

# Youth Farm Mission Centre

## 2025 Annual Report



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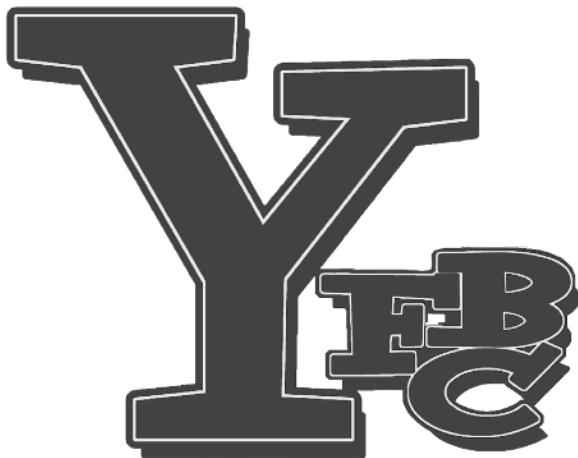
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## Youth Farm Bible Camp

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# GOD CALLS!

Hey friends! This summer we stepped into a theme that felt both simple and surprisingly personal: "God Calls!"

Throughout the week, our campers discovered that God's call isn't distant or dramatic. It comes through quiet moments, growing curiosity, and the small choices we make each day.

We began with Samuel, the young boy who heard his name called in the night. His story showed us that God knows each of us personally and speaks to us long before we feel "ready." Isaiah 43:1

reminded us that God calls us by name and claims us as His own. Watching campers realize that God's voice is not just for adults or leaders, but for them too, set a hopeful tone for the week.

Next, we met Anna, whose life was marked by worship and patient trust. Luke 2:37 describes her as someone who prayed day and night, waiting for God to fulfill His promise. Her story invited us to see waiting differently. It's not an empty space but a place where faith grows. Anna recognized Jesus because her heart had learned to listen. She helped us see that worship is more than singing; it's choosing to trust God's timing.

Midweek, we followed Paul and Silas into a prison cell. Instead of fear, they chose prayer. Instead of despair, they sang. Acts 16:25 tells us the prisoners were listening, and soon the whole prison shook with a miracle. Their story opened conversations about courage in hard seasons and how faith can shine even when life feels dark. The campers connected deeply

with the idea that God works powerfully in places we least expect.

Then Lydia entered the story. A successful merchant and a worshiper of God, she opened her heart to the message of Jesus and immediately opened her home as well. Her generosity helped plant the church in Philippi. Lydia reminded us that serving God often looks like using what we already have. Her story helped campers see that every person has a part to play, no matter their age or skill.



We ended the week with Joshua, stepping into enormous challenges while hearing God say, "Be strong and courageous." Joshua 1:9 became a steady reminder that courage grows from one simple truth: God is with us. Joshua's story encouraged our campers to trust God in moments that feel too big or too uncertain, knowing He never sends us alone.

By the end of camp, a clear picture had taken shape. God calls us by name. He calls us to worship even in waiting. He calls us to shine in difficulty, to serve with what we have, and to be courageous as we follow Him. This theme didn't just fill our lessons; it shaped conversations, prayers, and the way our campers saw themselves.

It was a joy to walk this journey together and to watch our campers discover that God's call is still active, still personal, and still reaching for them today.

## Children & Youth Camps

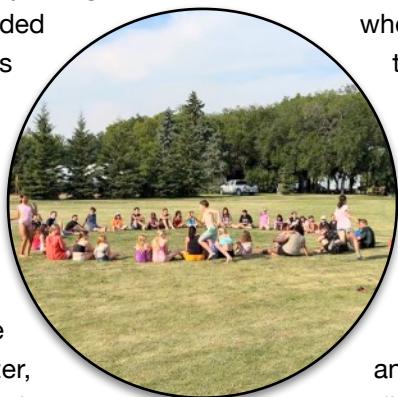
**GUSTAVO ARAUJO**

This was my tenth year being part of kids and teen camp, and even after a decade it still amazes me how these weeks unfold. Every summer I walk in expecting good things, but then again I am reminded that God is always doing more. I always say at the end of each week that if we keep our eyes open, we can see amazing things happening in real time.

If you have ever stepped onto camp during Kids Week, you know what I mean. The yard feels alive from the moment the campers arrive. Laughter, running feet, a bunch of conversations happening at once. You have to keep up. Kids bring an intensity that stretches us, but also fills the whole place with a joy that is hard to explain. Our staff stepped into that energy beautifully again this year, carrying the week with so much heart that everything seemed to move fast and full of life.

There were moments I wish I could freeze, moments of sitting and listening to kids share their stories. And there is nothing quite like leading music in chapel or around the campfire. I love when I can stop singing and simply hear their voices rise.

A precious moment for all staff is the Thursday worship night. It is a very informal time of singing and prayer, where we open the opportunity for kids who want to be prayed for. More than once I found myself wondering who was receiving the greater blessing in those moments, the campers or the staff. Watching staff pray over their cabin groups, sometimes with tears in their eyes, is a powerful reminder of how much heart and effort they pour into the week.



