

Youth Farm Bible Camp



2022 Annual Report



**SUMMER
CAMPS**
PAGE 5



**AHA!
ADVENTURES**
PAGE 11



CORN MAZE
PAGE 12

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Contents

PRAY!

04 2022 YFBC Theme

CAMP AT YFBC

05 Children & Youth Camps

06 Adult Special Needs

07 Junior Staff Program

REFLECTION FROM A CAMP PASTOR

08 by Shelby Goertzen

YFBC MINISTRIES

10 3E Internship

11 Aha! Adventures

12 Corn Maze

14 Tabernacle

16 Nicaragua

18 Mexico Impact

19 A Journey to Israel

20 Valley Equestrian Centre

A FEW WORDS FROM STAFF

21 Site Manager

22 Board Chair

23 Executive Director





PRAY!

2022 YFBC THEME

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

John 17:20-21a

Ten years ago, the theme of the summer was “God’s people pray.” This year we brought back the importance of prayer, and we invited all our campers and staff to PRAY! Every day of camp, we seek to learn and to practice together how to pray, how to talk to God who is present and also willing to talk with us.

On the first day of the camp week, we talked about the dreams and purpose of our life. God as a Father wants to make our dreams come alive and answer our prayers aligned with His will. So, if we abide in Him and know His Word, we will dream His dreams, and then yes, whatever we ask we will receive because our heart will be ready to receive, and our dreams will please Him. (Matthew 21:22)

For the second day, we talked about hope. We all know that our relationship with God is broken because of sin. We are broken and we need redemption. Jesus is the only hope. When we have our hearts in Jesus and we receive of His hope, we are transformed, and what we receive doesn’t reach only us, but this new life reaches everyone around us. (Romans 15:13)

On the third day, we talked that we serve a King, and our allegiance is to Him. We are reminded of Daniel’s story where he served and feared the Lord regardless of what others would say about him. He didn’t bow down and pray to the Babylon king. He prayed to God - the real King even when everything was against him. He went to the lion’s den and the true King saved his life. (Colossians 1:13)



On the fourth day, we talked about the role we have in reconnecting people to God. Jesus died on the cross to connect us to God, and with people. When we are in Him, we have through Holy Spirit a way to bless everyone around us. Jesus prayed the Holy Spirit over us, and He called us to do the same, he has called us to serve people and connect

them to God; through the powerful example of Father, Son, Holy Spirit. (John 20:21-22)

And on the last day, we learned about what Jesus prayed for us. He prayed for our unity. He showed us how to be one. As people of God, we should pray for the church and for each other as Jesus did. We should seek to be in unity with God, his people, and His Church (John 17:21)

Children & Youth Camps

CASSIDY JANZEN

In the summer of 2022 I started summer camp. This was my first time participating at a camp. I was a camp counsellor for the whole summer and got to experience all ages. We spent a lot of time outside doing a lot of activities from making cardboard fortresses and knocking them down with a huge water balloon slingshot and seeing which one was the strongest to playing soccer, jumping on the pillow and playing life-size clue.

I really enjoyed getting to know the kids throughout the weeks from

creating that deep relationship with them to just being really silly. I loved watching them have fun. One of the weeks my girls and I had a dance party. I put on some music and we just danced and sang our hearts out in the cabin. it was so much fun. The other girl cabins beside us heard us and joined in. It's the fun little things you do that you remember the most especially when we have the Bible study before we go to bed.



Sometimes the kids were too rowdy because of how excited they were to be here, but with some time I was able to calm them down so I could tell them about how Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

One evening at the end of the last night, we got a chance to take the kids up in the hayloft where we had lights setup along the inside of the barn along with bales to sit on. We had a worship and prayer night where we asked the Lord to come in and fill our hearts with His love. After the worship time we prayed for each of the kids individually and filled their hearts with joy and comfort. I am very happy with the experience all these kids have had and I can't wait for them to more memories next year!



Memory Verses

If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. Matthew 21:22

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. Colossians 1:13

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:21-22

That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. John



Cassidy has attended camp many times & is now a 3E intern for 2022/3!

Adult Special Needs Camp

BETHANY SCOTT

To the delight of the staff and colleagues, Youth Farm Bible Camp hosted the Adult Special Needs camp with great success for summer 2022. Stories filled the air as new and experienced staff laughed and encouraged one another through serving these amazing people. Many of us would testify that the Lord used these weeks to teach patience, selflessness and adaptability. Though our theme this year was on prayer, our campers taught and blessed us more than they understand.

