

# QUARTERLY

## FALL 2021

### Justin Streeton, The Gift of Rest

**C**ome to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

This summer was beyond what we could have imagined, and full of laughter and fun! Many students who we already knew came out to the programs, and many newcomers who we got to know throughout the summer!

We had many programs each day of the week and with all the excitement and busyness, I found that I started to forget about rest. I slowly found myself needing energy, and all I wanted was some more time to pray and talk to the Lord. And to top it off, near the end of the summer I went mountain biking, and ended up breaking my wrist. If you have ever broken something, then you know it forces you to take time to rest.

So, I got the time I was looking for to physically rest, but it was nice to be able to still go out and serve youth— one way was serving at a camp in August. I had the best ice breaker for conversations attached to my right arm (my cast), and many students would run up and ask how I got my cast. I found that this provided a natural connect point and I found many students were no longer shy around me, so I could just go up in a time of worship and ask to pray for them. Many who I tried to pray for in the past who had said no, this time around, said yes!

I never thought I'd say it, but I felt blessed to have a broken arm— it made me more approachable to the students, and I am thankful to God for the time of rest I received.

### Kaylee Crisfield, Abide

For the past month or so, I have been reading and re-reading John 15:1-17 each morning. It talks all about abiding in the vine as our true source of life. We, in the parable, are the branches who are attached to the vine. But unlike a vine and branch in nature, we as humans have the choice to abide in the vine as our source, or to go our own way and try on our own to thrive and grow and produce fruit. This repetitive reading has been so wonderful, as it has reminded me each day when I wake up that apart from Christ, I can do nothing and just as He abides in the Father, I am to abide in Him. Through this abiding, fruit is produced, and it is sweet to the taste and draws those around us to come closer. God is in the midst of all that we do when we abide, and that brings nothing but joy to my heart because in Christ, my joy is full. It's a beautiful reliance to get to when you find Christ to be your provider in all aspects of life. This year I have been practicing patient reliance on the Lord and it has been through this mindset that I have been able to embrace the lifestyle of a branch in full surrender and reliance on the one true source of life. As surely and naturally as the branch abides in the vine, you can abide in Christ.

### Nathaniel Johnson, Called and Equipped

The summer was wonderful: sunny days taking students for hikes, hanging out at parks. It was a summer of building relationships with the students and with the community. Although there were awesome moments daily, some of my favourite moments were when the students had the chance to give back to the community at our weekly Project Serve program, partnering with the Salvation Army's soup and sandwich ministry. The students—mostly grade 6/7 boys who are very energetic— were serving people who came, and they loved it. They jumped on the opportunity to make people feel welcome and then served them food with a smile and kind conversation. It was a cool leader moment for me—I wasn't helping them achieve anything, but being present to see it, and encouraging and affirming them afterwards. I'm not sure if they knew it, but God was working through them. How good to be reminded that no matter where or who, no matter what qualifications or limitations, God can use us. I don't think He always calls the qualified, but He definitely qualifies the called.



**Robbie Taylor, Come To Jesus**

I recently spent time reflecting over Thanksgiving, considering all the things the Lord has done and all the things Jesus wants to do. What came to my mind was the phrase Maranatha, meaning 'come to Lord Jesus now'. Not in the sense that Jesus came once already and will ultimately come again at the end of time. But Maranatha in the sense that we desperately need Jesus to show up daily amid our lives as we walk and do life with people around us. In reflections of the deep longing to have the Holy Spirit lead and guide me in all areas of my life, I was reminded that He's present and willing to work in and through us. Often we can be quick to respond to the challenges we face and fix problems with our own strength. Jesus and His spirit's guidance and wisdom can be an afterthought sometimes for many of us. Let me encourage you today to consider Maranatha. It is essential as we serve youth in the Comox Valley— every interaction, every conversation, every need met is through the filter of Maranatha in the present moments. We invite the Lord Jesus to show up here and now amid the mess and struggles and trust the Holy Spirit will do a profound and transformational work in our hearts, and the lives of the youth.

### Introducing Sarah Nichol

Hi, I'm Sarah! I recently moved back to Comox with my husband after six years in the Northwest Territories. The North is where I came to know God. I was blessed to be part of a wonderful community that helped me form a firm foundation of faith. I am grateful for the people that met me where I was and welcomed me and my questions.

Spending time with everyone at church deepened my connection to the town and gave me a purpose; a need to fill and a place where I could belong and help others. I became known and cared for by so many. I am so grateful! This is what I want to share with youth as I walk alongside them—my heart for community. I want the youth to experience the joy that comes from being accepted as they are but still encouraged to grow; the gift of receiving help from others and being needed in return.

Since childhood I've had a deep heart for others and a drive to help people work through their struggles. I took great interest in emotional health and intelligence as I navigated my own adolescence and this interest bloomed into a desire to become a counsellor. I am currently in school part-time working toward this goal! I believe God will use this compassion and love for community to help the youth feel welcome, safe and known. I am excited to be joining this awesome YFC team and am looking forward to getting to know the youth and families we serve.



### Youth Unlimited™ YFC COMOX VALLEY CHRISTMAS ADVENT 24 DAY FUNDRAISER

#### How to participate:

- Fill all 24 envelopes provided with the correct dollar amounts.
- Invite and inspire family, friends, and coworkers into generosity.
- Complete the challenge by sending the money to our office.
- Giving can be via cash, cheque or on our website.
- Advocate for youth, investing in their transformation and future.
- Enjoy Christmas knowing you've made a positive impact in a teen's life for 2022!
- If you complete the challenge by Dec 31st you'll be entered into a prize draw in January 2022.

[yfccomoxvalley.com/advent](http://yfccomoxvalley.com/advent) - comoxvalley@yfc.ca





### Rebekah Kenway, A Call To Love

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no account of wrongs. Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."

