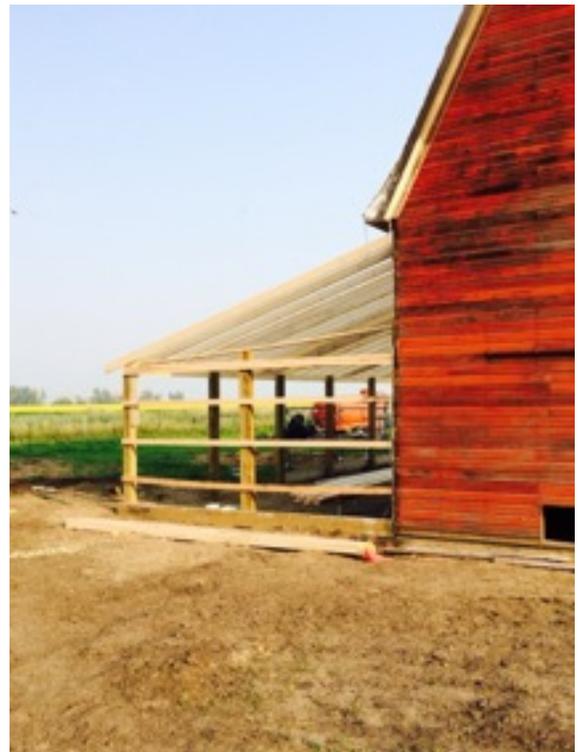
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Children & Youth Camp

WE HAD AN AMAZING SUMMER CAMP IN 2014 WITH SIX WEEKS OF PROGRAMMING FOR AGES 5-18. OUR ATTENDANCE FOR OUR CHILDREN'S CAMPS WAS 286 CAMPERS.

CAMP ACTIVITIES

- SWIMMING
- HORSEBACK RIDING
- PETTING ZOO
- CORN MAZE
- CLIMBING WALL
- CRAFTS
- CAMPFIRE SKILLS
- ARCHERY
- LEGO
- SPORTS
- WIDE GAMES
- LOW ROPES COURSE
- OBSTACLE COURSE
- BUNGY RUN
- BOUNCE CASTLE
- CARNIVAL
- SUMO SUITS
- SLIP & SLIDE
- WATER GAMES
- HAY RIDE
- CANDY TIME
- PIZZA MAKING
- BEACH PARTY
- WIENER ROAST
- BATTLE OF THE BANDS
- COUNSELOR DRESS UP
- COUNSELOR HUNT
- DUNK TANK



The theme for our 2014 camp year was displayed, bold and colourful, at the front of our chapel. "THERE IS NO ONE LIKE OUR GOD". That simple phrase, displaying a mighty truth! Each week at camp, we studied this truth through stories from the Old and New Testaments. Stories & testimonies of how great The Lord is and how there is no one else like our God. The campers learned about God our Creator, our Saviour, Who is faithful, powerful, and loving. No one else can create the universe, send fire from heaven, save us from our sin, or transform our lives as beloved followers of Jesus Christ.

Kids Camp

As the sound of campers arriving with enthusiasm and anticipation filled the chapel during registration, we could only be filled with excitement ourselves. Another year of children's camp was underway and we were ready to have some fun!

We were blessed with a FULL and busy camp for these weeks. The energy was high, the singing was passionate, and the games were lively. We were blessed with amazing summer weather, that kept us outside in the sunshine. Perfect for our beach party, water games, jumping on the inflatables, riding horses, and so much more.

Chad Doell took on the role of camp pastor for two of these weeks, and Debbie Poliquin (Program director 2008) was back with us for the third and final children's camp, all the way from Australia! We trust in the words from Proverbs 22:6 as we celebrate another successful year of kids camp. "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." (Pr. 22:6)

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.
EPHESIANS 1:4



2015

Summer Camp Dates

\$275 + GST

- Children's 1 - ages 6-9
July 5-10
- Children's 2 - ages 9-12
July 19-24
- Children's 3 - ages 7-12
Aug 9-14
- Junior Teen - ages 12-15
July 26-31
- Teen Trail Ride - ages 13-17
July 12-17 (\$315 + GST)
- Day Camp - ages 4-8
July 27-31 // 9am-4pm
(\$120)
- \$30 Discount if paid for by
May 1, 2015**

Junior Teen

What a fun week of camp! Junior teen is always a smaller sized camp for us but the campers still come packed with energy and ready for a good time. Relationship building is a key part of making this camp successful. It's a time for conversations between staff and campers, that tackle big questions and encourage campers to trust in the Lord as they become the young men and women God has knit them together to be.