Learning to laugh and to simply bring a smile into a room was all that these people needed. Every week we would go to Fort Carlton, and there the campers had an amazing time trying on furs and walking around the wall at least 40 feet high. We also went swimming which was great, especially on the scorching hot days allowing us to cool off. It also



and in worship that he brought his guitar to camp and insisted on joining the worship team where we could never stop him from his joy of singing.

At the end of the day, each cabin would gather together and have a devotion. As a cabin counsellor I watched the ladies in my cabin listen intently to the stories of the Bible. When the devotions would end, my cabin enjoyed hearing stories as I read from the Bible. For several of my campers that was their favourite time too, when I would read them to sleep.



Every camper was overjoyed to be there and showed their joy

through big bear hugs! Our first game was musical chairs, and although some people were nervous, many joined in and showed their best dance moves!

created a childlike atmosphere as we witnessed these men and women enjoying themselves.

I witnessed a simple joy, heart and love in the lives of these individuals. Personally, watching people sing and dance at the chapel was one of my warmest memories. I recall one gentleman who was so content in the chapel

At the end of the weeks, there may have been tears, but the memories and the hoedowns allowed people to carry the joy of the Lord back home as we kept their encouragement in our hearts. It was an honour to serve in this capacity as I relook at the summer. To the team at Youth Farm Bible Camp and to the campers who blessed me I am truly grateful to be included in this ministry.



Bethany is from Calgary, Alberta and joined us in 2022 as a counsellor and

Junior Staff

GUSTAVO ARAUJO

Every summer camp season it's a time of lots of fun, it's a time to connect, a time to make friends and a time to grow.

This past summer I had the opportunity to walk alongside of an awesome group of teenagers, and as the weeks went by, we learned many lessons together.

We laughed, we played, we cried, we told our stories, and we shared life in the YFBC community.

We challenged each other to talk more with God in our daily life. We



encouraged each other to look at ourselves with God's perspective. We were reminded that we are special and called by Him to an alive and fulfilled life. And we also worked hard and served with a grateful heart. Some worked in the cabins with campers,



others with jobs in the yard in maintenance and in the kitchen.

In everything we saw how great it is being part of a place we can serve, learn, and have fun all at once! As always, at the end of the season

we have that feeling of wanting to spend more time with our



new friends and in a place that we definitely can call home. If you know any of the teenagers that served this past summer ask them, I'm sure they have so many stories and good memories to tell. And lastly, if you have children or kids between the ages of 15-18, send them to serve with us. We would love to walk along side them! Blessings!

Gustavo is the Spiritual Director at YFBC and has served with us since 2015



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

Reflection

from a Camp Pastor

SHELBY GOERTZEN

Hello Friends!

My name is Shelby Goertzen. I am youth pastor in Hague Community Church and I run the youth drop-in Centre called The Zone. I had the absolute privilege of being camp pastor one of the first weeks of camp.

YFBC's theme this year was Pray. We talked about how we have dreams for our lives and how



these are good things! How in the Kingdom we can find unity and identity and how that can change us.

One of the stories I was able to share was a metaphor for the Kingdom of heaven. I once got to

Witness a swearing in ceremony into Canada's military. It was a very formal occasion and the oath that was said, was said in reverence, making clear the full weight or allegiance. There is an expectation that is expected to be met with



obedience and submission to the higher authority. This should be the kind of sovereignty that we come with when we dedicate our lives to Jesus, where baptism becomes a kind of swearing in ceremony into the Kingdom of heaven. Where we march forward into the Kingdom of Heaven together under the banner of Christ. Here we find a new brotherhood, being and purpose.

LOVE GOD - LOVE PEOPLE



Satan uses despair and isolation to slow the Kingdom of God, and once we replace the lies of loneliness and uselessness with that belonging and purpose, we can drive the kingdom forward with boldness! The campers' eyes sparkled when they understood that they have an active role to play in this life! And my prayer is that they don't lose that fire but can nurture it, and same for you reading this! Pray! Ask for the things on your heart in accordance to the scriptures! Now go and do the thing!



Shelby has been on summer staff at YFBC since 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, who want 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 for 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 their 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 think 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



3E Internship

NEKAELLY



Has it really been a year since the 3E Internship Program began for Alysia, Dennis, ChristyAnn, and I? We were blessed to spend this last year at the Youth Farm studying God's Word, growing in our personal walk with God, serving the community in a variety of ways, going on a mission trip to Nicaragua and Mexico, serving at summer camp in leadership roles, and ultimately having our lives transformed and shaped for what God has in store for us. The time has flown by, but what we have learned and experienced will never be forgotten.



