

Peace Hills NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020



*Put on all of God's armor
so that you will be able
to stand firm against all
strategies of the devil
Ephesians 6:11*





Justin's Journal

Justin Schultz
Millet Coordinator

Writing time again! Thank you friends and family for your continued support for all of us here at Peace Hills Youth for Christ. Through your partnership in prayer and finances, lives are coming into contact with the gospel, often for the first time and we are seeing kids getting to know Jesus! I praise God for you!

Fall 2019 saw the Millet Youth Centre transition into our new building (you guys are such a blessing Millet Evangelical Free Church!) and it's been awesome dreaming about what to do there as well as just using the facility on a daily basis. The building was built by the E-Free congregation to function directly around youth ministry and in this new era of its use, it couldn't be better suited for what we need. The sanctuary was built to double as a gym and the height and large amount of space made it really convenient for us to add a mezzanine for our pool

tables and media area. Its allowed us to still have a very functional main floor area for programs such as Disorganized Sports, playing kick the can, and hopefully one day to see another church planted here (it's still perfectly suited for that! Go figure!). Our Tuesday evening Family Board Game night has also been a really neat success, so if you find yourself needing something to do on a Tuesday evening from 6-9 pm, it would be great to have you out and show you around!

Keep us in your prayers if you could. Being in ministry in our context means we are always looking for financial partners to help keep our staff employed and it is an awesome faith walk continuing to say yes as Jesus leads us all together! Pray God will continue sending those who, like yourself, care about our vision for the youth of "Peace Hills" and maybe pray and ask God for who you can invite to partner financially with our team, either individually or to our general expenses fund. Bills need paying too! Thank you

so much for your continued partnership, whether that be financial or prayer, because the gates of hell have been kicked wide open by Jesus Christ and we plan to keep going into the flames of that place until our last breaths! These kids are worth it.

Lastly, if you feel called to join our staff team and maybe jump into front lines youth ministry or something administrative, we have a place for you! Or maybe you can't staff up but you want to volunteer in any of our locations where we serve, (Camrose, Wetaskiwin, Maskwacis, or Millet), there's room for that too! Peace Hills Youth for Christ is growing, dreaming big and believing God will provide both people and kingdom resources to see more and more children, youth, young adults, families, and seniors knowing Jesus! If Jesus is your cup of tea and you want to follow him with us in this context, please get in touch! We would love to have that conversation with you!

Love you all!

Jeanelle's Journal

Jeanell vanOs
Wetaskiwin Coordinator

I will start by giving a quick update on how Project Serve played out last year. We left on July 18th, but didn't actually end up going because we well....missed our flight. It was crazy and chaotic, but we encouraged the team to pray and ask for God to make a way. After 3 long hours of praying and planning, we had our flights changed at NO COST!! We received a \$10,000 gift from Jesus that day! It was an absolute miracle! We eventually made it to the Gambia and was awesome!

We worked hard in the heat and finished most of the classroom. All that was left was the roof and we left them money to finish that up. We didn't actually think we would have enough money to finish the classroom but God multiplied our money. We built the classroom plus an office. When it was time to go home, we still had money left over and gave some of it to the local volunteers who help us with the project. We had it all divided up and were handing it out and there was still money left over even though we divided every last penny of it. We gave the rest of the money to a few others and there was still money left over! God was continuously multiplying our money, and we were able to make a donation to YFC in the Gambia. The youth were very encouraged and will always have these testimonies to refer back to and be encouraged by.

During a church service, there was a demon cast out! It was very intense. The power of God was very much on display during our entire time there.

We are working with a new team at the moment and will be heading to the Gambia again in early July. It has been the year of drop outs but we have 4 youth committed to going this year. Please pray for our team as 2 of the kids are strong believers and the other 2 are not. As a matter of fact, 2 of the girls were playing with ouiji boards before they came to our first meeting. They didn't fully know what it was all about but they have a friend who is very into that and they went along with it. As we started talking about leadership and what types of leaders they would follow and the kinds of leaders they wouldn't follow, they had some realizations. They didn't know what type of leaders they would follow without reservation but they knew who they wouldn't follow at all and that was satan. I brought it up to them that they were just talking with demons who work for satan and they were ok with that. They did not realize that the demons worked for satan and that satan himself is a demon. We talked about the spiritual battle going on for their souls and the motives of the enemy, but also the motives of God. By the end of our time together I asked them how I could pray for them and they mentioned their friends who were playing with the ouiji boards with them. So I think that means that they realized what this

was all about and will hopefully stay away from it and pray to God instead.

