



Youth Farm Bible Camp 2024 Annual Report

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Youth Farm Bible Camp

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Hey friends! Let me share the incredible journey we had at this year's summer camp, themed "Joy – Jesus, Others and Yourself"!

This wasn't just another camp; it was weeks filled with life-changing stories and timeless truths about joy. We began by discovering that Jesus is the ultimate source of true joy. Our memory verse, *John 10:10b*: "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full," reminded us of the fullness of life we find in Him. The story of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1-20) showed us that His coming to earth was God's ultimate act of love. Jesus' incarnation brings joy because it reveals God's presence, His plan for salvation, and His desire to dwell among us.

We then explored how serving others with humility brings joy. Inspired by *Philippians 2:3-4*: "In humility value others above yourselves," we learned the importance of putting others first. The story of Jesus washing His disciples' feet (John 13:1-17) highlighted the joy found in selflessness. Jesus showed that true greatness lies in serving others with love and humility, reflecting His character.

Next, we focused on finding joy in God's presence and trusting Him. *Psalms 28:7* reminded us: "My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise Him." The story of



JOY!

2024 YFBC THEME

Mary sitting at Jesus' feet (Luke 10:38-42) taught us the value of prioritizing time with Jesus. Mary's choice to listen to Him showed that joy grows when we rest in God's presence and trust His wisdom.

We also turned our attention to the joy that comes from unity. *John 17:21*: "That they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you," emphasized the importance of living in harmony with one another. The early Christian community in Acts 2:42-47 demonstrated

unity by sharing, supporting one another, and worshiping together. Their example showed us that joy multiplies when we live in unity and reflect God's love to the world.

Finally, we learned about sharing the joy we receive from Jesus with others. *Matthew 5:16* encouraged us to "let your light shine before others." The story of the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-42) showed how her life was transformed after meeting Jesus. She spread her joy by

sharing the good news with her community, reminding us that we, too, can share Jesus' joy through our words, actions, and testimony.

During the weeks, we discovered that joy is found in Jesus, shared in serving others, deepened through time with God, strengthened in unity, and multiplied when shared. These truths remind us that the joy of the Lord is our strength, and His joy never runs out.

Children & Youth Camps

ZANDRIA PATKAU

Throughout the summer I was a cabin leader, meaning that for all the weeks I had the privilege to learn new faces and build memories with people who stayed at the camp.



Kids camps were definitely the most energetic of camps. For those weeks us cabin leaders were not the ones who had to tone down the energy, although, by the end of the week, fuel was needed to keep us going. Campers that entered my cabin came with their past experiences and memories, but being at camp allowed most to take the break they needed to



be children. My job was to get a smile on their faces as much as possible, the outward expression of the joy we talked about in chapel.

Bonding happens during every week, between everyone, and it's a blessing seeing how the kids create friendships in a week that they'll never forget. It's always a blessing when I have some kids that bond with me, that I can show them the love I have to offer, and them being able to accept it makes my heart melt every time.

Attention was given to the kids, and often that allowed them to come out of their shell that much easier, and be able to feel comfortable at camp. The number of children I got to see feeling right at home at the camp was amazing, they rarely hid themselves after letting go of it. Every week there are a few that are shy and some that never stop chatting away. I enjoyed having both in my cabin, creating a balance that will never be repeated again at camp.

Each week is a once in a lifetime experience, the week will never be the same as a different week. You can never replicate the exact week twice, so you cannot expect the one week to

be the same as a different one. This was something I had to remind myself of often. It's unfair to be comparing experiences when the variables are completely different.

Throughout, I'll have kids asking for stories about past weeks, wondering what else I've been doing this summer at camp, or what the past cabins did to win the cabin competition that happens every kids camp.

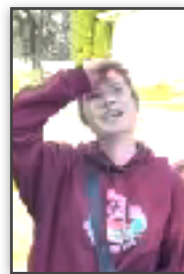
During the week kids have every opportunity to join in on activities put together for them, for the focus to be on them. Being able to play games as a cabin, like being chased by cabin leaders in Bible smugglers, or being tagged by others in capture the shoe or kankles.



There are skills that every kid has a chance to learn, experience and enjoy, along with the other kids in their group. All of these participating opportunities are mainly done in groups, encouraging relationships, and others to be social, which is a common result. By the end of the week, everyone knows the names of friends and will find common ground to talk about.