Being in Nicaragua opened my eyes to a different culture and way of living: to live simply and peacefully, and not be rushed to accomplish everything right away. The majority of Nica people live in poverty and face struggles we can hardly imagine, but they live richly in heart, enjoying the day-to-day process of living in community with one another. The others and I arrived expecting to bless and

minister to them, but in the end they blessed us so much more by demonstrating the love of Christ and giving generously to us of all they had. I was personally challenged in many ways, such as communicating and leading worship in another language, living in a concrete house in a poverty-stricken community, and seeking to help people build homes in circumstances that seem hopeless. My greatest challenge, however, was to surrender everything I thought I knew and to hold on to the one thing that is certain: God. And that has changed everything.



If I could put the internship into one word, it would be humbling. I stepped into this program with confidence that I would grow and be developed to serve in further ministry, ready for anything to come. Stepping out, I have grown and developed immensely, but also am humbled by realizing all the ways I have yet to grow, being

content that God can use me wherever I am at. Growing in faith is a long, transformational journey, which means that the challenging, gut-wrenching, and painful circumstances that we each undergo are part of the process of becoming more like Him. But the beautiful thing is that Jesus has shown us mercy in our struggles, for "He humbled Himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:8) Through the internship God has humbled me to seek Him with all of my heart, to follow Him with every aspect of my being, and to serve Him in ministry with my whole life. It was a humbling, transformational, and unforgettable adventure that I would recommend to all young adults seeking to know God and know themselves more deeply.



Nekaelly first connected with YFBC in 2019 and currently serves full time at MCC Clothes

Aha! Adventures

ANG HARDER



Our new canoe program, Aha! Adventures had a successful second season this year. We were able to run 9 trips and 2 canoe instructional programs. We explored

A highlight of our Aha!

women and encourage them to learn new skills. We had beautiful, calm weather for our teen trip and there was a lot of swimming, fishing and playing in the water. Our theme on these trips was about our identity in creation and "Being designed with a purpose".



Adventure trips, was a full trip on the Wind River in the Yukon. It is a trip with crystal clear water, stunning mountain scenery and we had lots of time to hike and explore. On the trip we encountered high water, which made the trip more challenging with the wood in the water. On our second day on the river, we helped rescue a father and son from the river where they had capsized and gotten into trouble. God had us at the right place and right time to be able to help them. They ended up joining our group for the rest of the trip and we enjoyed their company.

as far as the Wind River in the Yukon, a canoe course in Alberta and on the Frenchman River in southern Saskatchewan. We did spend most of our time in northern Sask and enjoyed the Churchill River system and paddled the Geike River farther north.

We continued to offer two types of trips. Aha! Adventure trips focused on wilderness tripping, canoe skills and exploring. The Deep Adventure trips included those elements, with the focus on getting deeper with God in creation.



Two highlights of the Deep Adventure trips were our full women's trip and the teen canoe trip. It was great to cook, serve and teach other



The past summer was a full season and we are very thankful God has brought the people to us to have a successful season to build on. God is so faithful to provide all we need for instructors, gear and participants. I hope you would consider joining us for a deep adventure to encounter God in the wilderness next summer.

We have an exciting new line up and an expanded youth canoe program. We will have lots of variety from a marriage builder trip, Bloodvein River in Manitoba to the unique Athabasca Sand Dunes in the north.



Ang moved from Calgary to joined the YFBC staff in May of 2021. She leads Aha! Adventures.

Youth Farm Corn Maze

“The Mennonite Moses”

NICK PARKES

The 2022 fall season was a milestone year for the Youth Farm Corn Maze. Blessed with a series of beautiful weekends through September and into October, attendance record after attendance record fell this year. First we saw the single largest day with over 2200 people coming through the gates. That same weekend we welcomed around 5000 people in total. For the full season more than 27000 people enjoyed the many activities the Corn Maze has to offer.

There were many moments of reflection on how much the Corn Maze has developed over the years, 14 in fact, and thinking back to its very humble beginnings it

was wonderful to see the realization and development of a vision that continues to grow. This year the new big attraction was the giant slide which was a major hit with all who experienced it.

The Corn Maze itself was a celebration of David Toews “The Mennonite Moses” who began the process of bringing over 20000 Mennonites from Russia into Canada 100 years ago. The design of the maze and information that was given out to those who came connected many people with the



history of Mennonites in Canada as well as the great sacrifice and effort that went into relocating so many people and providing them relief from much suffering and hardship.

While we remembered this great journey, we were humbled to learn of the many groups and schools that travelled so far to experience the Corn Maze. We welcomed groups from Pelican Narrows, Deschambault Lake and one school that travelled all the way to and from Stanley Mission in a single day! It was in these moments that the beauty of the staff really shone.

