



YOUTH UNLIMITED (TORONTO YFC)

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Fall Update 2017

It is with great privilege to write to you about our fall ministry in Jane and Finch. After a very successful summer outreach, we had a three-week break and resumed our weekly programs during the third week of September after the approval of all the permits. It was another great opportunity to serve despite the tragic loss of some members in our community. The most troubling being the death of **Tevon** who was a member of the soccer outreach program and who also served as camp counselor at Seeds of Hope in 2012. We returned from the overnight camp to hear that he had been stabbed to death. I am still finding it difficult to adjust to the news. He was 22 years old. In addition, two brothers in the Hoop to Hope lost their father after he had a long battle with cancer. In spite of all this, I am glad that God has placed me here with these families to be a support in their time of grief. Apart from these incidents, everyone of our community and program is safe.

Hoop to Hope

We started the Hoop to Hope program with a barbeque at the Oakdale Community Centre. A large number of the youth in our program and the community attended and had a lot of fun. Unfortunately, not as many of their parents were able to attend the event as we had hoped for. Special thanks to the Men's Group of **Lisle Memorial Baptist Church** for helping to host the BBQ.

We have about twenty youth ages 10 to 14 years who attend the Saturday program on a regular basis. Our main theme of discussion for the Fall was ***Cautiousness***. They learned the importance of following safety rules and how that can benefit them personally and their community.

The focus of discussion at the Friday group of older boys was ***setting life goals*** and striving to achieve them. This discussion was a necessary encouragement to those who were on the verge of giving up. Thanks to Paul, Calvin and Roy for their role in mentoring these young men. We adjourned the programs on December 16th hoping to resume on January 12th 2018.

Seeds of Hope Club

The Seeds of Hope Kids club resumed after a summer break in October with a regular attendance of 15-18 children from grades 4-8 from the Jane Finch community. The program is aimed at providing a safe place for the kids to have fun and meet new friends, while helping them to know more about their loving Heavenly Father and helping them grow into responsible young people.

The children eagerly attended the weekly Tuesday evening meetings held at the **Salvation Army Yorkwoods Community Church**. This term the children have been learning “How to be a *Wise Guy*” from the book of Proverbs. They learned the importance of listening to, and following good instruction and exercising wisdom by considering the consequences of their decisions and how it would impact them and others. Other activities such as games and times of sitting and eating together were enjoyed by all. We are thankful to have placement students from Humber and Seneca Colleges this term along with our regular volunteers helping out with the games and food.

We finished the term with a Christmas party held at the local community centre where each child received a Christmas gifts and some of the volunteers were recognised for their involvement.

Prayer requests

- *That God will provide male mentors/volunteers for the Hoop 2 Hope program*
- *For the protection of the youth and families participating in our programs*
- *For complete recovery of the health of some members in our community who are still in the hospital*
- *For new partners to join in the support of this ministry financially*
- *For other churches to see this area as their mission field*

Thank you very much for your support throughout the year. I would not have been able to do this work without your partnership

Sincerely,



Benjamin Osei