



YOUTH UNLIMITED (TORONTO YFC)

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It is with much appreciation that I give this update about the exciting start to our ministry in 2012. We resumed all the programs a week after the New Year.

Hoop 2 Hope

The permit for the Hoop 2 Hope program at Oakdale Community Centre was renewed by the City through the end of June. Youth mostly from grades 3 to 8 attended the program weekly on Saturday nights. We had an increase in enrolment due in part to the referral by the Social Workers in the elementary schools. Our topic for discussion during the quarter was *Knowing God*. We studied the attributes of God and His moral character. It was gratifying for the youth to know that God's love for them never changes no matter what they do. The curiosity about God of these mostly un-churched community youth, made me realize what they are missing both at home and in school.

We had to re-shape the Friday night program to focus on those who are currently in High School who want to participate in our teaching program. Instead of the large numbers of over 40, we had between 10 and 15 students in attendance every Friday night. This has helped us to surmount the problem of supervision as well as going deeper in our discussions without the distractions which characterized the previous meetings.

At end of January, we had a **Rite of Passage Ceremony** for six of the youth who turned 18 in 2011 at *Northminster Baptist Church*. I have known and worked with these boys since they were 8 years old. We have traveled with them to the Muskokas, Detroit, Winnipeg and Atlanta Georgia - playing basketball, doing service projects and having a retreat. Seeing them dressed in tuxedos instead of gangster clothing and belonging to a positive group with aspirations to pursue various goals was very encouraging to me. Just across the street from the church where this ceremony was held, Chris, a young man with whom I had previously worked, perished from gunshot wounds last November.

Elite Soccer

The soccer program continued indoors at St. Jane Frances Catholic School at Jane and Sheppard. Due to the demands on my time in the community, I graciously transferred this program to the volunteers to run which they handled perfectly during the quarter.

March Break Camp

Through the contact of Youth Unlimited Project Serve, a team of 12 youth and two leaders from Zurich Mennonite Church came to help us run a five day camp during the March break. We had 42 children ages 6 to 13 in attendance. The camp was held at the Salvation Army Yorkwood Church in collaboration with their Kidzone Coordinator. The Zurich group came with all the craft supplies and taught the children about beading and how to make wallets and handbags with duck tape. The Salvation Army provided free lunch for all the children. We had a day trip to the Ontario Science Center and a basketball tournament which was keenly competed by the kids.

Prayer Requests

- *That God will provide male mentors for the Hoop 2 Hope and soccer program;*
- *For the protection of the youth and the families participating in our programs;*
- *That the Lord will continue to touch the hearts of generous people, churches and companies to continue to partner with us in this work; and*
- *That other churches will embrace the opportunity to come to this area to become involved in missions and ministry.*

Thank you very much for your support and prayers

Sincerely,

Benjamin Osei