This year I had the amazing gift of sharing leadership with Andreas Warkentin as the program director for the summer. Andreas is Brazilian too, and everything gets better when we have Brazilians around, even more when there are two. His family stayed the whole summer with us, which was a blessing both to the program and to my own family.

Teen Camp was fantastic this year, truly one of the most impactful I can remember. I was deeply impressed by the teens' desire to participate, to have meaningful conversations, and to engage with music and worship. I cannot recall another time when teens asked for extra songs during campfire. They were fully invested in the messages, eager to learn about God, and ready with big questions for the camp pastor, willing to walk through Scripture to understand more.

This year we also created a kids book based on our summer theme, along with a skit that was hilarious to perform. The story revolved around our petting zoo animals. The lesson behind it all was simple and beautiful, helping campers see how God calls us to walk with Him.

As the summer came to an end, I found myself grateful once again for the privilege of walking alongside these campers. Every story, every song, every conversation reminded me why these weeks matter so much. God meets us here, and I am thankful to witness it year after year.



**Gustavo has been involved with summer camp since 2015**

## Adult Special Needs Camp

When I first arrived for the ASN (Adult Special Needs) week at Youth Farm Bible Camp, I was a little intimidated. It was the start of my internship journey, I was about to be away from home for a full year, and on top of that, working at ASN week was completely outside my comfort zone. I had never worked at camp before, only attended as a camper, and I had almost no experience with ASN.

But when I arrived and met the people I would be working with, I quickly realized how compassionate and welcoming the staff at this camp are. My nerves didn't disappear, but they softened. As campers began to roll in and I met the people I would be counselling, I started to feel that maybe the week wouldn't be as overwhelming as I had feared.

As the days went by and I got to know my campers better, I felt more and more at ease. I was having fun, learning a lot from them, and yes, experiencing a few new and uncomfortable moments in the washroom. Learning each camper's quirks and personality was an amazing experience.



One night, as we were getting ready for bed, a camper approached me to ask for something. He rarely spoke out loud and instead used an app on his phone to communicate. What followed was a long maze of guesses as he tried to show us what he wanted. After many attempts, we finally understood. He was asking for a scrap wire stripper. We didn't have one to give him, but through that moment, and through conversations with staff who had worked with him before, I learned that he is very skilled mechanically. He had even repaired a lawn mower for the camp once.

Another moment that stuck with me was when a camper told me that after camp he was going to meet his brand new niece. The smile on his face was one of the biggest I have ever seen. His joy was so contagious that I couldn't help but smile with him. Little moments like these built up throughout the week and made it incredibly meaningful to get to know everyone.

## ASHTON TAYLOR

When the week ended and campers were being picked up, it hit me how important this camp is to them. Many came to me asking for a hug before they left. Even though they had people they loved at home, they still didn't want to leave. That spoke volumes.



Ultimately, working at ASN was a powerful experience for me. I learned so much, grew in ways I didn't expect, and walked away knowing it was one of the most impactful and influential weeks I have ever had.



Ashton joined us in 2025 as a cabin leader and now is an intern for 2025/26

# the heart of the Youth Farm Mission

At the heart of Youth Farm Mission Center lies a simple but powerful vision: **"Love God, Love People."**

This vision shapes everything we do across our ministries and programs, guiding us to serve others, deepen our relationship with God, and build meaningful connections rooted in Christ. Youth Farm and its ministries are not just places of work, they are expressions of service, where every action becomes a way to share God's love and make a meaningful difference.

Our mission: **"Love God, Love People. Share Jesus by serving others, learning together and building meaningful connections in Christ"**. It is more than just a statement. It's a call to action, lived out through our core values: **Seek God, Serve People, Sacrifice, and Share**. Each of our ministries from local initiatives to

international outreach, plays a unique role in bringing this vision to life.

We offer all these ministries:

- 1) Summer Bible Camp
- 2) The 3E Internship Program
- 3) The Corn Maze
- 4) Valley Equestrian Centre
- 5) Aha! Adventures
- 6) Tabernacle of Moses Experience
- 7) Mexico Impact - Amor Ministries
- 8) Finca de Esperanza - YFBC Central America



# Reflection from a Camp Pastor

CONRAD JANTZEN

Youth Farm Bible Camp is precious, and I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve in ministry alongside a variety of staff over the years. Once again this year, the camp was a blessing to our family as we had opportunities for involvement in a variety of ways. My wife and I had some treasured times of rest and time together, and she enjoyed helping in the kitchen. Our youngest attended Day Camp, for which our oldest was a volunteer, and our middle child thoroughly enjoyed attending Teen Camp. It was my pleasure to speak and lead music for the Chapel sessions for both the Day and Teen campers, in addition to firesides.

“God calls us” was the theme for the week. I enjoyed my time of preparation and looked forward to sharing with the campers throughout the week. God calls us by name, He calls us to be a light in the dark, He calls us to be courageous. For each day’s theme, we had examples from Scripture. We also had a drama performance by camp staff to explain and illustrate the theme.

