



Robbie Taylor, *Abiding Prayer: Resting, Not Requesting*

Working with youth in the busy pace that ministry sometimes sets, I can often get too much going at one time, and miss the importance of relying on the very source for our activity - Jesus.

After a few busy weeks this fall we had the opportunity to visit with Joel Martins, YFC Canada's National Prayer Coordinator. It was the last leg of his nationwide road trip to visit all YFC chapters across the country. His goal was to lead us into greater prayer and intimacy with Jesus, desiring unity and strength to form us in our journey of prayer. It was so good, and a timely gift from Jesus, that Joel came when he did. One thing that spoke to my heart and has touched me was Joel's phrase, "Prayer is less about us convincing God, and rather more about God convincing us."

John 15:7 says, "Remain in me and I in you and whatever you ask it will be done." The Lord reminds us that when we spend time with him and truly abide in him, we then pray into and through God's heart. We become less focused on our requests and wants, and are more and more of His Heart and desires by His Spirit. I was challenged and convicted to revisit how I spend my time in prayer. The Lord longs for our hearts to be in true connection with His heart, and to be still before him. As we become still, we cease from the striving, and align ourselves to receive from Him.

What a beautiful gift of grace that we get to walk with Jesus and have our hearts stirred as we pray kingdom prayers. As we remain and abide I encourage you, as I have been encouraged, to take time to rest before God. Come and abide under His Love for you. Let all that He is be present to you, and find joy as you come to God for God and not to request.



Keagan Preston, *Bringing Light*

It's an interesting concept to wrap our heads around, that Jesus chose not to spend his time with the religious people of his day, but went out to the people who were either looked down upon, or in the lowest classes, and made them into his disciples.

I was recently asked the question, "How do you share the gospel with teens?" For me it's simple: I know that they aren't necessarily going to listen to me, but they will hear me through my actions. It's the times where I gave them my attention when no one else would listen; it was the rides home so they didn't have to walk; and it's for still being there after they made another bad decision and picking up the pieces with them. It's caring about them in those times of need - because they won't care what you know and the advice you can give until they know that you care for them.

I had a very special moment a few weeks ago. While my mom was here I had some time off, and the youth I work with hadn't seen me in a week. As I was heading home, I had a text from a youth asking for a ride. It was on the way so I stopped at "The Linc" drop-in centre to pick him up. At this point several teens ran over to my car and surrounded it, asking me question after question, and telling me all their recent stories. I was in awe in that moment because the Lord has used me to impact their lives, and I realized how important those small moments were.

I would like to finish with a saying that I recently came across that I found to be super encouraging! "We as a Church come together to strengthen, but disperse to bring light." The Lord uses us all to reach the lost. Go be a friend to someone today!



Ann Weir, *It was so quiet!*

I have to say, during the summer I missed the regularity and busyness of having the YFC staff around during the week! They were busy putting their hearts into one summer camp or another, and taking some time to rest up for this school year.

I do love summer time, with all the sun, fun, swimming, having the grandchildren over, family reunions, and just a break from the usual goings-on. But I'm excited that the staff are back! It's great to have them around Riverbend again, listening to them plan and strategize for the school year. Please pray for the staff as they make connections in the schools, youth groups and the community.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:21-22)

We are so grateful here at YFC for your faithful support through both prayer, volunteering and finances. I hope to see many of you at our Appreciation Afternoon this year!



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Taeryn Novak, **How do I know God is real?**

Hopefully you already know this about me, but I love youth group! It's a place where teens can come and get to know other Christians, have fun, and most importantly learn about God in a safe, welcoming space. I am so thankful to be able to help out at two youth groups this year during the week. The small-group time is one of my favourite parts of the night because I have time to connect at a deeper level with the girls, discussing life and faith with them, and hearing their stories.

On one of the first nights of youth group this year, one of the girls in my group asked a very honest, pure question: "How do I know if God is real?" I think that's a question a lot of youth are asking, whether or not they vocalize it. They're being told a million different things by the world and the people around them, and I can't imagine how confusing it is as they try to find the truth.

Jesus says in John 8 that the truth will set us free. True freedom comes when we know that we're created by God, that we're in desperate need of him, and when we invite him into our lives. Earlier, in verse 12, Jesus says "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." I pray that as these young people interact with their leaders at youth group, hear God's word and learn about him, that they come to know him personally, and that they come to know how loved they are by him.

As followers of Christ, the youth of this generation are some of the most important people we have to invest in. These young people need to be loved, cared for, and championed. Thank you all for your contribution to their lives!



Youth For Christ International, **Celebrating 75 Years of YFC**

"We've often heard the phrase "act your age". When you consider age and actions, it's hard to believe that the vibrant, relevant, youth-focused ministry of Youth for Christ is not actually a teenager, but an organization that, through prayer, provision, and God's continual blessing, is celebrating 75 years in 2019. The best of both worlds: young at heart with the wisdom of years!

Beginning in 1944 on the prayers of people wanting to reach young people, with rallies in the Chicago area drawing at least 70,000 people and hundreds receiving Christ, and banding together with people with similar hearts around the country, the movement of Youth for Christ was born.

Not long after, Youth for Christ became a world movement, starting with Britain and China. Today, Youth for Christ works in over 100 nations around the world, many of them celebrating decades of youth ministry as well. One of them, Youth for Christ Colombia, recently celebrated 45 years of outreach [...]

At an early all-night prayer meeting, Youth for Christ founder Torrey Johnson prayed, "Oh God, we want this kept on a miracle basis. We want everyone to know that God's hand is on this movement. We want folks to see that this is too big and too great for any man or group of men to accomplish by themselves. We want folks to say, 'God did it!'"

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Upcoming Youth Event

