

# Peace Hills NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2019



These two have literally got  
their head in the game

 **YOUTH  
FOR CHRIST  
PEACE HILLS**





## Justin's Journal

Justin Schultz  
Millet Coordinator

Well another school year is going and nearly gone, and it's been pretty eventful. I know Kels would say it so from both of us. I'd like to just thank everyone that come around us in the passing of her brother last fall. It was an incredibly difficult time and the love and support so many showed touched our hearts quite deeply and meant the world to us. You will never know how much love that spoke to us and the family. Thank you.

That really gets me thinking though, and truly all the more grateful for your generous support and covering prayers. What a reminder of how short this life is in the scope of eternity and the absolute treasure that time is. It truly is priceless and its value immeasurable. I am so thankful for friends like you that partner with our ministry to see the lives of so many impacted, touched, and changed for all eternity. I really struggle sometimes, (often) in keeping out of the "open the doors to supervise" trap, when each moment I spend with these kids might well be the last, leaving me to wonder, "how well did I steward

that time I was given?" I have so many wonderful memories with my brother-in-law that I thank God for, from the first visit with the family where he was a crazy excited 9 year old running circles in the grass when they picked me up, to playing laser tag and hours spent fishing or talking together. I miss him so much and sometimes catch myself wondering if I really made the most of our time on this side. I'm going to have to ask him when I get up there! But that's the reality of what I'm privileged to do. In the heartbeat that is this side of the sod, I get to walk with, cry with, pray with, rejoice with, shoot nerf darts at, and tell of Jesus to some incredible and remarkable youth. October 1, 2018 I hit my five year mark at YFC and I really couldn't tell you how many people have walked through those youth centre doors. Its nuts that those who were either just old enough to attend or not quite and snuck in anyways are now seniors and graduating! My prayer is that when they leave they have a better understanding of who Christ is, and should I never see them again on this side, that God used the time I spent "rock picking" in the soil of their lives to yield crops that were "thirty, sixty, and

even a hundred times as much as had been planted." Matthew 13:8.

We've had a lot of fun in Millet this year from a group of about sixteen running around and smacking each other with pool noodles, to a trip up to Edmonton to play airsoft. We've seen prayer answered at coach's corner, many monopolies with hotels placed to my untimely demise, spring break day camps all around Alberta, salvation coming to two young friends of mine, many hours discussing Jesus and why he matters and countless other moments, some like two ships passing in the night. Pray for our youth. Pray unceasingly. This generation has no religious affiliation but self. They have been raised in the complete absence of moral absolutes, is nannied by the ever available cell phone and parents tend to keep them entertained for freedom's sake and in so doing let others raise their child. A recent survey of this generation found that the levels of anxiety they experience would have institutionalized someone just fifty years ago... Light however shines brightest in the dark! All of that... BUT GOD! I feel revival coming!



# Jeanelle's Journal

Jeanell vanOs  
Wetaskiwin Coordinator

Project serve this year has been amazing and we haven't even gone to Africa yet! We started the program out with an awkward group of 6 teens who didn't really want to talk to each other. It made the meetings long and i wondered what we needed to do to get these kids interacting with each other. But after some team building challenges and serve trips to the Mustard Seed and the Millet Youth Center things have changed. Now we have a hard time keeping them on track because they are joking around and having a blast together.

But the highlight of it all has to be one of the boys who has decided to give his life to Christ. He was the only one on the team who was not saved. One day during our weekly team meeting he were finishing off in prayer and one of the other boys was supposed to pray

for something but he completely froze and this boy stepped up and prayed as if he had been praying all his life! all of us leaders looked up at each other and just grinned it was an amazing moment where i knew that God was doing something extraordinary in this boys' life!