Leading into the second day, I had a problem. The theme for that day was: God calls us to wait. I prefer to be a man of action. I come up with plans. I strategize. I put my plans into place. Waiting does not fit well with my nature, nor with my mindset as I had arrived for an action-packed week at camp.



Luke 2:36–38 briefly tells us all we know about Anna, a widow who faithfully waited in the temple until she finally saw the newborn Messiah. Unlike many others, she recognized the Messiah. God had called her to wait. She waited faithfully, and in her old age was able to tell others that after a lifetime of waiting, she had seen the Saviour.

How could I tell the campers that God calls us to wait? I wrestled with God almost all night. My heart did not want to wait; I did not want to heed God’s call. I asked God for answers, for my next action plan, for something to do. God called me to wait.

Fortunately, God worked my heart into alignment with His message. I can only hope that He spoke to the campers through my exhausted lips; my heart, once again, was transformed and blessed through the camp ministry at Youth Farm Bible Camp.



Conrad was the pastor for the Teen Camp & Day Camp week

## 3E Internship

### SIENNA LYNN

Hey! My name is Sienna and I'm one of the interns for this year. I'd like to share my story of how God brought me into this incredible opportunity.

I all started toward the end of my grade 11 year. I was trying to figure out what I was supposed to do with my life after high school. I kept jumping back and forth with different career options, schools and programs. I had just gone to Youthquake with my best friend, and I kept hearing about doors being opened by God. Now, I figured that meant that you had to put the work in and God would be cheering you on from the sidelines while you do the work with blood, sweat and tears. I would later on realize it isn't like that at all. 2 and a half years went by. I looked at all sorts of colleges... From Capernwray, to Briercrest, to Millar. But nothing really caught my attention. I didn't just want to learn about God; I wanted an opportunity to put my faith into practice and serve others in a faith-based community. So I looked into YWAM, Global Mission and other missions sites. I wanted to have the chance to travel and work with kids, especially in a camp setting. But once again I could never seem to find anything that stood out to me. I was really lost and frustrated.

So I basically said, "I give up!" Not that long after, I was at my friend's house and I found out she was leaving for Capernwray in a couple weeks. I was very shocked to learn she had only applied a few weeks ago, and she had now been accepted. The day after submitting her application. When I asked her why she wanted to go there she said "God randomly put it on my heart to apply." So I did! Now, as you can probably imagine, I was really excited... however, and a little frustrated at the same time. Here was something I had a half years to hear some sort of clarity about. Why was this application so within and get in?! Later I found out that this was the day my family went to the Cornmaze.

A few weeks later, I was talking to my mom in the kitchen when she mentioned that she heard about an internship

while she was at the Cornmaze, and she thought I should look into it. So I did. And I found exactly what I had been searching for and more; travel, youth ministry, missions trips and learning... all in a close knit community. So I applied the next day, and within 3 weeks I was living at the camp.

Even though I came late, I still got accepted. I've been here two months, and I still can't believe the way everything worked out. When God opens doors in your life, saying yes can be the hardest part of it. The rest came so easily it completely turned my ideas for opening doors upside down. Living and learning with the other interns has been a blessing too. Between hanging out in the lounge, crazy Spanish classes or even road trips, I've made some

memories I'm sure I'll never forget. And I'm so grateful for the opportunity to learn more and make more memories and impact the lives of others in a way I would never have been able to do by myself. If there's one thing I could say about this whole situation, it's to trust in God's timing. We might feel like we have no sense of direction or it feels like God's not working in our lives, but just because we can't see it right now doesn't mean He isn't getting things ready. God's plans for us are greater than any we could have for ourselves, and joining the 3E internship has helped me realize that. I am so grateful for this incredible opportunity, and I can't wait to see what else God has in store.



Sienna joined us as an intern  
for 2025/26

## Learning Trip

This year the interns and I went on a trip exploring the Reformation and walking the path that Paul walked in Greece. We visited six different countries in the span of two weeks. There was so much to take in. The beauty, the history, the people. It was incredible learning everything from the beginning and end of the Reformation to temples and fortresses destroyed by the Ottoman Empire. There were so many experiences packed into those days that it became overwhelming at times. Sometimes in a good way, and other times not so much.

In Europe we stopped in Frankfurt, Worms, Strasbourg, Basel, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and Austria. We visited historical monuments and museums, gothic cathedrals that spoke through statues and architecture and even buried bodies, and a Christmas market that brought a bit of early Christmas joy. We experienced the culture of every country we entered, and now all I want is to go back and never leave. We visited places where Anabaptism first took shape and where believers hid to talk about their faith. In Austria we stood where people took their stand against Hitler. We saw the Rhine River and its falls, visited medieval cathedrals, learned about the first printing press by Gutenberg, and heard stories of important preachers like Martin Bucer, Matthias and his wife Katharina Zell who sheltered hundreds of refugees. We learned that the Reformation



### SOPHIA IRODENKO

wasn't just about change, but about growth, hospitality, love, and courage.

