



QUARTERLY SPRING 2021

Argentina Vos, New Creations



With spring in the air, I am eagerly sitting in the anticipation of new life: new leaves and buds shooting forth to be admired on my forest walks, fresh scents to be taken in with each inhale, and the peace-inducing sounds of songbirds welcoming in this new season. When I think of spring this year, the verse 2 Corinthians 5:17 comes to mind - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" As I have begun ministry in this past season, this has been a reality which has made me excited to step out of bed each morning. I rejoice in the reminder that through our ministry and presence in the lives of youth, we get to encourage them to step into the new creations they can become. What a blessing it is to witness!

One of the greatest pieces of growth I have seen has come from the "Girls on the Go" fitness ministry I run with Kaylee. We have witnessed such a massive and magnificent shift in our girls in the few short months we have run this program. The middle-school years can be some of the hardest and most confusing times of a teenager's life, especially for young girls in this day and age. Seeing some girls come in, hesitantly stepping out of their comfort zones to work out with a group they do not know, is already a feat in itself. Yet over time, we have seen so much more come from it. I now see a group of girls growing confident in what their bodies are capable of instead of worrying about how they look. I see a group of girls laughing and telling stories, being goofy, making friends, and trying new things as one should! When we leave after each session on Thursday afternoons, I see a group of girls walking out a little stronger, a little taller, and a little more confident in who they are and who they are becoming. To me, this is a piece of the new creations we are called to become! So welcome, Spring! I am excited to step into whatever God has to offer, and grow with and encourage these youth as they encourage me.

Anita Devries, Our Superpower



"I struggle with bitterness in my heart," admitted a lady I recently met on a trail. She knew, as we all do, that a bitter heart is sickening to bear. It soils even the brightest of days. The day she confessed that to me we were on an incredible mountain pass - all around us it seemed like there were millions of diamonds embedded in the bright white snow. The sun shimmered gloriously in the blue sky and the view of the valley and ocean was clear and beautiful. God's awesome power, beauty, and creativity were evident all around us.

We were having such a wonderful time, but as our walk was nearing an end, she admitted this pain in her spirit. I also confessed times that I have felt bitterness within me. Then I asked if I could pray for her. This person does not consider herself to be a Christian, but I could sense God wooing her to Him. So, although it was something of a stretch for her to be prayed for by someone she hardly knew, outside on a public trail, she welcomed my care for her. We bowed our heads together and lifted up the darkness to the light of His love. The relief she felt was immediate.

Prayer is an awesome superpower that each of us as Christians have. We can use it all the time, in every circumstance. It can cover people who are near to us or on the other side of the globe. Isn't it amazing to think that at any given time we can call on our Father to shower someone with His glorious love, protection, and revelation of Jesus?

If you have been receiving our biweekly prayer updates you have seen the wonderful results of your prayers. Everything from healings, to increased thankfulness, miraculous times of refreshing, increased funding and opportunities to mentor and share the gospel. Thank you so much to all of you who faithfully keep this ministry before the throne of God. May you have wonderful adventures in prayer as you grow in the joy of knowing Him and all the great things He is doing in the Comox Valley.



Hey my name is Justin Streeton and I am so excited to be joining this great team here at YFC Comox Valley! Before I joined the team here, I was wiring houses as an electrician. While doing that, I was given the opportunity to volunteer at a local youth group once a week and it changed my life forever. Sharing who Jesus was with students felt like the calling I had been praying for.

When I was asked if I would like to consider joining YFC Comox Valley, after some time praying about it I felt God leading me to move out of my career as an electrician into being a full-time youth worker. I can't wait to start up programs and to see what amazing plans God has for this year, to help so many students discover and find their faith in Jesus, and to see every young person living fully in Christ.

Rebekah Kenway, Roses & Thorns



"Tell me about a thorn from your week and a rose in your week."

This is the question that Kaylee often asks her students in the various programs she runs. It's a simple way of asking the youth to reflect back on

their week and consider something that has been hard for them but, most importantly, note something good from their week. This little question gives insight into what their week has been like and can also be a doorway into conversation.

I happened to be at 'Girls On The Go' one week, where after we had completed our sets of push ups, step ups, mountain climbers, bench dips, etc. followed by a lap of (what felt like) the never-ending Vanier track, only to repeat this a second time. We then went to the field to do cartwheels and hang out in the beautiful, crisp, golden-glow sunset scenery before the girls were picked up. This is where Kaylee posed the question to our intimate group of four. Upon sharing, three out of those four youth confessed that their rose was today's 'Girls on the Go'.

It was a simple question, addressed in a simple moment, but the moment became profound when I realized just how significant creating a safe and loving space for a youth can be, when we're prepared to be the hands and feet of Jesus to them. It's no simple thing when our program is the rose of their week. So, the more we can serve the youth of the Comox Valley, perhaps the more roses they will see.

Nathaniel Johnson, Redefined



I've been serving in youth ministry for almost 10 years. First as a student leader, supporting the young adults who were leading, and then as a young adult leading a small group myself.

God has blessed me by giving me ample opportunity to learn how to lead the next generation.

