2018 annual report

It is with great delight and much appreciation that I write this report about 2018 ministry year.

I enjoyed the blessings of God through your faithful giving and prayers. All the youth and families we worked with in the community were safe despite the spike of violence in the City during the year.

I had an eye surgery in March and November for glaucoma and cataract which compelled me to rest for eight weeks after each surgery to recover. As a result, I spent less time on the field. The surgeries were very successful as my vision has improved and I don't have to do any further eye surgery

**Hoop 2 Hope**

The application for a permit to Use the gym of Westview Secondary School through the Toronto District School Board was approved without a cost to us in September. However, we encountered serious difficulty with our permit renewal with the City of Toronto parks and recreation to use Oakdale Community centre due to a change of leadership of recreational staff at the facility. This was finally resolved after almost three months. On average 25 elementary and middle school youth participated in the Saturday program at the Oakdale Community Centre. They were generally well behaved. They learned through the program about how to make good decisions and its impact on their lives and community at large.

The local Police Division sent officers on a monthly basis to engage the boys in a healthy conversation about keeping the community safe. They were thoroughly impressed by the effectiveness of the program and saw the correlation between the success at Hoop to Hope and the lower crime rate among the young men. Some of the officers of the division raised some support for our program and look forward to a continued partnership with Youth Unlimited.

We had over 30 high school students playing basketball every Friday night thanks to another Youth Unlimited worker named Scott Veals who introduced some of his teens to the program.

The theme of the season was “What makes a great and an ideal Man?” We focused on three “Rs”: Respect, Responsible and Resolute. Many of the boys told me personally that the program has significantly impacted their life with regard to their character and academic achievement. Ten of the younger boys from the Saturday program were taken on an overnight retreat to the YMCA’s Cedar Glen Outdoor Centre in Schomberg, Ontario. At the closing of the season, a rite of passage ceremony was held for the boys who turned 18 years old to initiate them into adulthood. All in all, it was an honour to witness God’s work in the lives of the boys in the Hoop to Hope program. Special thanks to Paul Bartely and the BECC interns as well as Brother Roy, Brother Calvin and Pastor Audley for their dedication and commitment to this program throughout the year.

**Seeds of Hope camp Club**

The Seeds of Hope Club which is a discipleship program continued to enjoy a vibrant ministry during the year to the approximately 20 children who regularly attended meetings on a Tuesday evening. They all participated keenly in the program activities of sharing, games, teaching time and of course the meal times at the end of each meeting. The focus of the Bible teaching from January to June was on the story of Joseph with an emphasis on the importance of forgiveness. Other highlights were an amazing day trip to Laser Tag over the March Break.

The teaching times during the Fall were focused on helping them know their identity in Christ. This series was especially impactful as many of the children came to appreciate that each one is special and uniquely created by God for a purpose. Special thanks to batty bailey and Heather ortiz for their leadership role in this program and the Salvation Army Yorkwoods Church for the provision of facility.

On Saturday October 27th , the leaders and kids from the Club joined with 30 other campers and volunteers to attend the Seeds of Hope Camp reunion day trip to Living Waters Resort and Spa in Collingwood, Ontario. We ended the year with a Christmas party held at a local community centre for over 150 youth and their families. Each child received a Christmas gift donated by ***Youth Unlimited*** and the ***Salvation Army***.

**Seeds of Hope camp**

The focus of our camp last year was to introduce the campers to God’s Love. This was demonstrated in our Bible teaching, team activities, and our arts and craft.

The six weeks of camp flew by for the 47 campers registered as they enjoyed their regular daily program of lively worship times and Bible study followed by academic time in the mornings. After lunch they energetically participated in games, and electives of sports, arts and craft, dance and drama. As usual we went on day trips to Wet N Wild Waterpark, Pioneer Village, Centreville

The Seeds of Hope Summer Day camp 2018 was very successful. We enjoyed many moments as children discovered more about God's love, themselves, and each other over the 6 weeks of camp and 5 days of overnight ***Camp at Koinonia***. The trip to the over night camp was made possible in part by a grant from ***Jericho Foundation***. We received the ***ESDC Canada Summer Jobs Program grants*** to hire 7 student counsellors. Thanks once again to our ***Federal MP. Hon. Judy Sgro***. The Catholic Focus on Youth program also placed five students with us for the summer. We are very grateful to the **Toronto Catholic District School Board** for granting us the permit to use St Jane Frances Catholic School as the site for the Camp since 2010. The ***Athletes in Action*** coaches came once again to help at the camp for a week where we saw many youth commit their lives to Christ. As usual, ***Lisle Memorial Baptist Church*** took a week in August to host VBS for the campers.

Financial Support

In addition to individuals like you, who faithfully supported us during the year, the following organizations, companies and churches also contributed to make the program a success for the year.

***Carrot Social Justice Fund***

***Com-Pleat Filters Inc, Georgetown, Ontario***

***Friendship Community Church, Toronto, Ontario***

***Heritage Fellowship Church, Brampton, Ontario***

***Jericho Foundation***

***Lisle Memorial Baptist Church, Toronto, Ontario***

***The Peoples Church, Toronto, Ontario***

***Turkstra Modular Builders, Beamsville, Ontario***

Thank you for your ongoing financial support and prayers. We are very appreciative of your partnership and involvement with this ministry and hope you will bring these matters to the attention of your churches, friends and corporations.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Osei

Jane Finch Youth Outreach Worker

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