We were blessed to see such a wonderful group of staff come



Over 27,000 people visited the Youth Farm Corn Maze with many staying more than 3 hours!



together. They demonstrated their heart to love and share Jesus and to serve all who came onsite. There were the camp staff who stayed and served through the fall season, our year round staff and interns who worked tirelessly to ensure that everything ran smoothly and the wonderful Francisco and Isela who joined us from Mexico for 2 months. The Corn Maze season is a busy and full season but through it all there is always the question of how we can share the hope that we have in Jesus with others. The Tabernacle has been a great way to connect people with God's Word as they are able to literally walk into the pages of the Bible. Pray! Was the theme of camp but prayer for everyone who entered the Corn Maze was ongoing from all the staff. We were also very

fortunate to welcome the Monday Night Evangelism team from Calgary who set up a prayer tent in the Corn Maze and spent time in prayer ministry for our staff and shared and prayed for people they met during the weekend that they visited. Many staff members had opportunities to share the gospel message in word and deed with people who visited. Through it all we learned, we loved and we worked together to serve and bless as best we could. The Corn Maze has really grown into an incredible place of connection and a wonderful asset to the camp as it helps to drive many of the ministry and mission opportunities that lie at the heart of YFBC's mission and core values. All the staff are incredibly grateful for the leadership, vision and faithfulness of Mark as he

tirelessly labours to make sure that this is a place where we all can learn to Love God and Love People better.



Nick joined our year-round staff team in September

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Tabernacle of Moses

“Build it and they will come”

ELEANOR FUNK

“If you build it; they will come.” That was a line in the movie “Field of Dreams” where an unseen voice spoke to a character about building a baseball diamond in a cornfield anticipating the return of past era players. The end of the movie shows cars lining up to watch the game.

That is how I felt during this our third year of Tabernacle Tours at YFBC. Nothing like this had ever been built before, in Canada, never mind Rosthern, Saskatchewan, and the wonder was real as to whether this would be a viable proposition or not. But God has given us a sure promise as stated in Isaiah 55:11 “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” This may very well become a testimony to the world, in our day, like Noah’s Ark was to the people in his day.

Although there are many ways in which to present the Tabernacle, my preference it to focus on how each piece of the Tabernacle is a shadow or type of Jesus Christ, and that the

Tabernacle is actually a physical picture of Heaven. God said to Moses, “According to all that I show thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, . . .” (Exodus 25:9). The purpose of the mirrors is to reflect (no pun intended) the vastness of heaven: “. . . and the number of them

people. The general procedure is to give “mini” tours, but on several days there was only time for single-filing through the courtyard and building to have a “look”. Many times during the corn maze, a member of a group or family would come through alone and then later

bring the rest of their group or family. “Everyone” was totally Wowed! and Amazed! at the calibre of this project. To God be the Glory!

Some of the comments that I had time to record were:

“Are we in the Bible?” one 4-year old asked.

“Why is a Jewish Menorah on a Mennonite site?”

“What is this?” children would ask, and parents would reply, “I have no idea.”

“Is this a house of mirrors?”

“What is this?” when given a little red Bible, and parents would reply: “I haven’t a clue, we will read it tonight.”

“This shows that I need to read



(referring to angels) was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.” (Rev. 5:11b). The corn maze viewers were told that this was a Bible Museum and a teaching tool during Summer Bible camp.

There were a couple of days during corn maze, that the crowd through the Tabernacle was in excess of 400

The Tabernacle opens the door to God's story



more than just the familiar stories"

"This is definitely not what I expected", by someone after entering the building.

"I would like to learn more about this." 10-year old girl with her family.

"We sure got our money's worth this year." A statement by one special needs person to the rest of her group, after having her picture taken next to the Ark of the Covenant.



A highlight for me was the interest shown by several people willing to guide Tabernacle Tours. Adorable Beth Scott, a Calgarian, and counsellor during Bible Camp, was called upon several times to guide and was very well received by the groups she toured. Retired pastor, Jim Lloyd, from

Saskatoon, whose passion for and knowledge of the Tabernacle was evident when people lined up for his tours. Honorable mention, in assisting with the Tabernacle during corn maze, to Kaedra Reimer, a CIT during Bible Camp, and my 9-year-old great-nephew, Abel Nickel. A couple

other people, one from North Battleford and one from Rosthern, expressed interest in volunteering next year. That is our prayer, that more people would become involved. For after all, this is our gift, as believers, to the community at large.