An afternoon of running around the Youth Farm, competing in The Amazing Race was a highlight of the week. And of course, banquet night is a big success, setting up outside under the trees, and finishing the night with a spectacular talent show!



Teen Trail Ride

An amazing group of young ladies joined us for a week of horse riding, trail following, and camping out in the Nisbet Forest. A few nights are spent at YFBC as the campers get to know the horses and the skills they will need for the campout. They also take part in chapels along with the ASN camp running the same week.

Kelsey Doell and Natalie Barre were the fearless leaders of this camp. They not only invest in the campers as young riders out in the corral or on the trails but also building relationships similar to what happens during Junior Teen Camp by answering tough questions arising through devotional time, chapels, and everyday conversation.

Day Camp

Allison Brown and Rachel Guenther put together a great Day Camp program this year. We had a good turn out, still with room to grow, ready to run, run, run all day, with similar activities to our Kids Camps. The best part for the campers is they get to sleep in their own beds at night so they are FULLY ready and energized for the next day at YFBC.

2014 Curriculum

MONDAY: *God is Creator*- telling various elements of the creation story, campers will know that only God created the universe, he created people because he loved them, but that people were tainted by sin.

TUESDAY: *God is faithful*- telling the story of Abraham, campers will learn that the same God who loves them and created them will follow through on the promises He makes because he cares for them.

WEDNESDAY: *God is powerful*- telling the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel, campers will learn to trust in God's power to care for them and to reject the other idols in their lives.

THURSDAY: *God is love*- telling the Gospel to campers, we provide the opportunity for campers to come to faith and receive salvation.

FRIDAY: *God is Saviour*- telling the story of Paul's conversion, campers will know that not only are they called to seek forgiveness and be saved through a relationship with Jesus but they'll also see that God tells them to go out and to tell others about Jesus as well.



{THERE IS NO ONE LIKE OUR GOD

-2014 CAMP THEME

Adult Special Need Camp

ANOTHER REWARDING FIVE WEEKS OF ADULT SPECIAL NEED CAMP (ASN) CAN BE CELEBRATED FOLLOWING OUR 2014 SUMMER. WE HOSTED 250 CAMPERS OVER THESE WEEKS!

These five weeks of camp at YFBC are some of the most rewarding, not just for the campers but hugely for the staff, those who are new and not so new to the summer program. These campers come with anticipation sparkling in their eyes, eagerness in their steps, and rejoicing in their hugs. What a crowd! We definitely have our regulars. Those campers who have been coming along year after year. It is always exciting though, when new campers join our ASN traditions. Usually, when Friday comes and they pack their bags, the count down is on until next summer arrives. It's a blessing to the staff to know we will see these folks again, and hopefully again, and again.

This year we extended our ASN 1 week to five days from four, giving us two 5 day weeks and three 4 day weeks of ASN camp. We enjoyed a field trip that first week because of the added day. Filling a bus and a van full of campers, we stopped at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre and the Biology Building at the University of Saskatchewan. Before heading back to YFBC we stopped for a campfire, wiener roast at the Wurtz farm. Thanks for hosting us!

Please note, that there are lots of ways you can be a part of an ASN week if you want to experience the joy and blessings of hanging out with these campers. We need a number of volunteers in the kitchen to help prepare and clean up meals. Or maybe you have maintenance skills, enjoy yard work, or want to be a camp pastor. Check out our website for volunteer opportunities and applications. Find us at www.yfbc.com.