The week before YC there was a ticket that opened up and i was thinking about who to give it to and after some prayer and thinking i knew it had to be this boy! i talked to him about and it and he was up for it but he had a couple of other options he could chose but thankfully he chose to come to YC and it was there that he gave his life to Christ and encountered Jesus for the first time. During the second night of YC we just finished an altar call and he and another group of high school boys were all praying for each other and they were all in tears. I asked him how he was doing and he just had no words!

I asked him yesterday what he

thought about YC and he said it was an incredible experience and he showed up for church this morning all on his own! He seems lighter and happier. Please pray for this boy as he begins his walk with the Lord.

God has done amazing things already in the lives of the youth on the project serve team and we haven't even reached the peak of the program yet. Please continue to pray for the 6 teens on the team as we continue to prepare to head to the Gambia on July 18. This boy who just gave his life to Christ is struggling with raising funds as he does not have any Christian family members or friends who see the benefit in what he is doing. Please prayerfully consider partnering with him for this mission trip.

I look forward to telling you about all the awesome things God will be leading us in and through as we journey to the Gambia this summer. Thank you for your prayers and continued support!







Paint Night at YFC Wetaskiwin

## Rachel's Journal

Rachel Matthais  
Project Serve Coordinator

I would use one word to describe this year at the Youth Center. Change.

Our usual teens aged out this year, leaving us with a mission to find new kids. It took us time, as well as taking a new approach to how we run the youth nights, but we now have a brand new core group that regularly comes.

It's been such a fun year, getting to know new faces with new stories! In comparison to last year; everything looks different, but as always the heart behind what and why this program

exists is the same.

We've had lots of crazy moments filled with laughter and insane energy, leaving us leaders wondering what in the world we got ourselves into! (Though to be honest, we usually are right in the craziness with them)

And then we have our more serious moments, some springing from our Coach's Corner discussions. Some for other reasons. In either case, these moments are the reason we do this ministry. Yes we love to have fun doing life-sized battleship or paint nights. But it's in the stillness when questions hiding in the youth's hearts bounce up

about God or life. And these questions or topics have led to some pretty deep conversations.

This year is also the first year we have linked hands with Seasons Retirement Wetaskiwin and awesome things have happened in that! We've been bringing groups of youth over once a month to build connections with the people that live there! Learning from them, and building friendships as we play games and tell stories alongside of them!

This year has been an awesome one, and getting to know these amazing new young people has been a true joy!!





# Thomas & Tabitha's Journal

Tabitha Francis  
Camrose Coordinator

Youth for Christ in Camrose has been experiencing a lot of growth and changes in the past few months. Our Monday night Drop-In Centre at Centrepont Church has been doing very well. We have been very blessed with partnership and support to get this program up and running, and now have a regular group of Youth attending. Through the partnership of those who feel called to work with us in this ministry, we have been able to provide food, drinks, tabletop games, board games and other activities for youth. Every night we have the opportunity to share the Gospel with young people and pray together for their needs. We are encouraged by the eager hearts and ears of the youth who are attending and their thoughtful and insightful questions.

In addition, we have been leading youth nights for the last half of the month at Church of God. It's been a great opportunity to build connection and fellowship with this church, and work with the youth who attend.

We continue to attend and support the Alpha Program at the Camrose Composite High School, the student leaders have been doing an excellent job leading their peers and sharing Bible studies on gospel truth with them. As the school year draws to a close we look forward to the next year, and meetings with them as they work to decide what the 2019 to 2020 year of the alpha program is going to look like.

Another program that we have been working to build up is the Nerf program. This program would allow youth to come out and play Nerf games with each other, and we thankfully have the supplies we need due to our generous partners. As we work to kick off this program we are eager to have another opportunity to share the gospel with young people.