Besides the Bible Camp campers and corn maze crowds, groups that made the Tabernacle a part of their summer were: groups who booked tours, family reunions, birthday parties, field trips, and church retreats. Some people have been inspired to book a trip to Israel as a result of touring the Tabernacle. Another person stated she had so much to learn. We are still in the process of adding finishing touches to the Tabernacle, so make sure to make visiting the Tabernacle a part of your next season's plans to view and experience any new additions. Our prayer is that this display would inspire new additions to our own spiritual lives as well.



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

Learn more at www.tabernacleofmoses.com

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

JANUARY 1, 2023

ALL INFORMATION IS ONLINE AT:

WWW.YFBC.COM

LOVE GOD LOVE PEOPLE

From Camp to Nicaragua

DANIEL WIEBE

Hard to believe it's already been almost 4 months since we said goodbye to our last group of campers! My role this summer at camp was a ton of fun! I wore a lot of different hats throughout the summer moving from being the building guy to camp director to speaker. However my main role was camp builder guy. I am careful not to use the term maintenance man because I usually go around breaking things and Jacob comes behind me and fixes them, so maintenance is definitely not what I do. This summer I had a lot of fun building our giant slide and a few other fun things. Spent many many days along with other great help to put together one of our newest and funnest features not only to be enjoyed by campers but the 30 thousand odd people who visit us during corn maze. Many of my fondest memories from this summer were when I would put down the tool belt and join the campers at supper or jump in to play a game with them....Sometimes the directors just needed a little help getting everyone wet you know? Well, I'm that guy! One particular night I



probably be the best week of your life! If nothing else it will give you the biggest self esteem boost! Ok so back to the update part... Camp was amazing. Corn Maze was a blast and I am back south where I belong for the winter!

Nicaragua is much the same as how we left it in June. Very hot and endless amounts of need. I was so pleasantly surprised to find that my teachers had done such an amazing job of the kids class while I was gone. Every day they help 15-20 kids with their homework, then they play learning games, and overall they mentor and love on these kids. We have a small house that I started renting last year for the YFBC interns and we have kept it as a space for alternative learning. We have a small stove

walked into the dining hall while Nekaelly was leading a mean game of Pictionary YFBC style and I was greeted with hugs and cheers as the campers with special needs were so excited to see me! There's no feeling quite like the genuine love of another human being...who just looks at you and says "you're awesome". If you have never experienced the pure joy of working with adults with special needs, then put down this letter and sign up to be a counsellor next summer. It will



where we can make things like popcorn, hot chocolate and we have a garden in the back where the kids have planted tomatoes, cucumbers and they prune the fruit trees and water the plants every Friday. Its a great little space where the kids can spread out a little but and very soon we will be welcoming this years team of Interns to come and experience

Nica life in a genuine Nica house!
Let me tell you a bit about our
interns from last year.



Last January we welcomed 4
interns here to Nicaragua and they
each got to experience the joys
and frustrations that come with
doing missions. Most mission trips
are filled with building, handing out
things, and in general they are well
planned, busy and you rarely
experience the mundane. The
advantage of the interns joining us
here in Nicaragua for 5 weeks is

that we get to
introduce them
to what it's
truly like to just
live here.
Many days the
interns would
go to their
assigned class



and no one would show up, or they
would come 1 hour and a half
late....welcome to Nicaragua! They
learnt to take the bus to town to
buy their groceries, or buy their
groceries in the open market.
They laughed together with our
youth, they ate with their hands
and they joined in all of our classes

rubbing shoulders with the kids
and youth of the community and
got a true glimpse into their lives.

In my opinion one of the best and
worse aspects to their trip was
their house. When I say they
stayed in a genuine Nica
house, it's hard for me to
describe....Basically its
all concrete, no
kitchen sink, no
windows, no
central air, no
screens. It's just 4
walls and a roof. And
some critters. They
adapted like champs, often
having guests in their house and
dealing with some pretty extreme
heat. So we are looking forward to
this year's group of interns and the

impact that
Nicaragua can be
on them and the
people connected
with the Youth
Farm Bible Camp.
It has been an
incredible blessing
to bring our

ministry here in Nicaragua under
the wings of YFBC and an even
greater blessing to share that with
the interns.

Moving forward we have been
expanding our youth program to
reach out to the teenagers in a
deeper way. We are putting the

carpentry class on hold for a bit
and in the interim doing Bible
studies 2 times a week in an
attempt to guide these youth into a
journey of authentic faith. The
biggest obstacle of reaching
people in Nicaragua is religion.