We spent the next few days in Greece learning about Paul and the things he wrote to different churches and communities. The beauty of Greece was on another level. We saw Meteora, which looked like monasteries floating on top of giant rock pillars. We learned so much about the Orthodox Church and its history. We visited the ocean and swam in the salty water. We explored fortresses, temples, and ancient cities. Not to brag, but I probably walked and sat on the same rocks Paul did. I even got to share a devotional on Mars Hill about the same message Paul gave in Athens, explaining how the "unknown god" they worshiped is the true God. That was such an amazing experience.

Overall, the trip was incredible. I learned and grew so much in those two weeks, and I will definitely be going back one day. I am so grateful for an experience like this, and I can't wait for more opportunities like it in the future.



**Sophia joined us an intern  
for 2025/26**

# Aha! Adven<sup>ture</sup>s

ANG HARDER

I write this review with much gratitude for God's provision and guidance throughout the whole summer. At the start of the season, I felt the Lord ask me, "Would you give me your canoe program?" I thought I already had, but I realized He was asking for surrender at a deeper level.



God gave me a picture of a perfect reflection on a lake with the sky mirrored on it, so perfect that you feel like you are canoeing in the heavens. That was what He and I wanted for the summer: heaven to touch earth on the canoe trips.

The Lord took over, and I felt like I was a participant as I witnessed what He could do when I gave it over to Him. The guides woke up earlier each day for our guides' meeting with our Heavenly Father, and He shared what He wanted us to know each day and what we should do. We saw youth say yes to Jesus, we saw God answer prayers by taking away fear and healing stomach aches, and we saw Jesus speak to the teens in very real ways as they surrendered things to God, symbolized by throwing sticks in a fire. We witnessed three teens get baptized as they made public commitments to give Jesus their allegiance for the rest of their lives. We saw teens encounter Jesus as they experienced one of the boys get an eye injury and have to be evacuated. God spoke to them personally as many prayers were lifted up. They could witness how he was taken care of and received full healing in his eye.

God gave us strength when our van windows were vandalized and rocks broke our back and side windows. God guided us in making plan B's when the smoke and fire changed our plans. God provided strength by bringing people to help carry loads when knees were weak. He brought Marc, Pastor Justin, Pastor

Deb, and Abbie as speakers on our trips, and they did an amazing job of living out and sharing the good news of God's Kingdom. Audrey and Steven were a great help as they worked hard to guide and lead. Some parents and youth leaders helped out to keep the energy up, and everyone looked after one another.



Our adult trips took us from rivers in southern Alberta and the Pink River in Saskatchewan to the Coppermine River in Nunavut. We witnessed God's beauty on display as we canoeed to the Arctic Ocean, caught Arctic Char, saw waterfalls, white wolves, and caribou. God protected us from making a crossing before a violent storm hit, as well as paddling through an area before a new fire started. In September, we had an island retreat with an outstanding group of ladies and ended the season on the Kootenay River with turkey in the woods.

It was an amazing summer. Thank you, God!



Ang leads Aha!  
Adventures.

# Youth Farm Corn Maze

## "Anabaptist 500"

LIAM KINNEAR



The Corn Maze season gave me tools I never expected to gain. When we started the season I was placed in a very specific but important role, one that I had no idea a new staff member could start in: The admissions booth. I was introducing people to a Corn Maze that I barely knew myself, and my goodness was it evident. People would ask me what the corn maze had to offer and I would usually respond along the lines of "Let me just call someone really quickly here." But now, after a full corn maze season, I can say that I have that list of activities memorized better than most bible verses- which is probably not a good sign.

As it was also the first time I had ever been in an admissions booth I was a little bit flustered to begin with, doing things that were probably not necessary, like putting wristbands on every single person on one of the days that we had over one thousand people come to the maze. But when the season was over I learned the value of efficiency. Maybe I could let our customers do the wristbands themselves if the lines are long. Maybe I'll have popcorn pre-made so that when someone orders it they don't have to wait fifteen minutes. Maybe I'll learn how to let people into the Corn Maze respectfully, but

also at a reasonable pace so I could get to the next person in good time.

The last example brings me to the tool I value the most coming out of the corn maze season. How to interact with people! I talked to over twenty thousand people during the span of three months. I think part of the reason I was put into the admissions booth is my ability to cheerfully interact with people, but after this season was done I came to a conclusion that has changed how I view social interactions. Everyone you talk to is just another person. They have lives and struggles and amazing stories, just the same as anyone else. It sounds simple, but any social anxiety I had before, feels so minor now. A simple "Good Morning!" or "How are you doing today!" to a random person on the street is a perfect way to bring people closer together, they're not going to judge you! Make eye contact! Smile! These are all things that make humans more connected.

The Corn Maze wasn't just another event for parents to lose their children and cry. It was a place that brought strangers together. So that we as a community of normal people, can realize that strangers aren't all that strange to begin with.



Liam joined us as an intern for 2025/26

# Mexico Impact

KIM WORTHINGTON

With my daughter being in the Mexico trip the previous two years, I had an idea of what to expect. Having said that, I was also unsure and nervous as I had never been to a different culture before.