The whole entire time I would not change any of the experiences that did happen. The kids gave me so many smiles throughout a week, and don't get me wrong there were the challenges of disagreements, getting them to go to sleep, keeping myself awake, but there is no way I'd trade these memories for different ones. I had kids who came for the third time ever to camp, they brought joy from past weeks. Or the ones here for the first time usually coming off shy first, then ending up being the mouth of the cabin. What really gets me in the heart strings is

when at the end of the week I have campers giving me hugs, and a portion asking if I'll be their cabin leader again, and thinking of those times makes me miss camp that much more. Every week was a blessing and a half, and I'll never forget how God brought those people into my life at those times.



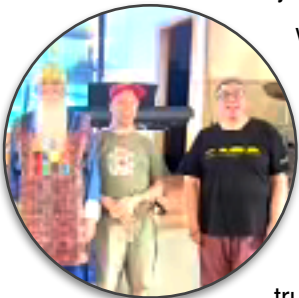
Zandria has attended camp many times & is now an intern for 2024/25



Adult Special Needs Camp

My first thought when asked how the Adult Special Needs (ASN) experience was for me was “different”.

This year at Camp was my first year working at YFBC and I truly wouldn't want to trade the weeks I spent working with ASN campers for anything else. Initially, finding out I would be working at camp I was excited but also had a fair share of worries as I had never done anything of the sort and I had no experience whatsoever. As soon as the week began I quickly forgot about the worries I had, and turned out to truly enjoy the work I was doing.



One thing about the campers is that they truly appreciate

the time you spend with them and will show it, or express it openly. Throughout the week you would notice significantly when campers got comfortable with you, and would start joking around. I have to say that was one of the things that made the camp experience as great as it was.

I thoroughly enjoyed bringing laughs to the campers and greatly

appreciated the laughs they brought me as well. It was amazing to get to know each and every one of them and to see their personalities truly shine through whenever they came out of their shell. I found myself often getting attached to campers and vice versa. When it was time for them to head back home at the end of the week, there was often a fair share of tears despite the fact that I would likely see many of the campers again the upcoming summer.

At the end of ASN week we would always host a banquet with a hoedown after. It was always so much fun to get all dressed up with the campers for the banquet and then to later on dance with them during the hoedown. You could really see the joy and happiness in everyone there and I can truthfully say that it was an irreplaceable experience. After that first week I was very enthusiastic to come back again, and so ended up working 6 out of 7 weeks of camp, which was funny to me, as I had only signed up two hours before camp started, and had only intended to work for a week or two.

Another thing that I find very important to mention is the effect that camp has on people spiritually. It really spoke to me how openly and joyfully campers would sing and join in on all the



worship songs, and how attentively they would all listen during chapel. God's presence could truly be felt. There was, in no way, a fear of judgement, and that is something I feel many people struggle with in their spiritual life. Including myself, so it was a wonderful change in comparison to society now.

ASN is an unforgettable experience for both campers and leaders. Jokes that are made during the week by campers live on even long after they have gone home, and seeing the smiles on campers faces when you are spending time with them makes the work really pay off. I feel truly blessed that I had the chance to spend the time I did with ASN campers and thank God for the opportunity he provided for me to make long lasting memories and bonds.



Abigail joined us in 2024 as a cabin leader and now is an intern for 2024/25

Reflection

from a Camp Pastor

KIRSTEN HAMM-EPP

Love God. Love People.

If you want to know what the Bible is all about, what the Youth Farm is all about, these four words are a great place to start.

And it always makes me smile when I see it on YFBC clothing and vehicles, and I presume bumper stickers are not far behind!



This summer, our Bible times at camp focused on the ‘Joy’ that comes when we learn to love God, and love people (ourselves included). My week at camp was spent with the Teens group. As we explored Scripture together throughout the week, I was blown away by the joy. The joy that comes from surprise candy at the start of Bible time, the joy of being outside,

the joy of starting to know – really know – that God made you, knows you, and loves you, and that’s a joy nothing can ever change or take away.

The community that camp creates offers a truly unique and safe space, for teens in particular, to dig a little deeper each day, and to start a foundation in the Good ground of God’s love.

Can my joy really come from serving others? Forgiving others??

Does God really feel joy when He looks at me? Me??

Helping teenagers process and answer these questions has been one of my deep joys for a long time. This year an added layer of this joy was watching the counsellors and support staff walk this journey, too. Both as individual disciples, and as leaders. Every day of camp begins with staff meeting to debrief for the day and pray together, and each

LOVE GOD - LOVE PEOPLE

evening leadership sits down to dive a little deeper and pray once again.