Deep roots of religion take
over the image of
following God, and it's
hard for people to
separate the two
but we are working
hard to change
that. We do plan to
do practical skills
classes again soon but
probably focussing on



smaller intimate group learning
rather than an open class for
everyone to come. And things like
nail esthetic stuff and cooking and
mechanics are some of the skills
we are leaning towards. I am
currently looking for the right
people to put into place to see
some of these things happen and
trust that God's plans are bigger
and better than mine. Thank you
for your support not only to me
and my family but to the amazing
people who are all too often forgot
about by the world.



Since 2021
Daniel spends
his summers
at YFBC and
the other eight
months in

Mexico Impact

FRANCISCO ORTIZ



land that I was able to buy in payments.

That's how I met Mark Wurtz and his team who traveled from Canada just to build a house for a person in need. When Mark realized that I spoke

English, he asked me if I

could help him translate with a family that he was planning to visit the following year. I said yes, gladly and this became an annual event.

When Mark invited me to visit YFBC in Canada, it seemed impossible to me to travel so far since I had never traveled so far, not realizing that God was giving me the opportunity to learn how they serve Him at YFBC.

My experience was incredible. God granted me the opportunity to meet people who love God and want to serve Him and do His will, young

people with a hunger for His word and eager to become pastors, leaders and preachers.

God allowed me to know and experience places I have only watched on television.

He granted me the opportunity to do things that when I saw it on television, I asked him in my heart to allow me to do at some time in

my life, I mean the canoe trip and camping under the stars and the Northern Lights.



But especially from the moment I had contact with Mark I learned his motto love God and love people a motto

that has become a daily goal in my life.

I am so grateful to my God and Mark for the opportunity I was given to be able to visit Canada and YFBC and be a part of this beautiful ministry.



Francisco has been translating for the Mexico Impact trips ever since his house was built by

In order to explain my experience at YFBC I will need to start from 15 years ago.

15 years ago, before having my first contact with who would be in the future a great blessing for me and my family, I was going through very difficult times since I was in serious economic problems, I had reached the bottom economically speaking. I had lost my job and had no fixed income and I had also lost my house my car and my stability.

I remember praying constantly for financial help, expecting God to send me money from heaven and I was desperate, but God had other plans and God wanted to teach me to depend on Him.

This is how a person, I do not remember who, told me about love ministries who accepted my request for a little house on the

A Journey to Israel

JACOB BENDEL



personal nature of the God I worship. That he is not some distant judge, scowling upon me and waiting for me to screw up, but that he came down here to dwell with us, he loved us so much that he gave up the treasures of heaven to live a life of poverty. Israel helped remind me that the God of the Bible is still as present today as 2000 years ago.



The Israel trip was an absolutely fantastic experience. The trip brought the locations of the Bible to life, as well as provided an excellent environment for learning. Even when you set aside the historical significance of Israel, the land itself is impressive. We got to be in rainforests, deserts, multiple seas, mountains, and so many cool Roman and Jewish ruins. Then you realize after a couple of days that you are walking where Jesus walked. These days the stories we hear about Jesus sometimes feel so distant,

almost mythological, but being in Israel was an amazing reminder that these were more than just stories. We saw a village in Nazareth that Jesus may have lived in. Seeing stuff like that is such an amazing reminder that



The highlight of the trip for me personally was the Garden tomb. The tomb was ironically very lively and welcoming. You are able to walk through this amazing display of nature and a possible sight of the resurrection.



Jesus was not some stoic robot, but that he was 100 percent human and 100 percent, God.

That atmosphere felt way more what Jesus would have wanted than some of the other sites we saw, it was symbolic. If God turned this tomb, a sign of death into a beautiful reminder of Christ's sacrifice, I have a lot of hope for what he can do with a sinner like me.



He was a man, he laughed, he cried, he played with children, he hung out with friends and family, and something ChristyAnn pointed out that got me thinking, Jesus probably smiled a lot. All of this and more reminded me of the

Jacob joined YFBC this fall as part of the 3E Internship program



Valley Equestrian Centre

CHERALYNE

Olivia Donauer took the reins of the VEC equestrian program for most of 2022! This year Olivia also accomplished her accreditation as an Equestrian Canada Vaulting Coach! Vaulting lessons have now been added to the repertoire offered at VEC.

Jennifer Wielinga joined Olivia for the summer months and helped to teach the summer rush of lessons and run the camp horse skills. Several horse day camps were offered, including one Vaulting Camp.