For me the best part was the people. Our team, the people we served in Mexico, and the way we all worked together. It was a long drive which I really enjoyed and the work was hard but it was so worth it as we watched Mark hand over the keys of the home to the new owners.

What I also appreciated was how respected YFBC was by the locals and Amor ministries. It is clear that Mark has invested time and energy into building relationships in Mexico and to me, that goes a long way. It was such a blessing to be part of Hod's work in Mexico. I hope to go again, as it was good for me as a pastor to be able to minister outside of my community. I want to thank all the YFCB staff for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of such a special trip.



Kim joined us for  
our Mexico trip 2025



# Tabernacle of Moses

ELEANOR FUNK

Although the truth of the Cross was not new to the Tabernacle teaching, a physical 20 foot cross surrounded by an altar was new this year. The cross is the central theme of the Bible, both Old Testament and New Testament. As early as Numbers 2 and 3 there is an image of the cross. The twelve tribes were arranged around the Tabernacle of Moses in the wilderness when at Mount Sinai. The three smallest tribes were located to the West of the Tabernacle, the three largest tribes were located to the East of the Tabernacle, and the six of equal size, three on the South and three on the North of the Tabernacle. A drone view would reveal the shape of a cross, black tents on terra cotta colored soil. The arrangement of the furniture within the Tabernacle complex also formed the image of a cross.

The emphasis during camp this year was how Jesus, the Lamb of God, fulfilled the Old Testament Tabernacle rituals. The campers were taken on an imaginary trip from the inauguration of the Tabernacle in the wilderness, approximately 1450

BCE, to the present day fulfilment in Jesus Christ.

While in the wilderness, the twelve tribes were camped around the Tabernacle at the foot of Mount Sinai



and practiced the law as given to Moses and recorded in the book of Leviticus. The high priest was to offer an animal sacrifice every morning and every evening on behalf of the people, as recorded in Exodus 29 verses 38 to 43.

In addition, offerings by the people were accepted, initially for the

construction of the Tabernacle as recorded in Exodus 35 verses 20 to 29, and later as recorded in Leviticus chapters 1 to 7, 2 Chronicles 31 verse 14 and Psalm 54 verses 6 to 7. These were considered voluntary offerings by the people.

In our day, God is still seeking voluntary offerings, but He is not looking for animal substitutes. He is looking for a broken and contrite heart as described in Psalm 51 verses 15 to 17. At this point in the lesson each camper was given a small red heart and then we proceeded from our meeting place, the first flag pole south of the Tabernacle, to the eastern gate of the Tabernacle courtyard.

The Israelites were to bring their offerings to the eastern gate where the priests and their designated helpers, persons from the tribe of Levi, would assist in the preparations of the offerings. The priest would take the offerings brought by the people and perform the sacrificial ceremony, at which time the people would leave to go back to their tents.

During the time of Moses to David this place represented death and discouragement. Year after year the people would bring their offerings, which were killed and offered, but they were never allowed inside the Tabernacle precincts into the presence of God.



When God's plan for the Temple was given to David, but built by Solomon and established in Jerusalem as recorded in 1 Chronicles 28 verse 19, around 1000 BCE, the emphasis shifted from discouragement to praise, as seen in 1 Chronicles 15 verses 16 to 28.

Then one thousand years after David, Jesus came as the Lamb of God, as stated in John 1 verse 29, ushering in the New Covenant, the fulfilment of the Tabernacle of Moses pattern. From the eastern gate the campers proceeded to the cross, which is set up about 30 feet east of the eastern gate of the Tabernacle courtyard.

At the foot of the cross the plan of salvation was explained using Romans 10 verses 9 to 10, and campers were given the opportunity to hand their heart to the group leader who in turn pinned it to the cross. At the end of the camp season there were approximately 350 little red hearts pinned to the cross. After the last

week of camp they were taken off the cross, put in a container, and placed under the deck boards at the foot of the cross for safe keeping.

From here the campers proceeded to a tent which represented the empty tomb and were given a white robe representing the receiving of the righteousness of the risen Christ. Then we proceeded

back to the courtyard and into the Tabernacle proper, since after receiving Jesus Christ as our Savior we are considered to be a royal priesthood, as stated in 1 Peter 2 verses 9 to 10, and are allowed and encouraged to enter His holy presence with boldness and with confidence as described in Hebrews 4 verses 14 to 16.

During corn maze the Tabernacle is open and, over the last six years, people from twenty one different countries have visited the Tabernacle. To God be the Glory!



Eleanor has been passionately presenting the Tabernacle for more than 40 years!

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

**JANUARY 1, 2026**

ALL INFORMATION IS  
ONLINE AT:

**WWW.YFBC.COM**  
LOVE GOD LOVE PEOPLE

# From Camp to Nicaragua

DANIEL WIEBE

Another summer has come and gone at the Youth Farm Bible Camp. This summer I enjoyed my time with the team so much. We had great summer staff dynamics, largely due to our annual internship program and the year long relationships that are developed. This, together with energetic new staff who came alongside, made for a lot of fun. Andreas, for example, came to us all the way from Brazil to be our program director. He was my kindred spirit because he was always looking for someone to prank. I of course do not ever prank people, but I am happy to offer advice to anyone who wants to, unless they



are pranking my own car... unbelievable.

