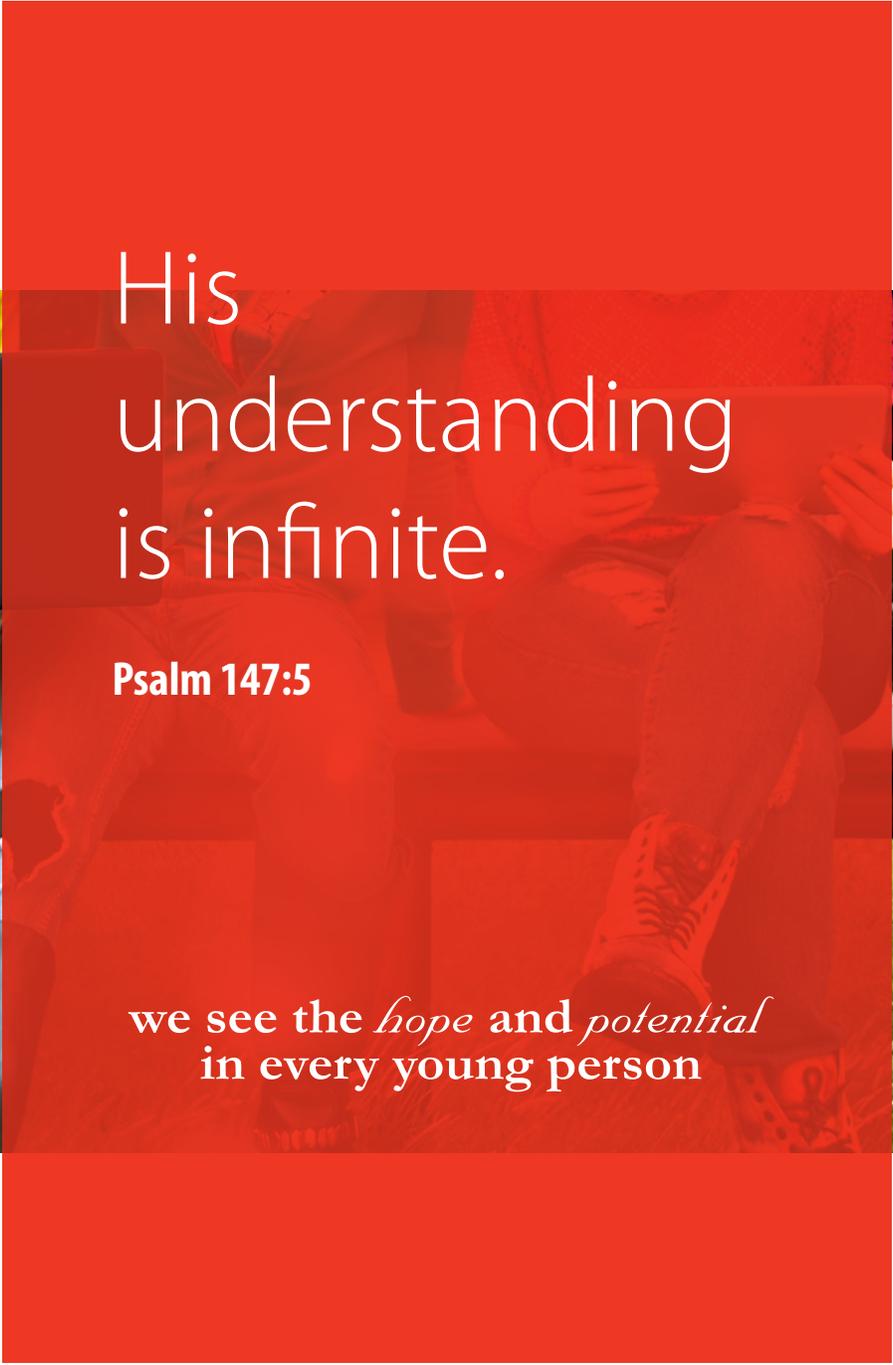




YFC CANADA Newsletter

OCTOBER 2017



His
understanding
is infinite.

Psalm 147:5

*we see the hope and potential
in every young person*

Words from our National Director

Dear Friends of YFC,

As I reflect back over the past few months, I am reminded of the struggles of youth as they search for love and unconditional acceptance – the love and acceptance that we know is only found in our Saviour. There are so many hurting youth, some with mental health challenges, some who feel they are unloved and some who feel that life has no meaning. With your partnership, we are able to make a significant difference in the lives of these young people and demonstrate the love of Christ Jesus to them. As you pray and give of your time and resources, we are able to be present and available. So often we find that a listening ear and a stable presence makes all the difference. Thank you!

Our National Board Chair, Mark Fletcher, lost his youngest son to mental illness this summer. Yes, this is the same family who lost their eldest son to a brain aneurysm earlier this year. Please pray for the Fetters as Mark and Cindy and their family deal with this huge loss. Truly none of our families are exempt from the brokenness of this world.