We ask that you would pray for insight and resourcefulness to develop more new programs, and that we would be able to reach more youth with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

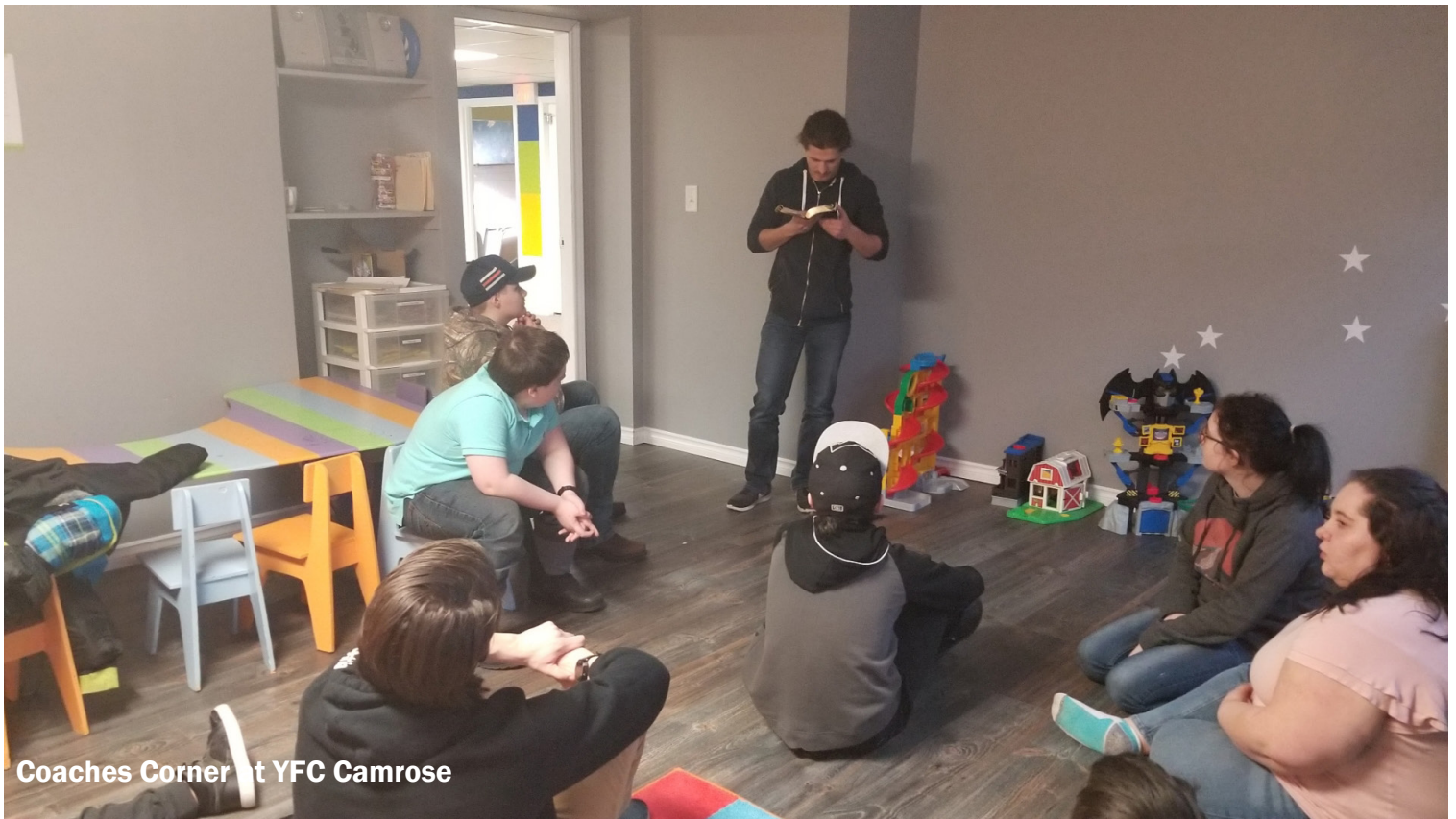
To close this update I would like to say thank you to everyone who has

partnered with us financially, or through prayer. We are so thankful for the opportunity to share the gospel with young people, and blessed to see their faith grow. Even though this has been a challenging time with many changes for our family, we've seen God's faithfulness and providing for our needs. He has built up our faith and given us direction for this ministry. We are looking forward to the opportunities God provides us this summer and in the upcoming semester.