Camps were a blast as always, and my role, like normal, was to mostly look on from a roof that I am building. I was camp speaker for a week, however,

which was definitely a

highlight for me.

When asking

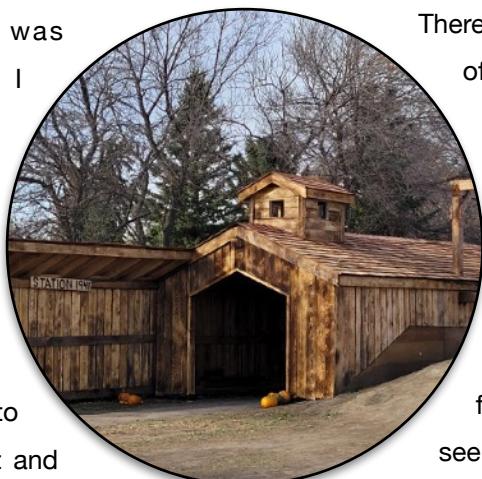
Mark if I could bring a horse into the chapel for one of my talks, he said "no." I think what he meant was "maybe," so I brought a pony instead.

There is never a dull moment at camp, and it is pure joy to be a part of it and the ministries that flow out of it.



I have become Dan the Builder on site, so I suppose I should mention the things I built. Let me see, I fixed a couple of toilets, no wait, I suppose that isn't worth an annual report. Train tunnel. Yes, this sounds better. I built a train tunnel and a zip line this year, and I am proud to announce that no one was seriously injured from my zip line.

The train tunnel turned out so pretty that Mark and I have been dreaming about how to make an entire old town to match it, but as we say in Nicaragua, poco a poco, little by little.



There are a number of other things I got to build too, but I guess you will just have to come by the farm yourself to see.

My partnership with YFBC ministries has been really rich because not only do I get to be a part of camp and use my skills while there, but I have a team of people who are now invested in what we do in Central America. Mark often offers advice and counsel, not to mention accountability.

The interns who come every winter bring energy and excitement to our youth and kids programs. This last year we welcomed another epic team who connected with our youth in such a powerful way that they were all in tears when their vehicle pulled away to leave for the airport. Not only were our youth crying but half of the interns too, which for me proved the success of their trip.

So thank you to the team at the youth farm bible camp for their partnership and to you for reading this and for your continued support either directly or indirectly. We call ourselves “Esperanza” ministries which in Spanish



means hope. You can find out more about what we do by signing up to be part of our blog at [the-wiebe-family.epistle.org](http://the-wiebe-family.epistle.org)

Thanks for reading and be blessed.



Daniel is a missionary in Central America. He gives leadership for the 3 E Nicaragua trip & is a YFBC staff for summer and fall



# Valley Equestrian Centre

KATHLEEN BRAUN

2025 was a season of growth for the Valley Equestrian Centre! We saw the return of horse camps, a full summer volunteer schedule, additional lessons taught, events, extra curricular learning opportunities and new infrastructure created.

There were 5 horse camps run this year, a beginner horse camp during February break, an intermediate horse camp during February break and 2 beginner horse camps in the summer as well as one little tykes camp. There were some learning bumps along the way but responses were positive. The intermediate camp during the February break wasn't as well attended as anticipated so we will put those on hold for now. We also provided horsemanship as a skill option for the children's and Jr teen camps. Horses also came to the petting zoo during Adult Special Needs camps. They were invited to interact with the horses they brushed, painted and braided them.

We had 14 young volunteers this summer rotating through the seven weeks of camp. These volunteers stayed in the cabins and were involved in camp activities outside of their volunteering at VEC. They were able to take part in the junior staff Bible study and attend evening campfire devotionals. There was so

much personal growth in the volunteers over the summer! It was an honour to work alongside each and every one of them. With their help so many projects got completed including painting gates different colours to help students find what pen their horses are in, cleaning up fence lines, and cleaning all of the tack. They also learned about what goes into the daily care of these beautiful creatures.

We also had many adult volunteers help with large projects like trimming the elderly trees on our fence lines, trimming the trees planted a few years ago to encourage strong growth and repairing jumps. We have had so many offers of help! Students from Rosthern Junior College came for a day to help complete some projects. Grace Mennonite Church in Neuanlauge came out twice with both the junior and senior youth groups. There was lots of random volunteering like assistance deworming, bringing horses in for the farrier, decorating for events, and assisting during events.



This year we had one of the 3E interns, Ashley Neudorf, serve as the summer staff at VEC. I taught Monday and Thursday evenings in the spring and fall and just Thursday evenings throughout the summer, as well as many therapy sessions and assessment rides. Cheralyne taught Tuesday and Wednesday evenings as well as Thursday mornings. Ashley did a lot of the leading of the horse camps in the afternoons and coordination and teaching of the volunteers, she taught some lessons on Friday afternoons as well.

