

7 QUARTERLY FALL 2026



Robbie Taylor, **The Heart of Pursuit**

A few weeks ago I headed up to northern BC for a short moose hunt. I went for the hunt, but I came home thinking about the gospel. If you've never hunted, here's something that might surprise you: most of it isn't shooting. It's pursuit. It's early mornings with a hot coffee, quadding lots of kilometres of back roads, and then walking a few more on foot, hoping that whatever's around the next bend hasn't already heard us coming. There were swamps to wade through and some rough ground to cover, and by the end of the day I was ready for a good meal and a warm bed. You don't wait for the moose to come find you. You go where it is, you enjoy the country, and you keep at it, even on the days you come back empty-handed. And then, finally, there it was. When I got that elusive moose, the feeling hit all at once: the thrill, the relief, and right behind it an instant gratitude for God's provision. All the kilometres and muddy boots had been worth it.

One day on that trip, it hit me: this is exactly how God has moved toward us. From the very beginning, Scripture tells the story of a God who pursues. When Adam and Eve hid, God came looking and asked, "Where are you?" Jesus described Himself as the shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine to go after the one lost sheep, and doesn't stop until He finds it. He summed up His whole mission in one line: "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Psalm 23 says, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." I love that picture. God's goodness isn't something we have to chase down. He's the one chasing us. But there's one big difference between a hunter and our God. A hunter pursues to take a life. God pursues to give one. "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." He came all the way to us, at the cost of everything, so we could be brought home.

I think about my own story. There were seasons I wasn't looking for God at all, and He kept showing up anyway, often through people who refused to give up on me. That's what pursuit looks like up close.

Just as God pursued us, we're called to pursue the young people of the Comox Valley. Teenagers need Jesus and that means showing up where they are, getting to know their stories, and staying patient even when it takes time. The challenges teens face are nothing we can comprehend sometimes. But every one of them is worth the effort, because every one of them is someone Jesus came looking for. Thank you for your prayers and support that keep us out there pursuing them.

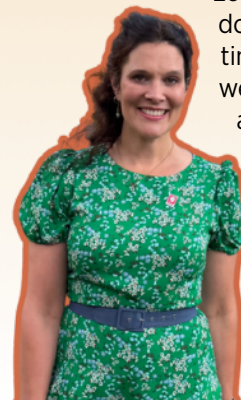
Waiting To See The Fruit

By the time you read this, our Giving In Thanksgiving event will have come and gone. Many hours have gone into planning this event, where we empower youth to serve their community, making care packages and then delivering them to people living on the streets.

With all the work that goes into this event, if I'm honest, I'm tired. At times I catch myself, during the lead-up to a youth program or event, wondering why I've put so much time and effort into planning it. Sometimes when I've been journeying with a youth for months on end in mentorship, and it feels like we're not progressing in our relationship or in their development, I question if it's worth it. I imagine parents may feel this at times in raising children. But unlike raising kids, planning an event has a deadline, and you know that the culmination of your planning will show what it has been worth. This year, hosting our sixth annual Giving In Thanksgiving, even before the event takes place, I know it is all worth it.

Before you see the fruit of something, you first have to prepare the soil, then plant the seed; the seed germinates before it grows, you tend the plant, and eventually the fruit will come. I have witnessed six years of this Thanksgiving event produce much fruit in the lives of the youth and even in our local community. And I've learnt that in being steadfast and loyal in the way that we serve youth— whether at weekly programs or in mentorship— all the preparation, planting and tending is well worth it. It all takes time, but be encouraged to know the fruit will come.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." (Galatians 6:9-10)



Rebekah Kenway

EVERY YOUNG PERSON LIVING FULLY IN CHRIST



Troy Friesen, **Anchored: Growing Deeper in Christ**

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." (Colossians 2:6-7)

As we step into the autumn season, something I'm particularly excited about is launching a new discipleship group, Anchored, for young guys in grades 10-12 (ages 14-18).

When Hendré and I were discussing fall programming this summer, it became increasingly clear that our older guys needed a dedicated space, a program where they could grow deeper in their faith, tackle real questions, and encourage one another as they navigate their high school years and approach young adulthood. These years are incredibly formative, with competing influences coming from friendships, social media, sports teams, workplaces, and culture.

Our hope with the Anchored program is to walk alongside these young men as they learn to make Christ their firm foundation and become anchored in their identity in Him. We want to build a space that makes room for honest sharing, prayer, accountability, and meaningful relationships.

Throughout the year, we will be meeting weekly to explore practical topics like technology, relationships and dating, servant leadership, and mental health. Within each of these conversations, our aim will always be to point back to living a life with Jesus at the centre, and discovering what it means to follow Him daily.

Ultimately, our prayer is to see these young men enter adulthood rooted in Christ, confident in who they are in Him, and equipped to be fishers of men in their schools and community.



Taeryn Novak, Known

This fall we have had a number of new girls join our Girls' Group, and it has been encouraging to watch as they become more comfortable and confident. One girl, on her first week, was shy and almost in tears because of how nervous she was to be in a new group. But by the end of the program she was smiling, and she came back the next week (and the next), pushing herself out of her comfort zone and into community.

We get youth from all different backgrounds and personalities, and I love getting to know each of them. We watched a video series with the girls called "Known," about our desire to be accepted, how we can know God, and how He values us and our uniqueness. I love that this is a space where we can affirm these young women and their value, talk through the insecurities and struggles we all face, and support one another.

I have also enjoyed being back at our weekly Friday Nights program. This is yet another place where youth can discover healthy community, belonging, and the love of Jesus— whether that's through games, conversations, meals, or even a movie night.

I truly believe in the power of our everyday interactions. We may not see it at the time, but God is at work in these moments, and it is a privilege to be on the journey with these young people, watching them grow and become more confident in who God has made them to be.

Thank you for praying and helping provide the resources we need for this ministry! I look forward to getting to know and grow with many more youth this year.



Hendré Basson, The Mentorship Mission

As the school year begins again, fall brings new opportunities to invest in mentoring teens. I am joyfully walking in a season where I have the privilege of mentoring four high school young men in grades 10-12 as they begin their journey toward young adulthood, with the bubble of high school coming to an end, and the world's temptations beckoning for more of their attention.

Through mentorship, God has shown me the importance of investing in these young leaders who will soon go out into the adult world: a battleground they must be equipped to face. From a teen struggling to be bold and open about their faith, to another reassessing how they can go deeper in their walk with God, the Lord has convicted me that investing more in relational, intentional discipleship right now is vital to help young men see their identity in Christ as well as discover the purpose and gifts they have received and been prepared for.

So far, these sessions have been spent on learning how to love others who disagree with us or have a different point of view, praying for our leaders, and leaning into healthy community and vulnerability as young men. This has given both Troy and I inspiration for our new Tuesday program, ANCHORED, which sees us spending a couple of hours with grades 10-12 boys in weekly group discipleship, prayer, and fellowship. This program aims to surround young men with like-minded friends who can journey together and hold each other accountable outside of YFC, while being actively equipped during our time together to live fully in Christ and yearn for more of Him.

I am so excited for what God has in store for these older teens this year. Please join me in lifting up this next generation in prayer: that they be bold and secure in their faith, and pursue Jesus with the desire to have Him shape who they are.

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