2015
ASN Camp Dates

\$235

ASN 1 - June 21-26
(\$280)

ASN 2 - June 29-July 3

ASN 3 - July 13-17

ASN 4 - August 3-7

ASN 5 - August 16-21
(\$280)



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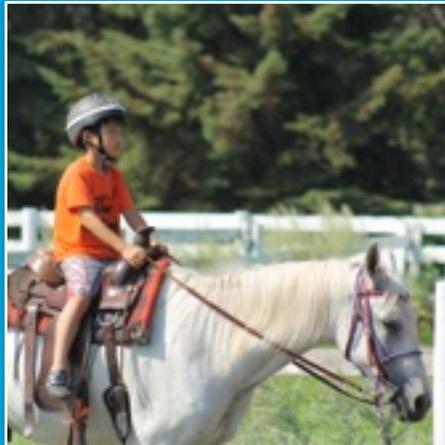
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And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

ACTS 4:12



Thoughts from a Camp Pastor

CHAD DOELL RETURNED FROM 9 MONTHS OF STUDYING IN ISRAEL AND STEPPED INTO THE ROLE OF CAMP PASTOR, EXCITED TO SHARE THE SONGS AND STORIES HE COLLECTED.

This past summer, I once again had the privilege of being involved with the ministry and programming of the Youth Farm Bible Camp. This was my fourth year with YFBC as a camp pastor, and is another that I will remember.



This year I pastored two weeks of children's camp. After doing this for a few years, I came to camp with certain expectations and certain goals. Happily, I was blessed far beyond what I could have imagined, and rejoice that God is good to shatter my expectations.

The children this year were truly engaged with the message: *There is No One Like Our God*. By sharing Bible stories which reveal portions of God's greatness and characters, coupled with personal testimonies, chapel and campfire times were rich. I would have to limit the amount of questions that could be asked because I could have easily spent all of my time attempting to satisfy the children's curiosity!

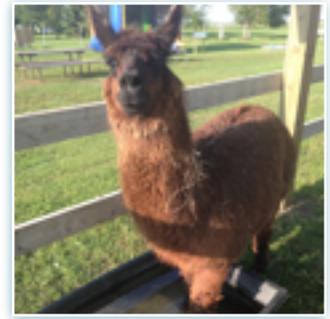
The children were hungry to know about our God. So many were hearing about Him for the very first time. I remember particularly explaining Jesus' promise of salvation and eternal life with Him one night at campfire, and hearing a young boy exclaim breathlessly, "I want that!"

What a privilege to be a small part of that wonderful moment. Praise God that in these days which often seem uncertain, God's Word still "is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12).

My two weeks as camp pastor were the two finest weeks of my ministry. I am thrilled for what God is doing in this place.

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Youth Farm Corn Maze

EVER SINCE 2008, THE CORN MAZE HAS KEPT THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT AND A LOT OF NEW EVENTS. THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION!

The Youth Farm Corn Maze was bustling with activity in 2014. We had an increase of over 80% in attendance with a total of 13,000 people coming for a day at the Corn Maze and Petting Zoo. On the Thanksgiving Weekend, we were nearing 1000 people per day! Our parking lot was full to capacity.

For 2015 we have started to work on some new additions to the corn maze. We are building a hayrack that can hold 80 people with railings and built in benches. We have increased the size of the attraction sites/courtyard and are expanding it to include the barn we moved in on January. We are looking at additional activities to add as well to bring the amount of fun you can have to new levels! We greatly appreciate the number of families that came out and we want to continue to give them a wholesome, exciting, outdoor experience!

On October 19, we had David Kirton, of NewsTalk 650 CKOM come out with his Grandson and he said this about the maze - "It's huge, I was expecting 10 cars, but there were hundreds of people, its like a county fair. They had inflatables for the kids, animals walking around so you could pet them as they came up to you. My Grandson had a ball. The Corn Maze is huge and takes over an hour to get through". Thanks to David Kirton for giving a plug for the Youth Farm Corn Maze on the Radio!

We had a blacksmithing and farrier demonstration one Saturday, a John Deere Days weekend, Pirate and Princess Days, Rider Day, Fall Family Festival (Car show and food booths), and more. Each weekend there was something new at the Maze. On Thanksgiving Weekend we raised close to \$3000 for the Rosthern Food Bank and on our closing weekend, we raised \$1600 for Compassion Canada (enough to sponsor 3 children for a whole year). The Corn Maze has been a tremendous addition to the Youth Farm Bible Camp in its ability to raise funds and awareness for the camp.