Cheralyne and I have had such a great year working together. We officially made the change to myself becoming the horsemanship director at the start of the year. It's so beautiful to see the ministry blossom through our combined love for the lord, each other and each and every one of our students and working with the gifts god gave each of us. Cheralyne and I both attended many events and continuing education opportunities.

We strive to know more and do better. This fall I had surgery and I was pleased to add Jenna to the team. Jenna has hundreds of volunteering hours at VEC. She has been dedicated to learning the horses and their care.

This year we hosted 3 major events, our two day spring eventing clinic in April. Our Autumn Fun Fall show in October which was a day of Dressage followed by a hunter derby. We hosted a wind up Christmas Course Day in December. All three events were well attended.

We had a couple of quite injured horses over summer so volunteers got to learn about wound care, some were able to do injections and medication administration. A couple of students attended a veterinary learning session with myself this fall. Several students came to our annual vet appointments and the Vets from Rhythm Equine Veterinary Services and NorSask Veterinary Rosthern were great to have them be involved. We have had some student equine body workers from Natural Touch Therapy Institute come and work on horses as well. They let volunteers watch and talk them through what they were doing. Our wonderful

farrers Dave and Krissy have been so great to teach students as well.

Last year it was determined that the effort to maintain the outdoor arena or to revitalize it was not cost effective. We decided instead to focus on creating a Cross Country/ Natural trail course in an existing pasture. We had a large donation from Boschman Mobile Services who donated all equipment use and time to create terrain for our Cross Country/ Natural Trail Course. It is much needed on our flat prairie land. It was used a lot at the end of summer for teaching students how to ride up and down hills and across ditches. This course has created a lot of excitement. We are also thankful to Epic Electric for their donation towards wiring the alley lights on a separate switch so we don't have to light the whole arena to get tack up or work on a horse.

This year we purchased one horse and had one horse donated. We had to say goodbye to three horses this year. As our lesson herd ages it is difficult to make these decisions but as good stewards we value quality of

life over quantity. We have over ten horses serving the program that range from 20-32 years old. The expected lifespan of a horse is about 25 years. To have so many of these horses comfortably serving the camp is a testament to Gods provision and our good stewardship of these beloved horses. We have taken on several new boarders with some being used in our camp and lesson programs.

Please pray for a new ministry based program called Ladies and Liberty and Young Ladies and Liberty that we plan to run in the new year. Please pray that we are able to find a great complement for our summer staff of 2026. Pray for wisdom as we seek a heated feed and tack shed. With the addition of boarders we are really tight in the existing tack room. We don't have access to running water or a place to keep medications warm on the VEC yard. We are also in need of additional beginner and advanced lesson horses.

It has been such an honour to serve with the Youth Farm Bible Camp this year and I am looking forward to touching more hearts through the ministry of horses in 2026.



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

**Kathleen is the Horsemanship Director of the Valley Equestrian Centre**



# Site Manager

## JACOB WIELINGA

As the thoughts of how to summarize 2025 in this year-end report circulate in my brain, it feels strange to admit that December is just around the corner. Yes, our fall Corn Maze had its closing fireworks almost four weeks ago, and all the activities have been cleaned up. We have also been busy setting up for our December Christmas Meal Fundraiser and preparing for three weekends of the Corn Maze Christmas Drive-Thru. A thin layer of snow now covers the landscape and ice lies just below.

But the warm weather has stuck around, and somehow we are within a week of December. Even today we were able to do some outdoor setup without bundling up too much. It also gave us a chance to do some health maintenance on our petting zoo animals and adjust a few shelters before winter truly settles in. We know this warm weather will disappear soon, so we will hold on to it while we can.

Our fall Corn Maze event seemed like people wanted to hold on to it as long as possible too. We had steady to strong attendance through the last weekend of October, and even decided to open on November 1 so we could enjoy one more afternoon with our greater community under sunny skies. That final day also included smashing some leftover pumpkins, which our petting zoo animals are still enjoying. Thank you to everyone who came through our gates this fall. A big shout-out also goes to our staff and volunteers who helped make the 2025 Corn Maze season possible and easier to manage.

“God Calls” was our 2025 summer camp theme. Campers reflected on stories throughout Scripture about people who were called and led by God in many different ways. Those

stories challenged all of us to stay open and attentive to how God might be calling and leading us in our own situations and seasons of life.

Spring and summer felt like a blender when it came to job responsibilities. There was planting and maintaining the pumpkin and sunflower fields. I started working on window upgrades. There was time spent with campers driving them

to the pool, sharing meals, being part of activities, and hanging out during free time. The corn maze field, hay fields, and lawns all demanded attention as they grew. And of course there were the toilets, door handles, garbages, and many other things that needed regular care.

Daniel helped again this summer with various building projects and with encouraging staff and campers. You can read his report for more details. We also hosted school groups and church organizations throughout the spring and fall. They experienced a fuller and more detailed taste of what we offer here compared to those who visit only for the day during corn maze season. We were blessed by the many staff and volunteers who helped keep things growing and flowing.