In September Cheralyne Gibson returned from her maternity leave to resume her role overseeing the equine program. Cheralyne resumed coaching, with the majority of her students focused on jumping, and some Dressage and western riders mixed throughout her day. Mennonite Central Committee has partnered with Cheralyne to run a 6 week Equine Assisted Learning series for their Meadowgreen Youth Program. This series was kickstarted in the summer when VEC offered a "Horse Day Camp" for 10 youth in the MCC Meadowgreen Program, which consisted of one full day packed with an EAL session that focused on "trust" and a riding lesson!

Over the years VEC has consistently had a fall rush of lessons, and this fall was no exception! Cheralyne coached full days of lessons Mondays and Tuesdays, contract coach Kim has been full Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturdays, and Olivia continues to manage the barn, caring for the daily needs of the horses and maintenance of facilities, while coaching on Fridays.



This year we saw the retirement of two lesson horses, KC and Monty. In replacement we acquired Jetbar - an old steady eddie, great for beginners and Talon - a young fancy bred and fancy moving Quarter Horse, whom the VEC staff will be putting a year of training on before he enters our lesson program as an advanced western and Dressage horse. Two staff horses were generously added to the lesson horse herd as well! Cheralyne's horse Ralista is used as a fancy Dressage horse for advanced students, and Olivia's horse Spooner is used as both a western and english horse for our intermediate students.

As the cold of winter settles in, riding lessons and EAL slow down, as only a handful of very brave and gritty riders continue on, while the majority of riders will return again in March as

the temperatures begin to climb. As lessons slow, this does not mean any less work for Olivia as she is out there every day caring for our precious lesson horses; forking hay, pulling bale nets over round bales, scraping pens and cleaning out frozen poo, feeding grain rations and putting on winter blankets on our hard keepers, unfreezing the frozen watering bowls, clearing snow, and the list continues!

A big thank you to all who supported our equestrian program this year! We believe that our horses are here to bless people, entering their lives to provide comfort in times of need or to help us learn life lessons through the self awareness and humility required of us by the horses. In our efforts to care for and show God's love to our clients, we continue to work hard to improve our program each year, which includes adding/improving infrastructure and educating our certified and qualified staff so that we can provide a top quality and caring program for every client of VEC! Merry Christmas and God Bless.

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



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

Certified Equestrian Canada Western Instructor

Equestrian Canada English Rider Level 6 with Jump Component

20 years of Riding and Training

cheralyne@yfbcc.ca // 1-855-855-9322 ext 6 // Facebook - Valley Equestrian Centre

Site Manager

JACOB WIELINGA



Our family escape to Cypress was also such a blessing to step away and enjoy time together without distractions. The canoe trip up north with some staff was a nice pause in the middle of all those very busy and long days at the corn maze. Thank you for them.

corn and sunflowers, blessing the many kids and adults that showed up this summer for camp, entertaining and supporting those that came to the corn maze all needed many hands. They also needed the blessing of our heavenly Father.

Yield: Usually when we see a yield sign we attempt to pass it as quickly as we can. The first definition that I found was "to produce something..." That is all about hard work. The Yield above is

actually referring, "to give

something up or surrender

control." My "job" is all

about doing and

accomplishing and

blessing. For me to

accomplish this I

need to first give

everything up including

my own strength and

wisdom and control. It starts

with God in control and asking

Him for the strength, wisdom, energy, and blessing in what lies ahead.

As I finish 2022 and head into 2023 I need to yield everything God. With God's

blessing, asking for the support of those

around me I will continue to see lives

changed, including my own. May we all

pause and reflect on that. God bless.

Thank you for your support in this



Reflect: This is what I am doing now. The community of staff and volunteers have dwindled to a few hands full at this time. How thankful I am for each one of them and all the effort and support they showed this year. How breathtaking it was to see God on display in the amazing sky (northern lights, sunsets, rain, sunrises). His handiwork was also evident in the harvest of crops and hearts this summer. Kids and adults were impacted throughout the year, and the hay crop was plentiful. How thankful I also am at the attendance at the corn maze this year. It was overwhelming some days, but we had a great year.

Ask: Driving to Tijuana, Mexico and building a house in not ideal weather conditions, moving 2500 yards of dirt, building the structure for our Mega Slide, expanding the corn maze, upgrading the train ride and hay wagon, traveling with fertilized eggs from Ontario, planting our

Upgrades to our wagon ride and train carts; A cold but successful Mexico Mission trip in February; Some very early (Feb) births in our petting zoo; A family trip to Cypress Hill; Renovations; Spring cleanup, planting, and spring births; Building "Mount Sinai" – our Mega Slide and doing other projects; Traveling with peacock eggs; 8 weeks of summer camp with a great harvest; A fall canoe trip; About 10 weeks of corn maze; Adjusting for the winter months. That summarizes 2022, let me put some details to it.