To witness first hand how staff are living out their love for God by loving these campers was a true joy. From cabin leaders to directors to nurses to kitchen staff to equine staff to canoe guides to worship leaders (so much joyful singing!), the Spirit of Joy was alive and moving in every corner, and every person.

As I reflect on my week at camp, I am grateful for the opportunity to bear witness to the joy of camp, grateful to have been able to include my kids and some of their favourite stories, and grateful for the reminder of the deep joy we are called to when we Love God, and Love People.

Wishing you Joy,



Kirsten was the pastor for the Teen Camp week

the heart of the Youth Farm Mission Centre



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

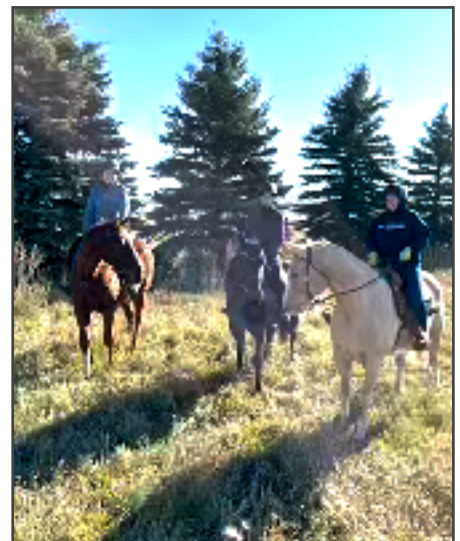
This vision shapes everything we do across our ministries and programs, guiding us to serve others, deepen our relationship with God, and build meaningful connections rooted in Christ. Youth Farm and its ministries are not just places of work, they are expressions of service, where every action becomes 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
- 9) And more to come



3E Internship

TYLOR FRIESEN

Hey everyone, my name is Tylor, and I'd like to share why I decided to join the internship program.



It all started when I got baptized last year, realizing that God has a plan for my life. Earlier this year, I felt God calling me to grow in leadership through a Bible study. Later on, my family and I went shopping in the city, and that's when my mom spotted a camp truck covered in stickers. She looked it up online and discovered it was connected to a leadership program.

Finding out about this internship program felt like God aligning things in my life. I realized He has a plan for me, and part of that involves doing missionary work. Before joining the program, I worked in general construction, but this internship has been a completely

different experience—a good kind of different. It's given me a chance to grow my faith through the work I do here, and being part of a Christ-centered program has been such a blessing.

It's been four months now, and I've really enjoyed learning and spending time not only with God but also with the amazing friends I've made here. The recent Rome and Greece trip was incredible! Hanging out with the other interns was filled with tons of fun and laughter, and it really brought us closer together.

Living on my own has been a learning experience too. It's special because it comes with the responsibility of cooking and cleaning for yourself. Overall, I'm so grateful for this opportunity and everything I'm learning through it.



Tylor joined us for the summer camp and now is an intern for 2024/25



Aha! Adventures

ANG HARDER



Gratitude would be the word to describe our 2024 canoeing season. God provided everything we needed to grow, learn and be successful. I am thankful He brought the people to fill up many trips, or just enough to make the trip run. In the end we only cancelled three programs, and we were able to increase our numbers of people and trips/programs from the year before. We started the season on the Green River in Utah and ended it on the Kootenay River in BC, with many canoe trips to northern Saskatchewan in between.

As I was guiding the Clearwater River trip, one evening I stumbled with the supper pot of boiling chicken stew and dumped it down my leg. Other than ruining supper, I now had to deal with a large nasty burn on a good portion of my lower leg. As I was sitting in the river cooling it off, I was talking to God and asking him to provide everything I needed to handle this new situation. I had peace that all would be okay. We still had about 10 days left on our trip and the concern was having enough wound dressings. On a river that is not paddled much, that night another group showed up that had a large first aid kit and they generously shared some

wound dressings with us.

We had enough to get through the trip and thankfully no infection. God provided everything we needed to deal with the situation and continues to grow my trust in Him as my provider of everything I need. "The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want" Psalm 23. God provided many people to make the summer go well. Dwayne and Edgar Harder worked on my canoe trailer and



replaced tires to make it work beautifully all season. We were able to purchase our new 15 passenger van to transport our groups without issues. (other than one broken window from a rock) Marc Linteau, Pastor Justin and Abbie Ginther came as speakers on our Deep Adventure trips to share and challenge the group to deeper thinking about Jesus and how He transforms our lives. Audrey Harder volunteered

on numerous trips and worked hard cooking and supporting us. Steven Wapple was a core guide all summer and brought strength though his expert teaching and guiding. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for everyone who contributed to make our season go so well and all the participants who came to go on an adventure with us!