Thank you for your support, may God richly bless you!

*"And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News."*

Ephesians 3:6-7 NLT





## Note From the Director

Terence Hoffarth  
Executive Director

Greetings Team, I hope you are doing well. This has been a very unique stretch we have been growing through. It has been extremely tough and discouraging but as we *"press on toward the goal"* Phil. 3:14 we have seen how good and needed this time has been for us. Isn't that always the case? We want maturity in Christ but we hate the process. I find myself thinking Lord you can skip developing maturity in me and just give it please...I'm ok with that...sure speed things up. But yes, the process has been good as we look back at what God has been doing.

This year has been slow and quiet. Attendance to most of our programs has been very low and fewer youth result in fewer decisions to follow Christ. You get so discouraged. You ask the Lord Why am I doing this? What is the point? What do I have to show for it? God are you still with me? You feel like such a failure. I heard Francis Chan state that by today's standards of success Jesus' ministry would be considered a dismal failure. In 3 years of ministry He only had 12 followers and 1 of them betrayed

Him. You see Jesus was not concerned about large crowds or numbers, Mark 4:34 states that in Jesus' public ministry, *"He never taught without using parables; but afterward, when He was alone with His disciples, He explained everything to them."* He poured into those who were serious, like the disciples knowing that they would, by the Holy Spirit's power start the church and it would spread like fire. He focused on broadcasting seed on good soil. Soil that would take the seed in and produce an amazing harvest. This focus on purpose and effectiveness is so hard for us to grasp though. We see success by numbers. When a pastor says they have 500+ in their church we go Wow! Knowing nothing else we automatically equate that to success and elevate that pastor to minor celebrity status. If that same pastor stated they had 50 in their congregation the response would be very different. If your blog has many followers...success. If your book sells many copies...success. If you have a lot of money...success. Numbers determine value in our culture. This has been culturally engrained in us. I automatically think this way and chances are so do you, but God shows us not to chase after the crowds (we see over and

over how fickle the crowd is in Bible times and today) instead look at the heart and plant in good soil regardless of numbers.

So, what good can come from small numbers? Well we have been learning a few things.

1. We have grown in perseverance and are more unified as a team. Together our entire team fasted for a week asking God to speak to us and give us clarity of what we were to do. As each person shared what the Lord spoke to them the same theme was repeated over and over. *"Be ready in and out of season"* 2 Tim 4:2, that a harvest is coming, to be faithful with the few and more will be entrusted (Luke 16:10 & Matt 25:23), to have perseverance and steadfastness. I realized that perseverance, steadfastness and faithfulness are gifts as well. We always elevate gifts such as healing, tongues and prophecy. Amazing gifts yes but honestly useless without perseverance, steadfastness and faithfulness, because if you throw in the towel all your gifts are pointless. I believe we better understand the value of these gifts and have grown in them.

2. With large numbers you can become lazy just opening the doors and





supervising, but lower numbers have caused our team to become creative again and I love it. Rachel is revising the Project Serve curriculum to give it more life. Justin and Jeanelle are continually planning speciality nights that are exciting and hopefully become so exciting that we can finally start to use our first aid kit ha ha. They also planned a week of Day Camps during spring break that were very well received and attended.

3. Smaller numbers has increased our hunger for intentionality. You see when numbers are high its very hard to be intentional and teens can become a number on an attendance sheet. But when there are only a small number of teens you know their names and their lives. You get to walk with them and you are reminded why we do ministry. It's because healing, freedom and life is found in Jesus alone and we need to be very intentional about sharing Jesus because its not a given, it's a gift. Its not about a packed house, its about being ushered into His.