We are in a crazy spiritual battle at the moment. There was a girl that came into the youth center one evening and claimed to be a spiritual medium and I was curious what that was all about. So I asked her if it was okay if we sat down and talked a bit more about what she believes. She agreed and we had a good, but very respectful conversation. I told her that the only medium between God and man was Jesus and asked lots of questions. The conversation ended on a positive note and was very good overall. That evening her mom posted on the website making all sorts of accusations against me. None of which were true, but it has been a season of confronting lies and intense spiritual battles.

Please pray for our teens! They will just about believe anything they see or hear. Pray that the Lord will place in them a desire for truth and that they act on that desire and find God as a result.

Again, thank you to everyone who supported the project serve team. Without your support, we would never be able to make a difference here or around the world. Thank you to everyone who faithfully prays for us and the teens. We need you, your prayers and Christ's direction in all we do.



1 Corinthians 16:13
"Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong"



Jeanelle vanOs
Wetaskiwin Coordinator

I just wanted to write a little note to let you know what we accomplished and how we were impacted on our trip! You are one of the reasons this was even possible and I wanted to let you know some of the many incredible things that happened because of this.

The very first day we left, we missed our flight due to a miscommunication but thanks to the grace and provision of God, we were freely given ten thousand dollars worth of new flights by the United Airlines! (They had every right to charge us the full price but chose not to.) It was such an incredible way to start off our trip seeing God work in such a miraculous way! When we eventually did arrive, we were greeted with a warm sun and even warmer smiles.

While there we partnered with the local Youth for Christ in building a university and by the end not only finished the classroom, but were able to exceed the expectation we had and also built an office. In the process of our work, we gained many new friends as well as grew in the friendships we had with each other on the team. As our team grew closer together, it became more like a family than just friends.

We were awed by the hearts and love of the people we got to know down in Africa. They were selfless, sacrificial and showed us what it looks like to serve

with true love. One integral member of YFC in particular, a man named Desmond, literally slept on a hard table for two nights just so he could ensure we were comfortable enough in our stay there.

A standout experience on the trip for most if not all of us, was a very impactful and eye-opening visit to a small village called Wencho. It was built by a dump on the edge of the capital city of Banjul, made up of seventeen families. Pastor Seal, the national director of YFC in the Gambia and his team have been involved in the village for a number of years and this year we got to be part of this ministry. We had brought extra suitcases full of clothes and shoes from home to hand out to those living in deep poverty in this village, and were moved not only by the people we met but also the heartbreaking conditions they were living in.

Once there, we had only just left the vehicle when we were met by a horde of kids who helped us carry the suitcases to the village, many of them taking hold of our hands and instantly winning our hearts. As we entered the village, we were led through a lot of huts and we met the people who lived there. When the entire village was gathered, we shared a moment of prayer before we started handing out the clothes we had brought for them. Seeing how people lived there made us realize how truly blessed we are to live here in Canada and have everything we do. A good health system, food, more than we could ever ask for! It made us sad to

realize that the things we can get for a few dollars here in Canada and take so for granted, were like gold for these people and they were so incredibly thankful to receive them. At the same time though, being a part of giving these clothes to make these people so happy was a true blessing.

We also got to experience church in The Gambia and it was amazing to see how genuine, passionate and shameless their worship was. The sermons were powerful and the services very inclusive. Pastor Seal would not only preach an amazing message, but would call random people out of the congregation to come up and speak their thoughts on the topic. While there we also had the incredible experience of watching God cast a demon out of a woman during one of their healing services, and it was such an incredible thing to see the power of God firsthand.

Throughout the trip, we experienced that prayer can affect people in magnificent ways, and this is something taken home even after the trip. We have so much here in Canada and so many seem to think we have so little, but this trip made us realize for certainty that we have much, much more than we realized, as well as much we can give to help those around us who are truly in need. It inspires us to want to start taking the time out of our day to help other people and spread the word of God.