I am continually amazed with the beauty and gift of this earth to us to discover and explore. Thundering waterfalls, fish in deep pools, pristine forest, abundant blueberries, exhilarating whitewater, tranquil lakes, dancing northern lights and laughter around the campfire. Many gifts in big and small packages to receive with gratitude. The best gift of all is that God is always with us in the big headwinds, heavy smoke from forest fires, long portages, broken window and burnt leg, giving strength for the day, developing our character and giving peace in the middle of the storm.



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

Youth Farm Corn Maze

“Joy to the World”

JASMIN HAMM

This was my first year working in the corn maze, and it really wasn't what I was expecting. Let me get into the outward parts of this season first. The weather, for the most part, was amazing. It stayed warm until the last couple of weekends of the corn maze. This year's theme for the corn maze was “Joy to the World.” There were tons of people who came to the corn maze this year, but what did the corn maze really mean to me?

At first, working there was exhausting, and I dreaded it. It wasn't just physically exhausting but emotionally as well. Being in the food booth, I had a hard time connecting with the customers and other workers. Our interactions

were short: we would take the order, make the food, call their name, and they would come get it. So, we didn't get a whole lot of time to connect with the people who came out to the corn maze. It was one of the more mentally exhausting things because I wanted to connect with others but didn't know how to go about it.

The easiest connections to form were with the other people I was working with in the burger shack. When I messed up, I knew I could count on them to help me out

because we quickly learned that one of our mistakes was all of our mistakes, and we had to work together to fix it. It didn't take long for us



to get close and have inside jokes. On slow days, we would do schoolwork assignments, work out, or dance together, bringing us closer still. Soon, I didn't dread working at the corn maze. It became mentally easier to help out.

There was this one time when I saw a boy shooting hoops at one of the activities on his own, so I went over to shoot hoops with him, get to know him, and talk a little. It was a lot of fun talking with him, he had a lot to say, and he whooped my butt in shooting hoops. Another worker came over, and the boy whooped his butt as well. I really had a lot of fun and was sad to see him leave with his family.



**Over 27,000 people
visited the
Youth Farm
Corn Maze
In 2024!**



Or another time when someone came up to us at the food booth to tell us about a girl who had been wandering around alone. She was young, and they had been worried about her. So I went over to talk to her. She didn't speak to me at first, but I let our manager know, and he said to stay with her until we found her parents. It turned out her family had been stuck in the corn maze. I stayed with her until they came out. We talked and played on the new obstacle course, and she began to open up the more time we spent together. She got some blisters that were bleeding, so we treated those. She was scared the ointment would hurt, but I convinced her to try it on one blister, promising I wouldn't put it on the others if it burned. She agreed, and once she realized it didn't burn, she wanted me to treat

the rest. I covered them with Band-Aids, and she was right back on the obstacle course.

It wasn't long after that her family got out of the corn maze. She didn't go immediately to them because she was having so much fun on the course. They came over, I gave them the extra bandages I had, and we said our goodbyes.

This is what I will remember from the corn maze—not the work but the connections that were made or renewed. There were so many family friends and people I had met through summer camp that I saw, and it was refreshing to serve them. There will always be a special place in my heart for the school groups we hosted. Most were really fun. There were some trying groups, which were hard to serve, but to be

honest, those are the ones I grew the most from. And the ones that were easier to serve were so much fun to hang out with. They were so bold and actual menaces, wreaking havoc everywhere they went, but they had a good attitude about it—which can be ironic. It was so much fun to connect with them and then see them show up at the corn maze.

This is what I will remember when someone mentions the corn maze.



Jasmin came as a cabin leader for summer, stayed for Corn Maze and is an intern for 2024/25

Tabernacle of Moses

ELEANOR FUNK

The Bible Camp theme I used this year highlighted JESUS (emphasized by the GATE banner and the ALTAR lesson) as the **Light** of the world and the **Lamb** of God who taketh away the sin of the world.

According to Numbers 28:1-4 the Israelites were instructed to offer two lambs, “a year old without defect”, per day, morning and evening. Doing the math that would require approximately 730 lambs per year which would require some methodical method of assuring sufficient product.