4. Lastly it has caused us to evaluate areas we are dropping the ball. The most pertinent problem was our lack of volunteers. We have very few volunteers

and we recognize its because we have never properly trained them. Volunteers come in and often do not know how to engage the youth or dive into their mangled dead-end worlds. Naturally they check out because they feel they are making no difference. So, this Fall we are offering a leadership course to all the youth leaders and volunteers of the local church and YFC. This course will be 4 sessions divided up 1 Saturday per month for 4 months. Each month those attending will be able to apply what they learn before moving on to the next session. When they have finished the course, they will receive a certificate of completion. We believe that each volunteer that completes this training will feel equipped to engage and mentor youth and will finally feel like God is using them and that they are making a Kingdom difference with the teens. We know this is so necessary to have in place so that we can continue to be intentional as we grow remembering the words God has given us that a harvest is coming and to be faithful with the few and more will be entrusted.

Through the low, the little, the quiet, He is teaching us to be steadfast, creative, intentional and prepared. Even though

the process has been very hard and disheartening, I'm thankful, I'm hopeful and I'm learning to trust the Lord and just put it in His hands. Now if could just learn how to leave it there. A great friend and pastor Hugh Fraser recently reminded me to focus on Psalm 23. Honestly, I write this Psalm off as the funeral Psalm and rarely give it much focus. But this Psalm is not about walking by peaceful streams and green pastures just because you have gone to pasture. Its about the peace God offers us now in this life when we surrender and trust in Him as our shepherd. In you God I have no need. I shall not want. I'm content.

Help us Lord to live this out. Help us to put all our worries, wants, expectations, questions, fears and failures into your hands and leave them there saying, "I shall not want." You are the shepherd Lord not I.

*"...I have learned to be content with whatever I have...I have learned the secret of living in every situation... for I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength." Phil 4:10-13*





## Greg's Journal

Pastor Greg Newman  
Floor Hockey Volunteer

15 years ago I was a young pastor, new to Wetaskiwin and eager to meet the youth of the community. I heard about a floor hockey program running out of the drill hall and quickly inserted myself as a volunteer. Within a short period of time, that floor hockey program came under the banner of YFC a satellite that Terence had started that same year. For 3-4 years I volunteered with YFC, immersing myself in the floor hockey program, and even helped get similar programs running in Maskwacis (then Hobbema) and Millet before stepping out of youth ministry and into senior leadership at my church. I had thought that YFC floor hockey was a closed chapter in my life story.

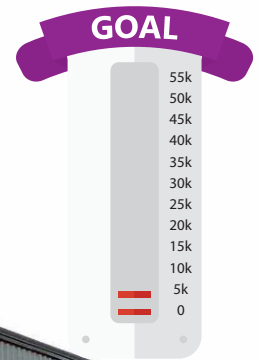
Fast forward to Fall 2018. I am now a board member of Peace Hills Youth

for Christ and talking to Terence one day, with nostalgia, about my history with the floor hockey program. Terence had a novel idea, "Why don't you do it again?" That question made me think. I am now older, heavier, slower, busier and much more out of touch with youth culture- that should be enough why not. But it wasn't. I had some bigger why's. Youth still mattered to me. The gospel still mattered. The mission of YFC still mattered. I have two boys, now at the perfect age for floor hockey, and spending time with them now mattered. My physical health mattered and the exercise was good for me. My spiritual health mattered and stepping out in faith was good for me. So, against all natural wisdom, I said yes to Terence and yes to the Holy Spirit.

I have been running floor hockey at the Wetaskiwin location since October. We started with a handful of

leaders and youth. It was a good night when we had enough players to have goalies. Gradually we grew. Now, we consistently get 20+ every week. At times we've been close to 30. Every week we have a teaching, discussion or Bible story. We have great feedback. Some of these youth know all the stories and are just figuring our faith for themselves. Some of these youth do not have a place to hear about Jesus or talk about spiritual things, and the 10 minutes we take every week to dive into deeper issues is the only exposure they may ever get to church. I am blessed to be a part of this ministry and I am believing that this program is more than just hockey, it's mission, it's outreach and it's even discipleship. I'm so glad I didn't let my "why not's" outweigh the "why's."