As I've been on-boarding as a staff member at YFC I've noticed God redefining how I approach youth leading- from conversation starters to hearing the needs hidden beneath casual comments. I've never felt more empowered. Growing up I had heard the phrase, "God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called." And I know I said I'd served for 10 years before, but all that prepared me for was to trust God. Because I've found more than ever that my experience doesn't really matter when God is at the helm. I'm so excited for this next season of my life because I've come to know the familiar (and uncomfortable) feeling of being out of my depth. But since His power is made perfect in weakness, then there is nowhere else I'd rather be than at His feet, asking my Father to help me.

I've really been enjoying getting to invest in the lives of the boys in my small group at Northgate Church, as well as getting involved with some of YFC's programs. I am still looking for people to partner with me in this awesome calling, so if you feel God leading you to do so I would love to chat further.

IN ONLY 12 DAYS YOU HELPED US RAISE THE FUNDS TO REPLACE OUR MINISTRY CENTRE'S OLD HEATING SYSTEM. IT HAS MADE SUCH A DIFFERENCE- THANK YOU SO MUCH!



PRAYER MEETING

ZOOM VIDEO CALL HOSTED BY YFC PRAYER CORDINATOR

Wednesdays bi-weekly 9:30am

ZOOM MEETING ID: 833 9320 8965



Taeryn Novak, Mentorship Walks

I roll up to the school, now so familiar after two years of walking the halls, getting to know students. I send a quick message letting her know I'm here and walk up to find her waiting for me on the front steps, smiling and excited.

I just love the students at this school. They're honest, resilient, and fiercely themselves. It's not possible for me to physically enter the school this year, but partnering with teachers, we've still found creative ways to support students here. For about a month now, I have had the privilege of getting to mentor a young girl from this school once a week: we go for a walk and talk about the highs and lows of her week, her challenges and her wins, what she's interested in, and more. The first week that we met she admitted that she was nervous, thinking that I would be just another adult telling her what to do. "I realize now that you're not like that," she finished with a smile.

I think people respond way better when you simply love them, rather than telling them what they're doing right or wrong. Yes, there are times we lovingly challenge people to consider something differently. But I've found that, especially with youth, that comes through small steps, with time and when trust is built.

I'm so thankful for the opportunity to get to know this young girl and what she's passionate about and to be a physical representation of Jesus to her as He lives and moves through me. I hope you're reminded that Jesus wants to use each one of us to bless those around us. We are each of us His hands and feet, no matter what our job is, what our personality is like or what we've gone through. Thank you so much for partnering with this ministry and allowing us to invest in the lives of youth in the Valley.



Kaylee Crisfield, Spreading Hope

It was this time last year that a few of us on staff experienced our last day of in-school activities. We packed up our KD lunch supplies, stowed away the pots and said good-bye to the students we had come to know as they bustled off to class, excited that Spring Break would begin once the bell rang. I don't think any of us could have predicted that Spring Break 2020 would roll right into the summer of 2020. It was a tough year (that goes without saying), but it was also a year full of resilience, courage, trust, growth, understanding and acknowledgment. We said good-bye to things that weren't truly essential in our lives and pursued the things that were.

Our team has grown and adapted, like many of our students have, and like many of you reading this have. Now more than ever is the time to truly begin to dig into what God is working at through this pandemic. What is He calling us to? What is He pulling out in us? What are we being prepared for? Those around us are searching for Hope, lasting Hope. As followers of Christ, it is our calling to share the gospel, therefore sharing the Hope that we know comes from Jesus. Your life is your ministry, regardless of your occupation, your marital status or your location.

2021 brought YFC Comox Valley back into some schools in the Valley; we run extra-curricular activities 4-5 times a week and our team has grown by four staff members! God is working in this season when everything has seemed to stop. In Psalm 46:10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."



Robbie Taylor, Faith Over Fear

There are many ways we as adults experience fear, and it's no different for the youth we serve here in the Comox Valley. We all experience the ups and downs of life's rhythms and systems - a new job, awaiting test results, or simply fearing that our online order might not make it on time. However you look at it, fear is part of our lives.

Since this time last year, I feel the world's fear has exponentially blown up and this has caused many teens to become increasingly worried. We can feel lost and hurt, unsure of what to do and who we are. However, as children of God and followers of Jesus, we are to be people of faith. We are called to trust God and not submit to the fears that are readily thrown our way.

Psalm 46 is a beneficial reminder that God is our refuge and strength, a constant presence of help in times of trouble. It's been so important to me over the past year as I've had to make it a deliberate habit to choose faith over fear. For most of us, it is often a war in our minds, where our thinking misplaces our faith and trust. God has given each of us a Spirit of power, love and sound mind. Finding ways to be reminded that God is our strength is so important.

Recently I was reading my daughter Ellie a story called "You're Here For a Reason." The book simply states the truths that we have a reason for living and a purpose for being. Some days are better than others, but we can quickly forget we are loved and here for a reason. I'm not going to lie; it's become one of my favourite books, and I often find myself reading it, hearing the words speak to me. As we connect with youth, often we are simply journeying alongside them to remind them that they are "here for a reason."

We believe every young person has a reason and purpose, and we believe that they need Jesus' love. We choose to walk in faith and not let the world and fears stop us with our mission to see every young person living fully in Christ.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

FAITH over FEAR LIVESTREAM EVENT
VIRTUAL BANQUET 2021
THURSDAY APRIL 22ND

GET YOUR TICKETS

\$35 SINGLE SEAT \$260 FULL TABLE
\$150 FAMILY PASS

ALL TICKETS PURCHASED ARE TAX RECEIPTABLE