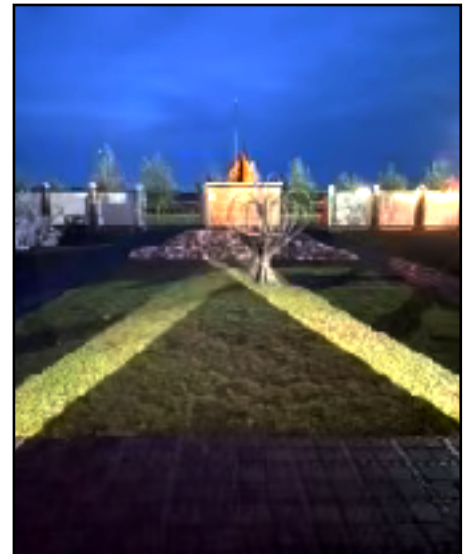
According to Alfred Edersheim, [a renowned Biblical scholar, *“The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, bk 2, From Bethlehem to Jordan”* (1883; reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson 1993), 131-132] this product was raised by the shepherds mentioned in Luke 2:8 who were no ordinary shepherds. He posits that the flocks that were “pastured there were destined for Temple-sacrifices, and, accordingly, that the shepherds, who

watched over them, were not ordinary shepherds . . .”

Most people are familiar with Micah 5:2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, . . .” but pass over Micah 4:8 “As for you, O watchtower of the flock, (Migdal Edar) O stronghold of the Daughter of Zion, the former dominion will be restored to you; kingship will come to the Daughter of Jerusalem.” From this watchtower, the watchmen would scan the hillsides for predators of the “temple lambs”.

However, in addition, the bottom part of that tower was used as a birthing place for these temple lambs and when the angels appeared in Luke 2:9-12 and announced the good news of a Savior being born in the City of David the shepherds would have understood the sign: “. . . Ye shall find the babe wrapped in

swaddling clothes, lying in a manger” (KJV). Swaddling clothes were used to wrap up new born lambs in order to keep them from “scratching” themselves which would have rendered them imperfect as a sacrificial lamb.



After the angels left, the shepherds acted on the news and went to Bethlehem to “. . .see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us” (Luke 2:15 KJV). This is exactly what we are asked to do - act on the news that the Lord has made known unto us.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. John 1:29



year, on several occasions, Lukas was called upon to handle, on his own, tabernacle tours and corn maze visitors, and proved himself to be a capable guide. We would covet your prayers for this young man as he continues to be an enthusiastic ambassador for

In summary, evidence points to the fact that Jesus was *born* in the same place where temple lambs were born, and *crucified* (in the morning) and *buried* (in the evening), the same two times that the sacrificial lambs were offered at the temple.

our Lord, not only on the YFBC site, but also at his school.

So, this year when you read the traditional Christmas story of the **Lamb**, as recorded in Luke 2, be receptive to the sign and respond by following the **Light** of the

I believe the Lord has allowed this replica of the Tabernacle of Moses, a symbol of God’s presence in times past, to be placed in the Sask valley as a reward to those living there for their faithfulness to Him over the years, and as a sign to all during present times, as was the ark a sign during the days of Noah.

World!

Tabernacle General Report

I am pleased to report that the Lord has provided a young passionate protégé, namely Lukas Araujo, for the Tabernacle of Moses program. This

Let us all take to heart the words of Paul in 2 Timothy 4:8 - *“Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to **all** who have longed for his appearing.”*



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, 2025

ALL INFORMATION IS ONLINE AT:

WWW.YFBC.COM
LOVE GOD LOVE PEOPLE

From Camp to Nicaragua

If you stopped by the camp this summer its likely that you saw a guy wearing tattered clothes driving a golf kart around loaded to the roof with tools, that was me. Mark Wurtz casts the visions and the ideas and I cut the wood and nail it together!

This summer we finally finished all the final touches on Gustavo's house after the move. We completed a large extension on our burger shack for Corn Maze and mostly finished our low ropes course complete with bridges, tunnels, rock climbing wall and the like.

When I'm not building something, I'm hanging out with campers or staff, joining in on a camp fire or chapel service. Its all around the perfect fit for me and I trust that I



can be an equal blessing to the camp as it has been to me by partnering with our ministry in Central America. The camp has offered year round support to our ministry for about 4 years now. It's because of this partnership that we can continue in our ministry doing our daily kids classes and youth group to some of the poorest people I've every met.



Last February our interns came here to Central America to spend a month living amongst and working with our poor community.

Everything from getting fruit at the local market to leading youth group activities. The unique thing about our interns spending the month here is that it is unlike a short term missions trips which is often too short to even learn people's names. No, this is very different.