As I look back on 2025, one small and simple yet significant rhythm stands out. Sitting on the front porch after lunch whenever we could, taking a few minutes with some staff to gather our thoughts before heading out for afternoon tasks. The to-do lists never end. There is always something waiting. But the chance to pause together, to share what is on our hearts and minds, and to reflect on God's Word is something I will remember for years.

One front-porch reflection that impacted me deeply was reading from Matthew 11:28-29. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest... and you will find rest for your soul." It does not say God will take all our burdens away, though that would be wonderful. Instead, while we are weary and burdened, He invites us to come, and He gives our souls rest.

I don't know where this report finds you today. I imagine daily tasks can feel overwhelming at times. I hope you can find a front porch of your own this week, a place where you can rest and reflect on God and the people He has placed in your life.



**Jacob has been serving as  
Site Manager since 2016  
and also as the Work  
Experience Coordinator for  
the 3E Internship Program**



# From the Board Chair

BRUCE JANTZEN

Being part of YFBC is important to me because of all the lives that are touched each and every year. Through the summer of camp, children's camps, adult special needs, horse camps, teen camps, day camps, all of the people who are involved in camp over the summer each year, is incredible.

Beyond that is the canoe trips, the intern program, the horse program, the Tabernacle experience, and the corn maze, along with the corn maze Christmas and all the other events and gatherings that happen at YFBC throughout the year add up to one happening place!

It is not about the numbers of people we put through each day, or the ages of those people, or even what they come to see, what we seek is to glorify our God by how we respond to each and every one. From teaching, modelling, caring for and helping as well as serving with a smile and with a joy that can only come from knowing Jesus, the staff at YFBC strives to honour God by their living.

I was always amazed by the families that came to the corn maze and all the children! They were so exuberant and excited just to be there. They gave us as volunteers the opportunity to have a glimpse into their lives and to perhaps touch them with the joy of Jesus in some way just by being there and interacting with them.

The focus of YFBC is and has always been to serve God and to help others to do the same. We are very blessed to have such a large and faithful group of people and churches that support what is done at YFBC. This support includes all those who offer of themselves a way to serve God in obedience even when they may not be able to physically be there.

This is a place where peoples lives are impacted for the Lord in ways that cannot always be anticipated and that keep us recognizing that this is not our work but the work of the Lord that we are participating in.

Thank you to all who have participated in some way this past year and we ask that you continue to pray for all of us here and for all that is done here in the name of the Lord Jesus. Pray that we may continue to honour God by all we do at YFBC and that through our efforts many may come to know Jesus personally.



Bruce is the  
Board  
Chairman  
Person

LOVE GOD.  
LOVE PEOPLE.  
SHARE JESUS.



**YFBC Mission**  
Share Jesus with People and Provide a Place to Serve  
Core Values - Serve, Sacrifice, Share, Seek

# Executive Director

MARK WURTZ

Our summer theme at Bible Camp this year was God Calls. We believe that when we live out the calling God has placed on our lives, we discover deep fulfillment. It is not always easy, but it is always life-giving. For me, living out my calling at the Youth Farm for the past twenty-five years has been one of the great privileges of my life. We have witnessed countless children, youth, adults, campers, interns, volunteers, and staff grow in their relationship with our Creator, discovering that God truly calls ordinary people into extraordinary Kingdom work.

Over this past year, I have reflected often on Paul's missionary journeys, especially his moment of stepping into Europe for the first time on his second journey. In Philippi, he baptized Lydia, was unjustly beaten and jailed with Silas, sang hymns in the night, and then stayed put during an earthquake so that the jailor, the very man who had beaten him, could meet Christ. Paul and Silas lived with such clarity of calling that they could discern the Spirit's leading, endure suffering, and demonstrate love to their enemy. The church born in Philippi became a powerful testimony to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.



We see echoes of that same transformation today. The courage of the early Anabaptists, whose radical commitment to Jesus we celebrated this year during the 500-year anniversary of Anabaptism, also inspires us. Their story reminds us that when disciples remain faithful to God's call, even in the face of hardship, the church flourishes.

This has been a significant year of governance change at the Youth Farm. We have officially changed our name to

Youth Farm Mission Centre, with Youth Farm Bible Camp now understood as one of several ministry expressions under this larger umbrella.

These diverse ministries are united by one mission: to share Jesus with people and provide a place for people to serve.



We have also completed a major transition in which we are now our own charitable organization, no longer legally under Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. Even so, we remain deeply connected to our home denomination and continue to value our shared roots. Our appreciation for Anabaptist theology has grown stronger than ever, and our fall Corn Maze celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Radical Reformation. This year, our interns visited Germany, France, and Switzerland to stand in the places where early Anabaptists lived, suffered, and witnessed boldly to Christ. Their transformation mirrors the same Spirit-empowered change seen in Paul's story, and we believe it remains available to every follower of Jesus today.

God has called me to the Youth Farm, and that calling continues to shape my life. I am grateful for the past twenty-five years and look forward, Lord willing, to the next twenty-five years of serving together in this place.

To God be the glory.

Mark has  
been YFBC's  
Executive  
Director since  
2001.



# Youth CAMP

Summer 2026



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