Now read that again. This scripture (from 1 Corinthians 13) is depicting Christ. If ever there was a time in my three decades on this earth that I could see that the global body of Christ needed to be reminded of these words, it would be now. As a ministry that serves youth, our mission is to share the love of Christ with them, and our hope is that they choose to receive His love. It is Jesus' compassion for the sick, the outcast, and those considered unclean and disregarded by society, that always humbles and softens my heart. Does the division of this current age not also break our Father's heart? But where are our youth learning such treatment of others? It sure isn't from Christ! Friends, Jesus doesn't wait for us to be whole, perfect, or thinking like He does before He loves us. We must extend love to those who we may think are wrong, for it was while we were in the wrong that Christ reached out to us. Our youth are looking up and learning from us, and I pray that as they look to us all, they will see Christ.



### Argentina Vos, Choosing Light

In the words of a character in some of our students' favourite novels, "Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light." Although a slightly cheesy and often overused quote from a book about magical creatures and wizards, I think it has an added application to people right now as we navigate such polarized and fear-fuelled times. As believers in a good and loving God who has peace and harmony as a central part of His plan for us, we are called to be bringers of light to an increasingly dark world. It is our task to be a beacon in these challenging times, be it for us as youth workers for our students navigating the trials of school, relationships and teenage-hood in a pandemic, or for you as a person navigating community, work and politics while trying to remain kind-hearted.

To "turn on the light," we must turn to the person of Jesus who welcomed and unified, and saw others in love even as they opposed Him. I pray He would be your peace and your stronghold as we leave behind what was known and comfortable and move into increasingly unsure times. May He lead you in love towards one another and carry you into whatever season comes next.



### Kaitlyn Falk, Witnessing Boldness

There is a younger kid who attends the youth group I help lead on Tuesday nights. Although I would like to say that I don't make assumptions about people before I know them, sometimes this happens. In the case of this particular youth, God surprised me as I witnessed a greater depth in him than I had anticipated. One night after our small group discussion, he out of the blue started telling me a story about how he had shared about God with a friend he met through an online game. In this unlikely scenario of online gaming, this youth was aware of God's prompting that led him to share about God and what his faith means to him. What he said to me next absolutely struck me. He said, "What we say might be somewhat important, but in the end it is God who changes hearts." In a scenario where I was supposed to be the encourager, here this young kid was encouraging me in his boldness. What a beautiful picture of the kingdom of God where young people have value and influence.

The theme we had been talking about at youth group was "Being Brave" and what that looks like with our foundation on Christ. The story this boy told me encapsulated so well the verse we were reflecting on. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."



### Taeryn Novak, My Favourite Things

"My favourite things: books, baking, reading, YFC." A youth showed me this list she wrote in her sketchbook at one of our Creative Life studio times, and it made me smile because I've really seen her come out of her shell since she started coming to our programs this summer. And to hear that we are one of her favourite places to be is so special and demonstrates the sense of community we have here. It's encouraging to see students from different schools and backgrounds become friends as we make art, play games, do homework, and engage with each other.

I also know that the reason students keep coming back to our programs isn't just our team's collectively fun, engaging, calm, caring, crazy personalities. It's God's character working in and through us. I'm thankful to be a part of His story in the lives of these youth, played out over many hours and days in relationship, doing small things with great love (as Mother Teresa put it). Thank you so much for helping to equip this team to bring God's love to teens. We couldn't do this without your prayers and support.

**BUY A TOQUE, SUPPORT A YOUTH FUNDRAISER**

\$25

Three different styles of toques are shown: a tan knit-toque, a grey ribbed-toque, and a brown ribbed-toque. Both the tan and grey ones have a small white tag attached.

**The Heart of Christmas**

In December we will gather with local youth to write Christmas cards for seniors in our community and collect non-perishable food items for the Food Bank. Inspiring the next generation to consider others and to care for their needs.

**November 26th, 5-9 PM**

Filling Shoe Boxes   Building Food Hampers   Writing Christmas Cards

Get involved by connecting with Kaylee Crisfield  
kaylee.crisfield@yfc.ca 250-465-0582

**Just a short overview of programs, in addition we are in local schools at lunch and doing one on one mentorship.**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
Homework Club   3:30-6 Justin Streeton Courtenay   St. John the Divine	Creative Life Project   4-6 Taeryn Novak YFC	Local Youth Groups Elevate Youth CPC   6:30-8 Northgate Youth   7-9 Courtenay Fellowship Youth Jr High   6:30-8:30	TrailBlazers   9:30-11:30 Argentina Vos	Play On   4-6 Justin Streeton YFC
Homework Club   3:30-5:30 Argentina Vos Comox   Comox Pentecostal	Local Youth Groups Black Creek   7-9 Salvation Army Jr High   6:30-8:30 Courtenay Fellowship Youth Sr High   7-9	Vanier Flex Day Drop-In   2-4 Kaylee Crisfield 4729 Headquarters Rd	Creative Life Studio   4-5:30 Taeryn Novak Mudsharks Cafe	Friday Night   7-9 Kaylee Crisfield YFC
Book Club   3:30-6 Taeryn Novak St. John the Divine	Local Youth Groups Salvation Army Sr High   7-9		Girls on the Go   4-5:30 Kaylee Crisfield	Highland & Isfeld FLEX Drop-In   2-4 Argentina Vos Comox Pentecostal
Local Youth Groups Salvation Army Sr High   7-9			Floor Hockey   6:30-7:30 Ages 5-11	
			Floor Hockey   7:30-8:30 Ages 12-18	
			Justin Streeton Cumberland Rec	
			Local Youth Groups Living Hope Youth   6:30-8	

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