DANIEL WIEBE



The 6 interns along with ChristyAnn spent each day alongside our youth and our kids classes getting involved in all the many things that they already do on a regular basis. English classes, puzzles, reading together, water fights, soccer, computer classes, they did it all. With our youth we went on adventures like boarding down an active volcano or playing scavenger hunts in the downtown streets of our Colonial city centre.



The highlight was definitely our retreat together with our youth. We set up tents alongside a river hugged by 40 foot bamboos, tall coconut palms and shady mango trees. The river being crystal clear provided us hours and hours of games and laughter. At night we sat near a large fire and shared stories after which playing freeze dance.

Our interns were eager to show the locals how to do a line dance and about 30 seconds into the first song there was a great cry of boredom as they changed the music to trumpets and mandolins and began their Latino dance of the hips! They did NOT like our version of dance!

A bond was made, a deep connection of two cultures with the same purpose.... Growing deeper in faith. We ended our weekend with a baptism and even saw one of our interns baptized in that river. To this day our youth talk on and on about that weekend and the Canadians whom they shared it with. We look forward with anticipation for the next group of interns.



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

Mexico Impact

ASHLEY NEUDORF



up, wrapping the house with tar paper and chicken wire for the next day. The third day we started mixing concrete which we do all the mixing by hand and started stuccoing the house.

The 2024 Mexico mission trip to Tijuana was a really amazing trip to say the least.

I went into the trip not really knowing what to expect as I had never gone on this trip before and had never been to Mexico in general. All I knew was that I was there for the service and ministry of Christ. Together all of us were able to finish two houses. Some of those who had done the trip before went to finish a house that had been started and the rest of us stayed behind and worked on the house that we were building from the ground up.

The first day there we started on the foundation making sure everything was level and cutting all the 2x4s to the length that we needed as well as pouring concrete. The second day we started putting frames for the house together and putting them

Being able to help the family in such a small way was so amazing even though to them it was a really big thing. For me it was a small portion of my time that I was able to give up to go and help this family and serve them in this way. When it was time to do the house dedication for the family, it really hit me to see how thankful and grateful this family was for their house. They would no longer have to live in a small open shack where when it rained it rained in their home as well and all their belongings got wet and dirty and never stayed clean. They wouldn't have to share their house with the stray animals that were everywhere as well.

I think my favourite part was seeing the kids and how they were so eager to help and be involved even

though they were not old enough to necessarily be involved. I loved seeing the joy and gratitude that they had even though they didn't have much. I loved watching them have water fights on very hot days and hearing the laughter. I loved how they were ready to make a meal for all of us even though they didn't have a whole lot and how all the neighbors looked out for each other as well. Needless to say, I would recommend everyone to do at least one of these trips to connect with each other and get to know each other on the long ride there but also to be able to spread the love of Jesus through our words and our actions.



Ashley is now part of the 3E Internship program for 2024/25

Valley Equestrian Centre

KATHLEEN BRAUN

Let me start by introducing myself. I am Kathleen Braun or Coach Kat as known by students and I have been working at the Valley Equestrian Centre (VEC) since April of this year.

I have been working, training and riding horses for about 25 years now, my focus has been on Western riding in particular western pleasure. I have been doing lessons with Cheralyne this year and have been learning jumping. I plan to continue lessons with Cheralyne to increase my English riding skills. I have an educational background as a veterinary technologist. When the posting for Assistant Horsemanship Director was posted, I felt called to apply. I wanted a ministry position that would allow me to share my faith, support people where they're at and use horses to assist with Christlike character



development.

The Valley Equestrian Centre team was joined by Bailey Harder this summer. Her experience with camp horsemanship skills was a great asset this year. We had 5 great volunteers throughout the summer, two volunteers from camp and three students of VEC. The three students have continued to have a significant role at the VEC. One of the students volunteers with us once a week. The other two students we are facilitating to complete a high school credit course on equine studies in the upcoming year.



We had three horses donated this year. One is a english/western flat horse, the second one is showing promise as an advanced jumping horse and the third is a beginner to intermediate jumping horse.

This year in spring we said goodbye to a very special horse named Albert. He was used for beginner jumpers

and was a very well loved member of the team. It was very hard to say goodbye, but God calls us to be good stewards of our horses.