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www.yfbc.com/youthfarmcornmaze

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This year we added Caramel Apples to the menu at the Corn Maze. They were a big hit! Delicious to eat and lots of fun the make!



God Giveth the Increase

THE MOST UNIQUE METHOD OF PROMOTION OR PUBLICITY EMPLOYED BY THE MYS WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE PRODUCTION OF A FILM, "GOD GIVETH THE INCREASE." THIS WAS BASICALLY A DOCUMENTARY FILM DEPICTING THE WORK OF THE MYS AND CENTERING PARTICULARLY ON THE MENNONITE YOUTH FARM. THIS COLOR FILM WAS PRODUCED BY WM. ZEHR OF THE UNITED STATES IN 1957 AND AT A COST OF \$4,500.

-WALTER FRANZ, A HISTORY OF THE SASKATCHEWAN MENNONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION

In 1957, the Mennonite Youth Society (MYS) decided to hire William Zehr, an American Film Producer to create a documentary depicting the work of the organization. It was to center primarily on the Mennonite Youth Farm. The cost of the film was \$4500, equivalent to an average yearly wage! The premiere showing took place at the Canadian Mennonite Conference sessions in Saskatoon in 1958.



The desire was to create a film that would showcase the work of the MYS group. H.W. Friesen and J.C. Schmidt were to be featured prominently and be the main personalities in the film. They wanted to have video of local youth groups, the many homes that were operated and the youth camps that were running in the province (Pike Lake, Camp Elim and Youth Farm).

By 1971, the two 16 mm films that (MYS) had received were no longer around. Walter Franz writes in an 1971 essay "The film appeared to be more popular outside the province of Saskatchewan than among MYS supporters. If a copy could be located today, it would be an interesting and valuable record of a dynamic organization that no longer exists.



Finding God Giveth the Increase

After reading the Walter Franz essay, Mark Wurtz, Director of the Youth Farm Bible Camp tried to find an archived copy of the film. He called many different Historical Societies to no avail. Then after a simple web search "William Zehr Mennonite" he found an article linking the film's producer to Bethel College in Kansas where Mennonite Church USA has their archives. Zehr had donated his collection of work to the archives in 1970. There was a response by the staff of the Mennonite Library and Archives saying that the 16mm film was definitely in their archives!



The Youth Farm Bible Camp paid for the 16mm film to be digitalized and began the long task of getting the film back into Saskatchewan. By February, 2014, the film was ready to be shown at the Youth Farm Bible Camp's annual Vereniki and Sausage supper. The audio of the film could still be improved and synced better to the video, however the picture quality is great considering it is from 1957!

Youth Farm Bible Camp - 57 years later

A lot has changed since when the video was captured 57 years ago. All of the barns are no longer on the yard. The Invalid home has become the Mennonite Nursing Home and the retreats and camps that were held on the yard are still happening at the Youth Farm Bible Camp! As well, instead of having a dairy that helps pay for the ministry, we now have another agricultural based revenue stream - the CORN MAZE! Many things may have changed over the years, but the mission of the camp remains the same as when it was started in 1941. A Bible verse that was quoted in the video is as follows:

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)

This is what we believe at the Youth Farm Bible Camp. We have over 500 campers that come out for the 9 weeks of Summer Camp. We are hoping to plant seeds of the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are praying to water and nourish the seeds during the weeks of camp. We understand that the Holy Spirit does the work and we have to humble ourselves before the Spirit. We are called to be servants of God!

YOU CAN WATCH THE 1957 GOD GIVETH THE INCREASE VIDEO AT WWW.YFBC.COM/1957



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ISAIAH 58:7



Mexico Mission Trip

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 IN A DEVELOPING NATION. WE ALSO ARE GOING TO UNDERSTAND THE CONDITIONS OF POVERTY THROUGH IMMERSION.



2014 Team

In April 2014, I went on my first Mexico Mission Trip, in fact, my first mission trip. I have travelled before; I have been to five countries in Europe and most of United Kingdom. This trip was, hands down, the best travelling experience I have ever had!

