

Hello Friends

July, 2006 is a very exciting month in my life as a youth worker. Enough money has been pledged and donated to YFC to enable me to start working 10 hours a week! Thank you so much to all who have helped fund this ministry. Your donations go a long way in changing the lives of youth. Now that I am able to devote more time to the youth, I have some new ideas that I'd like to try.

Lifechangers Course - This is a new program that I am developing and currently running with a group of youth I am connected with through Station X and Xcell. The Lifechangers Course is all about learning how to change the things in our lives (depression, fear, addictions, hopelessness, hurtful behavior...) that we want or need to change. Then, with the knowledge and experience of a changed life, we can use what we've learned to help bring positive change into the lives of others around us. A passing on of the tools. This concept grew out of experiences I had following the recent murder of a 16 year old girl who used to come to Station X. While we were holding a memorial for the girl, I was thinking, "What if we could've saved her?" The truth is, we can affect lives like hers and steer them away from destruction. The Lifechangers Course will equip teens to help each other through difficult times. A good number of youth are interested in participating in this program. Please pray that this course will "change the course" of some young lives.

One-on-One Hangouts - The increased time available to do youth work brings many new opportunities to hang out with the youth. Most of the youth I work with lack direct positive influences from adults. This hinders their development into healthy adults and leads to issues with low self-worth and hopelessness. I feel privileged that many of the teens are open to me being a mentor in their lives.

One young man is particularly on my heart. I will call him "Bobby". He was homeless 2 years ago and now lives with his girlfriend in a small apartment downtown. He is often depressed and numb from the bi-polar medication he is forced to take. He has had a very hard life growing up in the foster care system. Much of his hope for the future and even his desire to live has been sucked out of him. He tells me he's not even sure what keeps him going but sometimes he tells me how he thinks that God is playing some kind of role in keeping him around. At some of his most suicidal moments, I've been able to be there to encourage him. I definitely believe that somehow, God wants to use me to be instrumental in improving his life and leading him to find purpose and hope.



HISTORYMAKER '06

In my last letter, I wrote about an event that I was taking some youth to in Kamloops. Historymaker was an awesome experience. It's like a weekend crash course in learning about Jesus and what life looks like when it's connected closely with Him. For one girl in particular, the conference played a big role in introducing her to God.

I had a cool experience with another girl who has a lot of passion for life. I felt strongly that God was about to plant a new vision in her life and purpose that she could work towards. Many times her dreams have been crushed by discouragement from friends and adults. I saw a new plan that God was indicating that she's ready to pursue now. She and I are going to work together in developing this new plan.

Not everything went as planned on this trip however, and I had to work to resolve a lot of conflict between some of the youth. It was quite a

Soon to come the new Youth Centre - My church is now in the middle of building a new 2000 sq.ft. centre to be used to house youth programs for outreach to the community and high schools. I am now developing programs to run in the centre (and helping with construction of the building).

Prayer Requests

For those who pray, please spend some time in prayer for these issues. I believe that prayer can be very affective in seeing change.

1. Pray that "Bobby" and his girlfriend can find motivation and hope and that I can have an affective influence on his life.
2. Pray that the Lifechangers Course is successful in the lives of those choosing to participate. I want to be sharing with you all many stories of lives changed over the next few months.
3. Two girls that I work with are pregnant. One, who is 18 and lives on her own, is due in August. The other girl is 18, lives at home, and is due in October. Pray that Elisa and I will both have opportunities and the wisdom to help.
4. Pray that I have wisdom in choosing which programs to run in the work I do and that I do what's necessary to be most affective.
5. Pray that pledges and donations continue to come in to enable me to increase in hours and the youth work I do. The energy and ideas I have need an outlet:)

Can you feel my excitement? Want to get in on it?

Call or email me. Coffee is on me.

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Youth For Christ / Youth Unlimited

Who are we?

We are a cutting-edge, youth organization dedicated to transforming the lives of teens throughout Greater Vancouver and beyond.

Why Are We Here?

We are after nothing less than a revolution in the lives of young people. We want to help teens *believe* God's promises, so they can *see* their world more clearly through the eyes of faith. And to believe it, they need to see it in action through genuine relationships. In short, *believing is seeing*.

Who Needs Us?

We work with teens from every background. People call some of them "Kids at risk." We call them all "kids of promise" - teens who are full of the potential to make great choices and achieve great things through Christ.

learning experience! Luckily I was able to do this in a way where respect was earned and our friendships made better in the end. Some were hurt along the way, but good things have still happened as a result of the drama.

Elisa, my amazingly beautiful girlfriend, came along as a leader and my biggest help. She was able to establish friendships with many of the girls and she is still in contact with them as a mentor. She loves to work with youth and, like me, this is also something that she knows that God has called her to do. Perfect match, eh! On the trip, one girl was hurt pretty badly by the actions of others and she was crying. Elisa prayed with her and helped her overcome the hurt and move on. This girl has been growing as a strong person and in her faith so much lately.

Historymaker was also a time to develop other volunteer leaders. It was a huge growing time for them and we all learned how to deal with conflict, show grace towards the youth, and how to encourage the youth to be receptive to God's love in their lives. I totally appreciate the help I had from these leaders.