The outdoor arena had many small "lakes" as it has several low spots. This fall the low spots had topsoil added and the outdoor arena was seeded to grass for future alternate use by camp. We will begin fundraising for a new outdoor arena in an area with better grade in the near future. We are sad to be moving away from the current location as many residents of the care home loved to come and watch the lessons.

This fall Russ and Connie Neufeld very graciously donated the equipment and the products necessary to put a gravel driveway into the arena. We thank Eddie for all his hard work!

A Norseman structures canvas building on a high pony wall was donated. It will be serving as our hay shelter to keep our hay in excellent condition for the health of the horse herd. There was haying and hay bales donated from a few different sources this year. We are so grateful.

We are thankful to a kind donor who built us a cabinet for our helmets and along with another volunteer, they welded the frame for our new horse shelter.

Winter is always a challenge for dust in indoor riding arenas as typically water is used for dust control, but in winter that is not easily done.

We added a commercial dust control and even though it has only been a week since application, we are very happy with the results.



Events from this year included:

A three day spring clinic that included Dressage coaching by Cheralyne, and two days of indoor Eventing with guest coach Laurel Vaadeland. The clinic was well attended and reviews were fantastic and already people are asking when the next one is. We had 5 VEC students participate and 15 outside participants.

An Autumn Fun Dressage Show which was an opportunity for our

students to show off all their hard work on their English or Western flatwork.

We also had Prix Caprilli tests which is Dressage combined with Jumping.

There was also lead line tests for the little children. Our guest Judge was Fran Sabraw and she was so fantastic with sharing her knowledge with students and volunteers alike. We had

20 students participate and

almost every lesson horse with the exception of a couple of ponies participated in the show. We appreciated the donations from

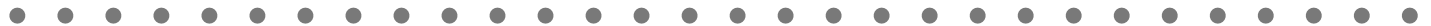
Early's Farm and Garden and Greenhawk Saskatoon.

I hosted a horse herd health day in November that had eighteen young people and adults come. We had a fantastic day going through health records, using stethoscopes to listen to hearts and lungs, administering dewormer, landmarking for injections, and talking about nutrition. We had guest speaker Jana Hunter of Copper Cricket Equine Care come with her cadaver legs and go through anatomy

and function of the lower leg, case studies she has completed and common issues such as founder and hoof cracks.

As our year ends there are currently 25 horses that are in our trusted care. Prayer requests are: no smoke next year, funds and donations for the new outdoor arena, solutions to the water seepage into the indoor arena, safety and health for everyone in the program. Donation requests are fence posts and 2 inch by 6 inch by 16 foot boards, sapling trees, gates of all sizes are always welcome, beet pulp (rapid ready in winter), gift cards to Early's Farm and Garden and Greenhawk, white exterior paint, exterior paint of various colours. We would also love to use your god given gifts and volunteering of time or even equipment. Looking to the future, we would love to have a heated area for viewing, washrooms, office, tacking up and cooling down horses. We would like to build additional boarding pens with waterer and shelters.

With much love and care,



English & Western lessons available

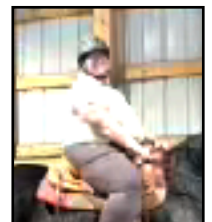
Lesson horses available or bring your own horse

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
joined YFBC &
VEC on April of
2024 as
horsemanship
assistant.**



Site Manager

JACOB WIELINGA

Trying to hold on to the excitement of 2024 so it does not end quickly evaporated mid-November with the dumping of snow that now covers this area of the world.

Seeing the threat of white stuff approaching, we quickly cleaned up things used during the summer and fall



and prepared our snow removal equipment. Mission accomplished, and the snow has been moved aside. Just before the snow came, we were doing some landscaping and seeded various lawns and grazing areas. Hopefully, the

seed takes root, and we will have more lawn to cut and more grazing areas to chew.



We also had a chance in early November to set up things for our December events: the Christmas Fundraiser Meal and three weekends of Corn Maze Christmas Drive-Thru. By the time this hits your inbox, these events will probably have been wrapped up. Despite the snow, the excitement

has not technically evaporated. The warm weather is gone, and the events in December received some natural landscaping changes. We look forward to showcasing our hard work to you all. The doors are open, come and enjoy.

"Come and enjoy" is also what I saw on the faces of those who showed up during our fall Corn Maze event. From mid-August to the end of October, families, school and youth groups, churches, and others came to get lost in our maze, burn energy on the activities, or fill their appetites. It has been such a reward to see all the hard work by so many staff and volunteers being enjoyed by those who came. The Corn Maze ended on October 27th with fireworks. The weather allowed for a great turnout.