Riding in a van packed full of people may not sound like a fun time, but it sure was! Many memorable moments manifested while making our way to Tijuana. There were a lot of laughs as well as good talks and, of course, lots to see on the way.

We arrived in Mexico on Saturday. The next day being Sunday, we had the privilege of being taken to a church in the morning. Those Mexicans love to worship! The music was loud and the singing was boisterous. Even though it was all in Spanish, I was still able to be moved into worship. It was an incredible feeling!

We began the next day doing what we signed up for on this mission trip: building a house for a family in need. We did work such as mixing concrete, sawing boards, framing walls, and applying stucco. Working alongside us were a few members of the family we were building the house for and even a neighbour boy that came by and picked up a hammer to help. Since we were working together, there were some times where we needed to communicate. We did so by using hand gestures and the little we knew of each other's language. It was amazing how much we could get across to each other. Eventually, the boy and I got to know each other's names. Even though we did not speak the same language, we were still able to connect on what I can only describe as some spiritual level. God can break all barriers.

This brings me to the greatest moment of the trip for me. We had the walls and the roof up and Jon and the neighbour boy were up there working. I decided to join them, so I got myself a hammer and started up the ladder. I do not know what I am doing when it comes to building a house, so naturally I was going to ask Jon how I could help when I got to the top. Before I could open my mouth, the boy called my name and motioned me to go to him. When I was beside him, he took a nail and pretended to hammer it in, then moved it over a little and did the same. We looked at each other and I nodded and went to work. Without saying a word, he showed me what to do. That moment was really special.

The family was really appreciative of what we did for them, so much so that they fed us lunch one day. It felt great having helped them. With this experience, I do not want to go on a trip unless it is a mission trip.

- Mike Unger



Junior Staff Program

If you are looking for a summer opportunity to serve others and grow in your faith the counselor-in-training position is a great fit! You will assist the counsellors to give the campers an awesome camp experience. The campers are your main priority, serving them, showing God's love, and sharing your faith. This will happen in physical ways, as well as, spiritual ways. A few examples of CIT tasks are leading wake-up games, skill groups, and one night of cabin devotions.

The wrangler-in-training positions are for those of you who love animals! You will feed the horses and the petting zoo animals, as well as, complete daily chores in the petting zoo. You will also spend time with the campers during 'skills' time by assisting the wrangler in leading these riding lessons. This will give you the opportunity to serve, show God's love, and share your faith with the campers.

Everyone loves camp food and getting to be behind the scenes is even better! Junior kitchen help will work alongside the head cook to either help prepare and serve meals and/or be a part of the cleanup crew. This is an opportunity to grow in leadership and servanthood, serving all the campers and staff in a practical way. You will get to stay in a cabin with the campers and join in evening camp activities.

For more information & to apply for our 2015 camp season go to www.yfbc.com/Juniorstaff.

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

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Launching Our New Website

IN JUNE WE LAUNCHED OUR NEW WEBSITE, FILLED WITH ALL THE INFORMATION FROM OUR OLD SITE AND ADDING SO MUCH MORE.

If you sit down in a comfy seat and pull out your lap top, your tablet, or your handy smartphone you will be ready to take a tour of our new website (designed by New Creation Consulting & Information Management Inc.) at www.yfbc.com. Although we are always adding updated pages to the site, our launch of the new and improved website in June was already chalked full of information and interesting reads.

A good place to start your tour is a stop on our history pages. Filled with an overview of the Youth Farm Complex's ministry over the past 70 years, you will have a peek at the past and see how our vision and mission has remained the same over the decades. Once you are settled into your seat and enjoying the nostalgia of old photos and essays, you can watch the 40 minute *God Giveth the Increase* video right there on our site!

Maybe you are curious about the staff and stories of summer camp. We have that too! Staff bios and blogs can be found along your tour of our staff pages. Our blog pages tell stories of building projects, trips, lessons from camp and *Throwback Thursday* posts reveal links to past staff and significant elements to the Youth Farm Bible Camp history.

Travel over to our *Mexico Mission* page and have a look at what we do there, why we go there, and who we serve. Check out photos, videos, and information for our upcoming trip.