# Millet Building Project

Terence Hoffarth  
Executive Director

Our new building in Millet is coming along slowly but surely. We have repaired the West wall that had water damage and replaced all the windows on West wall as well. We also put new metal on the West and East walls and new eavestroughs. Water damage should no longer be an issue. We will now be starting to build the mezzanine that will go about 1/3 of the length of the auditorium. We are doing this so we can keep the youth center compact enough for the main room to still be functional as a church. There is no longer any functioning churches in the town site of Millet but we are believing that God is going to rebuild His church in Millet using this building that He brought to fruition through the hard work and vision of the E-Free Church members in 1999. We are believing that God will use this building to be a Christian Hub in the community. We are looking at calling it the "One Accord Center". We want to see this building used for church services,

YFC programs and any other ministry God brings to us. We are already seeing this vision come to life as this summer at the Center, Faith Bible Camp will be running a week of Day Camps in July. At present there is a Christian woman running a Kids Bible Club every Friday and she will also be running a VBS in August. Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church has inquired about running their GEMS program for girls at the Center and we at YFC will begin our programs in the Fall. Our programs will consist of Ball Hockey, Board Game Café, Nerf, Youth Center, Cooking program for High School girls and possibly Project Serve. We are very excited to see all God does.

God has been so good providing the funds necessary so far for renovations however we still have the mezzanine to build and \$50,000 remaining to pay off building loan. Please consider if this is a project you would like to invest God's provisions towards. God Bless Team and Thank you





# Desirae's Journal

Desirae Hidson  
Volunteer

Hi there my name is Desirae Hidson, I'm 22 years old, love cooking, walking around & playing games. I've been a Christian my whole life and give everything I've ever experienced to God.

I recently joined YFC staff because I love kids and owe a lot of my best memories to YFC and felt God called me to ministry because of the amazing people that

I consider to be family.

I am going to be running a baking/cooking program in the Fall of 2019 for girls grade 10-12 because i find that a lot of girls usually end up going into the real world not knowing how to cook the most basic dishes of food and want to prepare them for the real world.



# Brielle's Journal

Brielle Werk  
Assistant Millet Coordinator

This year has been amazing. We have had a youth turn to Jesus and a few others get engaged with the time we talk about Jesus in our Coaches Corners. It has been amazing to see a young girl grow in her curiosity about faith even in her doubt she is still willing. Which is the heart for the right kind of work God can do things with! Seeing her smile and bring joy to the rest of us has been a blessing on the group as a whole. Relationship building has gone well. I have gotten to go on a one on one and get to know a beautiful young lady who is map in out her life and just listened as

we enjoyed a milkshake and had some real quality time with one another. In return I have received the best gift I feel myself as a youth worker can get - frequent hello hugs as soon as she walks in! Thank you Jesus!

We are running the board game cafe as well and I love this time we get together. We have played many board games, many rounds of halo tournaments and lots of little conversations that has brought us closer together in my heart. Being apart of thier lives has been an honor and getting to share with them the love. Jesushas for them has been amazing.



PEACE HILLS

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## Join the YFC Prayer Team

We know we need to be covered in all things we do by prayer. Knowing we are surrounded by a team praying for us gives us strength. If you would love to be praying for us, then join up and we will add you to the prayer team. We will send you weekly prayer requests (and answers to those requests) as they arise through the year





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## Thank You's

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Check out our new Tech Talk tab at [www.peacehillsyfc.com](http://www.peacehillsyfc.com)



## TECH TALKS

Our new blog let's parents know some of the latest internet trends/hazards that our youth are being exposed to.

## Announcements

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