Summer Camp is always mixed together with summer chores. Most of us wear multiple hats on a daily basis: camp responsibilities, plumbing, prayer, farming, building, maintenance, transportation, craft coordinating, I'm sure I missed one. As I stated earlier: "seeing all the hard work by so many staff and volunteers being enjoyed by those who came" to summer camp.

At this point, January to June this past year seems like a blur. It included a bit of rest (vacation), machine

maintenance, a Mexico mission trip, spring rentals, interior painting projects, youth volunteer groups, a moist spring/early summer with some surprise significant rains, and tackling some unfinished projects.

The results? "Seeing all the hard work by so many staff and volunteers being enjoyed by those who came" throughout the 2024 calendar year. This past year's theme was *Joyful*. Having the opportunity to see staff and volunteers walking alongside those who were deep in the joy that Jesus gives so freely, and having the opportunity to share what having that joy that Jesus offers really means and looks like, keeps us fired up for the next season. Our mission and purpose are sharing Jesus with others and being a place to serve. In 2025, let's see what God has in store here at the Youth Farm Bible Camp.



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

DAVID RATZLAFF

YFBC continues to face the challenge of working with different types of disadvantaged and special needs campers. This includes intellectually challenged children and youth, as well as those with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

As a board member, it was my unique privilege to witness the interaction between the staff and an autistic youth who attended the camp this past summer.

I had volunteered to spend some time on the campus when I observed a young man who was a camper and was refusing to attend the chapel session being held that morning. As he sat outside on one of the corn maze attractions, I happened to be nearby and listened to a junior counsellor gently trying to persuade him to rejoin the group in the chapel. The harder the counsellor tried to

persuade him, the more stubborn and determined the young man became. He seemed to indicate that there was no way he was going to be moved and no way he was going back inside. My first thought was, *“These young staff members have some difficult challenges that they are tasked with each day.”*

I thought it would be interesting to see how the situation would be handled.

A short time later, a senior counsellor came over and sat with the two individuals. The gentleness, maturity, and grace of the senior counsellor soon had the situation under control. A decision was made that sometimes there are things more important than attending chapel. The counsellor suggested that perhaps the two could

spend some quality time together outside, just relaxing and playing.

I came away from the whole interaction impressed with the quality, training, and experience of our staff, as well as the realization of how much we need to hold our staff in prayer daily. They rely on our prayers and leadership as they exercise wisdom, patience, and love with each group who attends our camps.



David serves on the YFBC Board Team and has contributed by volunteering at Summer Camp and the Corn Maze.

**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

I would like to personally thank you for reading this report book and learning about the many different ministries that exist at the Youth Farm Bible Camp!

One of our newest programs, the 3E Internship, brings all that we do together, discipling young adults as they work on the farm, study, learn, and travel to some amazing places. We understand the weight of discipling young adults, and this has been happening on our campus for 83 years. In the 1940s, Mennonite young people purchased the farm for \$20,000, and it became a place where young adults learned to work, study, lead, and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Eight decades later, the same is happening, and it is exciting that God has blessed us in this way. As we traveled to Greece and Italy recently (check www.3einternship.com for info and pictures), we saw places where Paul started churches with young people such as Timothy, John Mark, Jason, Lydia, and many more. He led and trained these early Christians, and it became a global movement.

The 3E Internship starts with working at the Corn Maze in September,

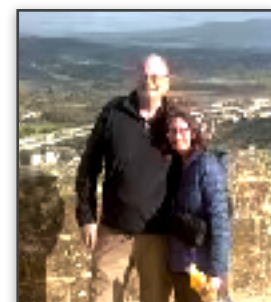
learning how to care for the needs of participants and showing love to the families that come to our campus.

Participants grow a skill set in customer service, food handling, programming, leadership, and more. We then spend eight months working on the farm, reading ten books on leadership, spiritual formation, and missions; taking introductory courses in Old Testament and New Testament; going on two canoe trips; participating in a learning/devotional trip in November; serving for a month in Nicaragua; traveling to Mexico to build homes; fundraising; developing leadership skills; and much more. We then spend the final two months together in the Summer Camp Program.

We are seeking to build up disciples of Jesus who desperately want to spend time with HIM and share their passion with others. We worship together, pray together, eat together, travel together, walk together, work together, and read together. We do life together, and it is the backbone of our ministry at the Youth Farm Bible Camp. What a privilege it is to be a part of this program!



Mark has been YFBC's Executive Director since 2001.



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Summer 2025



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