Thomas & Tabitha's Journal

Tabitha Francis
Camrose Coordinator

Youth for Christ in Camrose has had an exciting year. We debuted the street hockey program this summer in the brand new Resurrection Church parking lot. It was a great opportunity to breathe fresh air, get some exercise, meet new young people and share the Gospel. Thank you to all the volunteers who braved the weather and ran around for two hours every Wednesday!

The Youth Center at CenterPoint Church was moved from Monday to Tuesday, and has been going great. Smash Bros continues to be the number 1 game, though pool and ping pong are a close second. Shalayne, Leif and Mata have been our major volunteer support for the Youth Center this year, choosing to be involved with Youth for Christ as a

part of their Studies at CLBI. They are so enthusiastic and have been working hard to get to know the youth and take opportunities to lead and share the Gospel.

On a personal note, we are very excited to announce that our second child was born on October 11, 2019. Leon Gregory Francis has grown a lot since October, he is smiling, rolling around and loves to play with his big brother Sam.

The Alpha program has begun again at the Composite High School. The student leaders have been working hard to prepare for this semester, and we know that God is going to do amazing things in their school.

Youth activity nights at Church of God ran from September to December. In the new year we are planning to run a

Bible Study rather than an activity night, working through the Bible to gain a deeper understanding of the Word. There have been a few Nerf events throughout the year, as we work toward a permanent location to have a weekly event.

There is so much more to say, but we have been very encouraged this year and have seen God open so many doors and provide opportunities to reach out to youth. Thank you to everyone who is partnered with us in ministry, in prayer and financially! We are praying for you daily and thanking God for you. Thank you! We close our update with this proclamation

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort." (2 Corinthians 1:3)



Photo by B Mars

Note From the Director

Stand

Terence Hoffarth
Executive Director

Hello Team, I hope 2020 is going awesome for you and your families. We have definitely had a unique Fall and Winter at YFC so far. I would call it the year of attacks. Attacks are never fun but they definitely make us stronger and they remind us we are Lord willing doing something right because if the culture around us sees no difference in us; if they don't see us taking a different stance on rebellion to Christ then we have as Tim Keller states, "Over adapted to our culture and bought into its idols." The truth will offend many because truth requires admission of guilt, repentance and letting go of things contrary to who God is no matter how familiar, comfortable or lucrative those things have become. Anyone in the Bible that shared the truth about Jesus and the way God calls us to live were regularly met with defense often severe. All the Old Testament prophets, Jesus, John the Baptist and Paul come to mind to list a few. Any other year we have shared about receiving Jesus and living for Him we rarely receive much push back other than some conversations we have had in Maskwacis at ball hockey where Native Spirituality is contrary to the Word of God. Generally, however the youth through the years have been rather complacent towards the message of Jesus, which is not good either.

The first attack I experienced was after we did our wide game Mission Impossible in November with the youth. I spoke to the teens that came out that night about getting serious with God. To stop being luke warm. Too many of us have one foot towards Christ and

the other foot still in the grave and we keep telling God to be cool with that and to come hang with us in the grave, but Christ has left the grave and He has called us out of it as well. We have to stop trying to mix the grave with Christ. 2 Corinthians 6:14 says that there is no partnership between righteousness and wickedness. Light can't live with darkness. There is no harmony between the devil and Christ. There is no union between the temple of God and idols. If we truly claim Jesus as Lord then God takes up residence in us by His Spirit and we become His living temples and I can not be ok with mixing idols and darkness with this temple. Otherwise this temple just becomes gross, something that God is not pleased with and is no longer suitable for a King. When we do this the picture of Ezekiel 8 comes to mind when the Spirit of God toured Ezekiel through the Temple showing Him all the detestable things going on in the place that was supposed to be set apart for Him. We are called to be set apart as well because He is set apart. Expecting God to take up residence in such a place is foolish and disrespectful and as we know in Ezekiel 10 Gods Spirit eventually left the Temple. I encouraged the youth to do as Paul and Peter instructed repeatedly in the book of Acts to repent from our sin, turn to God and begin a new life with Him, not going back to our old ways of rebellion like a dog returns to its vomit. Instead to truly call Jesus Lord and submit to Him because a "Lord" is someone who has complete ownership of you. I asked the youth if they were willing to get serious and give Jesus ownership of them and call Him Lord. 5 kids raised their hands and prayed with me to turn

to Christ and confess with their mouth Jesus is Lord.