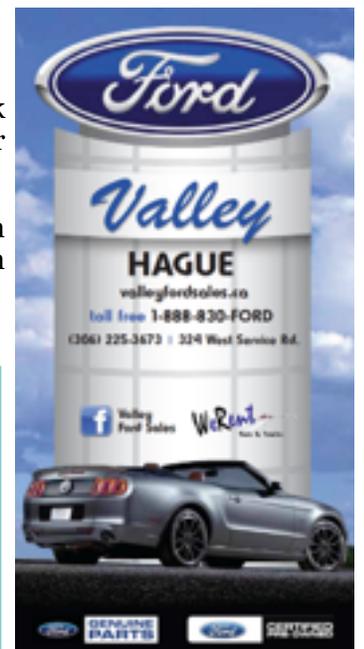
Thinking of hosting a retreat or a field trip? All the information you need is under the *Rental and Retreat* section. Directions, cost, and photos of our yard and buildings are all there waiting to cure your curiosity.

The highlight of the trip around our site, however, is when you stop by our *Corn Maze* page. All of our events for the season will be listed there. The basics, directions, admission cost, and hours of operation, will all be available 24/7 whenever you are planning your trip out to the Corn Maze. The best part is the photo gallery and promotional video where you may even spot yourself if you have visited us in the past.

Last and certainly not least, is all the information about summer camp you could ask for is listed on our shiny new website. Have a look around, see what we have to offer and register all in the same place! No paper, no stamps required!

All of this information and more can be found at www.yfbc.com. From there you can find links to our Facebook, Youtube, and Instagram. I hope you have plenty of time on your hands, you could be here a while!

- CAMPS
- Kids Camp
 - Kids Camps at YFBC
 - A Typical Day at YFBC
 - Kids Camp Media
- Day Camp
- Teen Camps
- Adult Special Needs
- Activities
- What to Bring to Camp
- Information for Parents
- Apply Today!



Mark's Report

MARK WURTZ HAS BEEN THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SINCE 2001, BUT HIS FIRST TIME AS SUMMER STAFF WAS OVER 20 YEARS AGO! HE HAS A DESIRE TO SEE THE CAMP GROW AND IMPACT MANY FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Since starting in 2001, I have greatly enjoyed the position of Director of the Youth Farm Bible Camp. It is a job where I am able to do a wide variety of activities. From cooking in the kitchen, building activities for the corn maze, financial administration, Facebook marketing campaign, building a home in Mexico, moving a barn onsite, throwing hay bales, hiring staff, writing checks, fundraising, building a picnic table, speaking at a chapel, starting a fire, harnessing a participant for wall climbing, driving the Rider Pride Train, giving a sermon at a church, going to meetings, and much, much more. It has been an exciting time to be in leadership at the Youth Farm Bible Camp.



One of the things that we have been blessed with is having supporters like you at our camp. You prayed for us. You volunteered in the kitchen, cabin, work projects and much more. You give financially so that we can have a program that benefits many people. Thanks greatly for your support throughout the years!

We reached record numbers again in our Children's camps and our Adult Special Needs Camps. In 2013 we finished setting up a ninth cabin for use this summer and were able to fill it six of our nine weeks of camp. I get excited for camp every summer, have anxiety during the months of May and June as we prepare for camp, and just love it when the first Special Need campers come through the doors to start our summer camp season.

We are also pleased to have Holly Epp join the year round staff of the Youth Farm Bible Camp. She started on May 1st and has helped with coordinating volunteers, website development, corn maze events, and much more. It has been great to have Holly as a part of our staff team.

Over the last year, we have worked on the Mission and Vision for the camp. We exist to Share Jesus with People and Provide a Place to Serve. In looking back through the history of the Youth Farm, this statement is evident as early as the first retreat in 1941. Henry Friesen, JC Schmidt and others had this same reason for the Youth Farm to exist. We are always looking for ways to grow this mission and impact the world around us.

The core values of the Youth Farm Bible Camp are to Sacrifice, Share, Seek and Serve. We sacrifice our own desires to put the desires and values of Christ ahead of our own (die to self, live for Christ). We share by telling the gospel message through words and action. We seek to know God more; we seek to know people better. We serve by putting the needs of others ahead of our own. These are the values that we try to live up to as staff of the Youth Farm Bible Camp.