As the 2017 school year begins, I would ask that you continue to pray for the youth of our nation and our staff and volunteers as they interact with young people on a daily basis. Please also pray for our new Online Evangelism project as we increase our online presence desiring to be available for questioning youth when they are searching for answers.

Today, let's each stop and listen to a young person. In our Lord's economy it will be one of the most important moments in our day!

"His understanding is infinite." Psalm 147:5

In His Name,



Dave Brereton

National Director

A Youth in Crisis

BY MICHAEL BRANDT, YFC CANADA STAFF



Compelled by the love of Jesus, YFC Okanagan brings the simple message of “You are loved!” to the youth of the Okanagan. We battle the dragons of isolation, mental illness, and hopelessness by stepping into the messy lives of young people, fighting to see transformation in their lives. We are all about empowering high-risk youth to be resilient by connecting them with caring adults, in long-term and stable relationships.

This year, a number of youth struggling with mental health issues had the opportunity to go on a road trip to California, USA. The youth and YFC staff came out of the week exhausted, encouraged and feeling the presence of the Holy Spirit. This is the story of one YFC staff member’s experience while on this trip:

“The day at Universal Studios has come to an end. It is time for us to begin the journey back to Canada. It is a quiet and balmy evening and all appears to be going well when everything changes. One of our students, Sam*, sitting in the back seat of our parked van rushes out the door slamming it on the way out. Sam runs. . .we (my supervisor and I) chase - a common theme of that night’s event.

We are now unable to locate Sam so we walk over to the security station of the parkade and give a description of the missing teen. Before receiving any feedback I ask the security guard what is in the opposite direction of the way we had turned? That is when we hear the two words that created a fearful ache in the gut. . . A bridge!

My heart races but as it is racing I feel a calmness about the situation. Prayer ensues as I walk towards the bridge and there the youth is, looking over the edge, sobbing, chest moving in and out faster than I have ever seen! Filled with the Spirit I walk up and begin conversation. Sam is overwhelmed with pain and anxiety over the loss of a friend in recent weeks, screaming that this is the only thing that looks appealing to end the pain and that no one can understand or care!

God gives me the words, handed to me on a silver platter and I knew in that moment that I wasn’t the saviour in this situation.

I tell the teen that there are people who love them, people who don’t even know them, that paid for them to go on this trip just to break away from the hurt back home, that I love them and that most importantly God loves them.

Then the police show up and this triggers panic. Sam runs cursing at everyone in sight and it gets to the point of a police officer telling me that cuffs will soon need to be placed on the youth for their own safety. God once again speaks clearly to my heart telling me to be the one to intervene. In the middle of LA, surrounded by police officers, flashing lights everywhere, we look at a sobbing, hurting kid in the centre of it all. I go up and ask if I can put my hand on their shoulder. Sam says ‘yes’ and just as I do I feel the full on embrace of a kid who doesn’t know how to release the hurt. A police officer walks up to us and I tell him to back off! (That’s a first; I guess I was growing in confidence).

Once again, filled with the Spirit, I pray over the teen as fierce sobbing continues and in that moment I believe that God touched the youth’s heart. God will provide for those who are willing. I am no hero but an instrument of God that was used to protect this kid’s physical life and hopefully one day down the road as our relationship continues they will reach out and cling to the true Saviour. **Pray for our youth! Pray that we not only toss them from the gates of hell but that they are caught in the arms of Christ.”**

* For privacy reasons we have not used the actual name of the youth in this story.

Online Evangelism

“And as God’s grace reaches more and more [young] people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. That is why we never give up.” 2 Corinthians 4:15 – 16

The young people in Canada are online and connected more than any other generation before them. Not only are they connected, but they are also mobile as smartphones are most often used to access the internet. Since most young people are connected online through some form of social media, the goal of YFC Canada’s online evangelism program is to reach out to the 90% of young people who, though so well-connected with each other, are not connected to a church.

YFC’s online evangelism program will be a website called **YFC GO** and will be rolled out in phases.

PHASE 1 | Phase 1 includes a video library full of testimonials, success stories and online articles that will help start the conversation of Jesus and His love. It will also include an Event Finder so youth will be able to search for YFC events in their neighbourhood.

PHASE 2 | Phase 2 is all about fostering communication with youth in a safe and secure environment – our goal is to be available 24/7, so whenever a youth needs someone to talk to, we will be there. For example, if a youth searches the internet for “ways to commit suicide” or “is God real?” one of our online volunteers will be available to connect with that youth in real time.

With YFC GO, we will be able to meet youth where they are – and provide a safe environment for those seeking answers.

Please pray for this incredible opportunity to reach today’s young people, as we work on launching YFC Go in the near future.

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