Afterward though I felt attacked. I felt so heavy. Thoughts were swirling through my head saying, you did a horrible job, don't ever speak again, what you said was untruth, that was the wrong message to give and many more thoughts like those. These words and thoughts just kept tormenting me all through the night. I couldn't sleep. I was sweating and my feet went numb from the calves down. I have never experienced anything like this before. I finally realized that this was an attack from the enemy because if I had spoke in error God would not speak in this way, He would correct me in love. The next day the Lord affirmed and encouraged me by sending 3 individuals to come and share how much the message spoke to them.

People have asked me why did I feel this attack but never at other times? I believe the main reason was because I needed encouragement. We rarely get to see the harvest at YFC because we are planters. I sometimes question God, "Are we really making a difference...is there a point to this?" I believe God was saying, I know you can't see much in the physical realm but let me give you a glimpse of the spiritual. You are making a difference and I'm protecting you.

Then shortly after M.I. Jeanelle received a verbal attack and threat that you can read about in her article. Then only 1 week after Jeanelle's encounter I had one transgender youth and a small group of pro gay youth come to the youth center in Millet. I



Firm

was giving my testimony that night and the transgender girl interrupted me and bluntly asked me, "Do you believe homosexuality is a sin?" I thought ok God is clearly taking the discussion tonight in a different direction. I shared with the group Romans 1 and explained that the long list in that passage including homosexuality are just some of the many ways that we all rebel against God and His good plans for us. I explained that Jesus did not allow Himself to be crucified on a cross so that we can befriend sin and that sin is a very big deal to God and His solution was no small thing. We need to quit down playing the severity of sin and justifying it in our lives just because everyone of us struggle with rebellion to God in some form or another. I must never accept or approve of that rebellion in my life. We all need to daily take up our cross and submit to Jesus, asking Him with repentive hearts to take these rebellious hard hearts and make them new, hearts of flesh that are surrendered to Him. Rebellion to God is death and He will never be ok with it or tolerate it because God is love and tolerance is not love. If you see that I am going down a road that is leading me away from Christ (literally life) and is going to cause me and others harm and you tolerate it and let me harm myself, you have shown no love. However, if you take the time to call me out of my blindness and mess so that I do not cause harm, you have shown me love. You loved me enough to speak.

These girls were shocked what Romans 1 had to say and up until this point never even knew that the Bible stated homosexuality was rebellion to God. Everyone in their life had

only condoned and approved it. They brought up many other questions such as, "What about hermaphrodites?" "God didn't actually write the Bible so its not truth, right?" But one question was rich. The transgender girl stated that she was female at birth but now wanted to be recognized as male and she changed her name to reflect that. She asked, "Isn't it rude for someone to not call me now by my new preferred name?" I told her I would not want to call her by her new name because changing your name and sex means you believe God made a mistake. I told her God is incapable of making a mistake. He is perfect and He is good and He does not make junk. I looked her in the eyes and said God states that you are wonderfully and fearfully made, that He took great pleasure in knitting you together in your mothers womb. That He had plans for you as a female long before you were ever born. You are not an accident. He says you are a masterpiece. I could see in her eyes that those seeds fell on good soil. Speaking with this girl has actually been a highlight for me this year. She was very pleasant to talk with and I know God brought her their that night to hear those words. I've seen it so many times when a message was tailored by God for a specific person. This was the first time she had been to the youth center and it would be the last as she was moving the following week to Edson. God cares enough for her to bring her to a place where she could first of all be challenged in her assumptions that God approved of this lifestyle she is pursuing. Secondly knowing that God doesn't make mistakes. She is a masterpiece to Him. I have no doubt that these truths will bring her in time in

alignment with Gods perfect ways. God will use others to reinforce those truths and she will find her identity and peace in surrendering to Him, and then He will give her a new name Amen.

Wish that was the end of the story but of course there was one girl who was very irritated and disrespectful to me throughout the evening because I had not given her the answer of approval that she wanted in regards to the topic of homosexuality. So, the next day this girl's mom called one of my staff on the attack saying, "I don't appreciate this guy coming into the youth center trying to pray away the gay." It was ok because I knew I spoke truth in love to that girl and her friends and I know that God broke through and that's all we can do.