But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.
Joshua 24:15



Jon's Report

JON EPP HAS BEEN A YEAR-ROUND STAFF MEMBER SINCE 2011. HE FOCUSES ON MAINTENANCE AND BUILDING PROJECTS AND LEADS THE ROSTHERN YOUTH GROUP.



Summer of 2014 has come and gone, Corn Maze season has come and gone, we are now into winter mode, keeping the snow cleared, working on building projects like the barn and finishing up the chapel.

This has been a year of a lifetime for me. As I reflect on the summer, one story/lesson always comes to mind. It happened over 2 different weeks, ASN 2 and Jr. Teen week. During ASN 2, Jesse Doell was filling the role of Camp Pastor and at one campfire, the topic of sacrifice came up, one of the campers turned to me and asked "What's a Sacrifice?" I responded with "It's something that you give up, something that you give up for God."

Without missing a step, he asked back "What's your sacrifice?"...I couldn't answer him, and his question plagued me for the next few weeks. What is my sacrifice, part of me felt that as a follower of Christ I should have sacrifice, but what was it, I love my job, I love the people I work with, I wasn't struggling to make ends meet, I was never in any danger because of my faith...where was the sacrifice?

Jr. Teen week at camp. We showed a movie one evening, and naturally, as teenagers are, not all of them wanted to sit in our hot and stuffy chapel to watch a movie, so there was a group of about a dozen kids sitting outside chatting, not causing trouble, not being inappropriate, just not taking part in what was planned. My first reaction was to go and kick them back in to watch the movie...but then the thought came to me, why would I force them to do what they don't want to do, especially when they aren't distracting those that are watching? Why would I make these teens act like Christians before they make that decision? Seems like I was putting the cart in front of the horse.

I had my answer to my ASN 2 Camper's question, What is my Sacrifice? My agenda, my plan has to be sacrificed if I am to call myself a follower of Christ. My plans need to come secondary to where Christ is leading.

The last half of Corn Maze season brought a lot of excitement into my life, not only did we reach record numbers again, but October 4th, John Deere Days at the maze, I married Terra-Lyn Braun!!! A lot of people talk about how camp has changed their life...and believe me, camp has sure changed my life ;) I highly recommend getting married, its pretty fantastic! We are living at the camp in staff housing, and have no intentions of leaving camp ministry.



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To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Luke 18:9-14

Jesse's Report

JESSE DOELL JOINED THE YEAR-ROUND STAFF IN 2013. HE LOVES SUMMER CAMP AND PLAYS A FEW DIFFERENT ROLES DURING THAT SEASON FROM WORSHIP LEADER, TO PROGRAM DIRECTOR, TO PASTOR. HE ALSO WORKS AS THE YOUTH PASTOR AT HAGUE MENNONITE CHURCH AND AS A PASTORAL CARE MEMBER OF THE MENNONITE NURSING HOME ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT.



I've been at the Youth Farm every summer since 2009 and every year have known that the Youth Farm was the most foundational discipleship training of my life. Summer camp is insanity and bliss all at the same time, and being in a leadership position in that sort of environment teaches self-sacrifice, perseverance and most importantly faith. Sometimes after so many summers the years can blur together. But what I do remember distinctly from each year are usually the moments where I see the heart of Jesus the most clearly.

I was the Program Director for our Junior Teen camp this last year and as usual Junior Teen camp was challenging but amazingly rewarding. The youth we get who come to our Junior Teen camps much of the time come from rough backgrounds and usually have little to no exposure of the truth and love that is found in Jesus. Camp becomes a place to wrestle with the relevancy of faith in their lives and experience it in a way they never had before.

Even as Program Director I love to pop into cabins and take part in devotions in the evening. There was one cabin of older guys I connected to very well this last year so I decided to lead a devotion with them. After a night of worship in the chapel with the whole camp I was walking to their cabin to lead the devotion. On my way there The Lord gave me a message for those boys from the verse above. I went in, sat down, chitchatted for a bit and I read the above verse. I explained to those boys that it doesn't matter if they come from a rough past or what they've done before. Jesus isn't only interested in the religious people - the Pharisees - people who get through life by putting on some cheap pretence of religion and look down their noses at everyone else. The worst part about Pharisees - both in Jesus' day and our own time - is that they act like they've earned everything God has given to him.