Pray: Pause – Reflect – Ask – Yield. This was the challenge and 2022 theme that was put before us in January. Something that I constantly needed to turn to as I journeyed this year.

Pause: All the events of 2022 listed above would make me run aimlessly unless I first slowed down and reflected again on why I am doing this. What is the overarching picture of what we are doing here? Love God and Love Others. Before heading out to frantically (at times) accomplishing the tasks, I needed to Pause, pray and seek God's presence.



Jacob Wielinga has been serving as Site Manager since 2016

From the Board Chair

BRUCE JANTZEN

Of all the years that YFBC has had camps that I've been involved in, 2022 was the most recent. It was exciting to return to 'normal', yet the time away may have enhanced the summer by helping us to realize how precarious this life often is and how we tend to take life for granted.



This year we have seen the camp again experience a wonderful, enriching time with campers and staff members, as well as the excitement of the corn maze rush. It is always a struggle to keep the focus on camp and the souls of campers when there is the need to bring in money to finance the camp programming. Our focus remains on following Christ in our relationships with the campers and all those who come through the gates for the corn maze and other programs we

have here, like the horse program, the canoe program with Aha Adventures as well as the rentals and other bookings that occur throughout the year.

Our staff is kept busy year round and we as a board strive to keep up with everything that is happening here at YFBC. We continue striving to maintain and expand our facilities as the needs continue. We are constantly brining in new ideas in a continuing effort to provide a family friendly and Christ centred experience for everyone who comes here.

As a volunteer at the corn maze and at camp itself, I am always amazed at the responses I get when I ask people why they come to YFBC and how much they look forward to coming back, especially the campers. Relationships are made and grow from year to year and the life the campers



share with staff is worth the work involved in volunteering. I would recommend it for anyone who has some time to share!

With the internship program taking off, we are confident in our future as a place where Christ is glorified and people are able to see and experience what the Christian life is about.

Looking froward to future ideas, not only of growth, but also of continued camping experiences I see much to joyfully anticipate in the coming years as we seek to obey God's will in this place we call the Youth Farm Bible Camp!



Bruce has been involved with the camp for many years. He has been camp pastor, volunteered at corn maze, served on the board and is currently



Executive Director

MARK WURTZ

“Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.”

John 16:20

After so many disruptions and changes in the last few years, we have to remember that we

serve a great God who will turn our grief into joy. How does this happen when there is loss in our lives, when as a society,

there is more sickness, anxiety, anger and hopelessness than we could imagine. There is a great call for people to come together into deeper community, to live life in a way that is different from the world. To be vulnerable with one another and experience life together even when it is messy.

Over the past twelve months, we have had so much happen at the Youth Farm Bible Camp. Our community grew by adding four interns in September of 2021 and walking life with them. In January they went to Nicaragua for a five week mission trip and as they were coming back to North America, we met them in Los Angeles to go on another 10 day impact trip to Mexico. Both trips were more difficult because of COVID. Both trips had tremendous experiences for the attendees. So much learnt from these experiences.



We had twice as many retreats and school groups this year than any other year! The classes and youth groups had valuable retreats where they were once again able to experience deeper community. That is why we exist and we are glad to serve people while they deepen relationships with others. There are so many moments that were

ordained by God. AHA Adventures led ten canoe trips in two provinces and the Yukon territory. Check out 2023's offering as there is going to be a trip in April to Utah! Find out at



www.ahaadventures.com

We had a great summer camp this year with a tremendous group of staff led by our interns. A highlight was the prayer service at the end of the week in a newly available hayloft. Campers and staff appreciated being prayed over and cared for. The mega slide was a great hit and campers really appreciated conquering some fear by going down the new slide. The families at the corn maze made great use of the tube slide with tens of thousands going on the new attraction. We had a phenomenal Corn



Maze season with a great staff team bringing joy to 27,000 people.

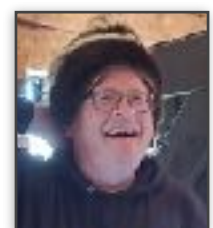
In September, two interns joined our staff team - Cassidy Janzen (who also worked summer camp) and Jacob Bendel. Nick Parkes has also joined our year round staff and we have greatly appreciated the experience and wisdom that Nick brings to our team. He has a deep desire to connect with people and practice discipleship with everyone around him.



May we call on our Lord to help us understand how our grief can turn to joy! May we do this while in deeper communion with people around us. At YFBC

we desire to deepen our community so we can serve the wider community with integrity, compassion and love. Merry Christmas and have a great 2023!

Mark has been YFBC's Executive Director since 2001.



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Summer 2023



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