Pray for us that we will be fully clothed in the armor of God because more now than ever we need it. I've commented to my staff that youth ministry is a completely different animal today. In the past you could parade around the battlefield in your briefs fitted with only the boots of readiness and the belt of truth and you would probably be fine. Today however if you are not in the full armor of God you will be bleeding. So again, please pray for us. Knowing that you are praying with us lets us know we are not alone but instead we have a shield bearer walking with us.

Thank you for all you do team
God Bless



Wetaskiwin Floor Hockey Crew

Greg's Journal

Pastor Greg Newman
Wetaskiwin Floor Hockey Leader

When Terence asked me to write about one of my favorite experiences at floor hockey these last few months, one memory kept coming to mind.

Every week we have a mixture of young people who show up to play. Different ages, different skill levels, different home lives and different exposures to church and God. Most all of the youth that show up are respectful and choose to stick around for the "Coaches Corner" intermission I do midway through the night. This is the time where I share a short devotional or we have a faith based discussion. Occasionally, we get a few older guys show up who love to play floor hockey, but usually take off during the intermission and don't come back until

some other week. I imagine they aren't comfortable talking about faith or hearing me preach a little.

For the last few weeks we've been working through a magazine resource from the Gideon's called Spark which has 12 truths about God and life. Each week I do a short talk about ones of the truths. Back in December I was teaching about truth that "you've messed things up" and shared a little of my personal story. On this particular night we had a handful of older guys show up who surprisingly decided to stay for the talk. At the beginning they were ignoring my message but I had an idea about how to draw them in a little. I asked the question, "Is there anyone here that is 15 years old?" One of the new guys lifted his hand. It was only his second time at floor hockey. I then told him, "When I was your age I became

a father." I immediately had all their attention. I went on to talk about how a series of bad choices had the potential to totally derail my life, but when I turned to God and choose to follow Jesus, He began to put my life back in order and bring good out of the mess I had made. They listened intently. I prayed at and they were all respectful and at the end of the night when I was handing out the Spark magazine to some of the younger ones, one of the older ones decided to take one too. It contained the twelve truths we were working through as well as the gospel of John. I believe with all my heart that God was working that night to bring those guys close and keep them there in order to give them hope and let them know that God can bring restoration, healing, and purpose to any life. Keep praying for these young guys.



Millet Building Project

Terence Hoffarth
Executive Director

Renovations are complete...hurray! We had our Grand Opening of the One Accord Center and it was well received. Approximately 80 people popped in that day to tour the building and partake in the BBQ and games. Many adults and youth played board games, pool and foosball inside. We also had a pretty stellar ball hockey game in the parking lot.

Neighborhood kids were looking out their windows and bugging their parents until they finally let them come over and get into the game.

Our vision for One Accord is starting to take flight. Our desire is to see this building used by many organizations that want to provide positive programs for the community. YFC is now running Ball Hockey on Mondays, Disorganized Sports and Board Game Café on Tuesdays and

Youth Center on Fridays. Jenny Mackenzie is running a Kids Club every Thursday evening and PIPS is running their kids program every Monday and Thursday mornings. Also, Faith Bible Camp is running their camp at One Accord this July. So exciting to see these partnerships coming together and working together in One Accord.



New Staff Update

Macki Rumack
Public Relations Coordinator



Hi, my name is Macki: I'm a caffeine-dependant life form who's really bad at dancing, I love Jesus, puppies, and house plants, and I'm definitely not a morning person (unless morning starts at noon...).

I love the vision and mission of Youth for Christ - to reach the younger generation, to teach them about the love of God, to give them opportunities to be a Jesus follower, and to pour life and love into them. My husband and I are long time partners of Peace Hills YFC, and I'm excited to join their team. My role here as Public Relations Coordinator will allow me to utilize my background in graphic design, social media communications, and networking to better communicate our mission, programs, and events with our community. I'm anticipating big things for the Kingdom of God, and looking forward to all that God has in store for us in 2020!



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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



Thank You's

We at YFC thank God for every one of you for all your prayers, volunteering and financial partnerships. You do so much and we would not be able to share truth and life in hundreds of teens lives every year without you. If you are receiving this letter then this Thank You applies to you. You are one of many who make this team great and you are making a Kingdom difference in the lives of many youth.

Announcements



**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST
PEACE HILLS**

online SILENT AUCTION

April 6 - 27, 2020

All proceeds to support YFC Youth Programs in
WETASKIWIN, MILLET, CAMROSE AND MASKWACIS



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