Worst of all, so many youth who come from rough situations feel like they need to be a Pharisee in order to find Jesus. They feel like their past sins, who their parents are, or what their family life is like can actually separate them from Jesus love's. Jesus didn't come to multiply Pharisees, he came for repentant hearts. He came for the sick not for the healthy. He came for outcasts and sinners. He came for those who know that their hearts are evil not those in denial of it.

There was one young man in that cabin who the Holy Spirit had this message for and I know he felt God's call on his heart that evening (and if your reading this you know who you are). God has not discounted you because of where you come from and forgiveness is not outside of your reach. He has not discounted that young man and he has not discounted any of us. His forgiveness is always at the door knocking, and his mercies are new every morning.

Remember that young man in your prayers and remember the ministry of the camp in your prayers as well. It is through your support that we can continue doing this work of reaching those furthest from hope with the Gospel and by God's grace He has blessed us to do it year after year. Camp ministry has been around for a while but in my experience is still likely the most relevant way of reaching young people with the Gospel of the salvation found in Jesus.



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Holly's Report

HOLLY EPP JOINED THE YFBC YEAR-ROUND STAFF TEAM IN MAY OF 2014 AFTER VOLUNTEERING WHEN SHE COULD DURING THE PAST FEW SUMMERS. HER ROLE IS (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) INSPIRING OTHERS TO VOLUNTEER AT THE CAMP, PLAN EVENTS FOR THE CORN MAZE, HELP OUT IN THE OFFICE, AND MAKE THINGS PRETTY!



Let me introduce myself. My name is Holly Epp. I grew up just down the road in Laird but it took a 12000KM round trip and a few extra years to make the journey from my hometown farm in Laird to my current employment at the Youth Farm Bible Camp. It could appear to be a story similar to the Israelites journey to the promised land if you would listen to all the “ah ha” lessons I learned and look at the physical distance between where I started and where I have ended up. My wandering was a preparation for such a time as this and a blessed wandering it has been.

Thinking back now, though, I did begin this journey driving onto this yard a few times a week, heading to work at the Mennonite Nursing Home in order to save up money to head overseas. I intended to volunteer with Youth For Christ in Northern Ireland for 12 months. Plans evolved while I lived there and I stayed for four years! I produced a most unique accent, made lifelong friends, received a diploma from Belfast Bible College, and solidified the most humbling foundation of faith. The Lord blessed me with more than I could ask or imagine.

Where to next?, I asked. Back to the wide open spaces of Saskatchewan where I spent the next few years working as a Resident Dean at Rosthern Junior College and a few more years in a couple different roles at the Home for the Aged. Getting closer, getting closer, but that Highway 11 is a big one to cross!

Finally I made the call and offered to volunteer a bit in the kitchen during camp. Why had I not done this before? There was no real answer. It's one of those times when the Lord's calling is so crystal clear. You can't quite put your finger on how you heard Him but in my case, I just felt 'at home' when I drove onto the yard. I knew I was meant to be here and soon the ball was rolling on making that a reality.



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1-855-855-YFBC EXT 9

MORE INFORMATION AT

WWW.YFBC.COM/VOLUNTEERS

So that is my story about how I got here and I can say I have loved every minute of it. Well, maybe not those first few minutes of the day during the last couple weeks of camp when I had to leave my cozy bed but all of the other ones.

I loved camp. Kids camp, teen camp, and adult special need camp. I loved connecting with staff, junior staff and campers. I loved starting and finishing each day in prayer with my fellow camp staff. I then loved working in the corn maze. Brainstorming new ideas, setting up a photo booth, greeting the excited faces in the admission booth, and bragging about all my new petting zoo 'pets'. I have loved slowing down a bit now that the snow has fallen. I love catching up on long 'to do' lists that include organizing papers, cleaning neglected spaces, and dreaming up ideas for next year. I love getting projects done along side willing volunteers and supporters of this camp.

I have to say, once again, as I sit here in what I can only describe as my 'dream job', that the Lord has done more than I can ask or imagine. To God be the glory.

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