## **Life** STORIES

EVAN PETERS / Ministry Newsletter / FALL 2023



## HOCKEY NEVER STOPS

Summer was a blast for us but absolutely flew by. We officially have a toddler roaming around the world now, so that makes our lives significantly more complicated and interesting! It's been a lot of fun seeing this though, Marka's personality is really starting to come out as she walks around exploring and discovering all the great things in this world!

We started off the summer by taking our YFCHL league winners out to Winnipeg to play off against their all-star team! This was a big trip for our students, some of them had barely been across the river in Saskatoon, so the 9 hour drive to another city was a big deal! We spent three days playing hockey and adventuring around Winnipeg before making the trek home. They got to see the forks, enjoy the Winnipeg skyline and stay at the massive YFC building Winnipeg uses for their programming! We had a blast hanging out and experiencing new things together but... they beat us. Winnipeg brought out a really good group and won the 7 game series 4-1. Most of our students' only hockey experience is in our program whereas all but one of the Winnipeg team play outside theirs. This shows you a different demographic, but also the essential role we play in our students lives. Even with the loss the boys were excited about the fun they had together. This is a huge win for us, the boys are usually terrible losers.

In my last letter, I asked for funds to help cover the cost of meals for this trip. Thanks to you who helped feed these boys on our trip. Taking out the stress of food for them is a huge deal and we appreciate you so very much. Thank you.

After that I was on holidays, but travelling around the country coaching and playing ball hockey. I was in Newfoundland coaching the Saskatchewan Under 17 ball hockey team where we didn't get any hardware but built the program for next year. After that Rebecca and Marka joined me for some holiday time in Halifax before heading to Saint John for my own tournament! Came home with a bronze and silver medal from two of the teams I was involved in. I am beyond blessed to play and be involved in this sport at a national level.





Lately, it feels like a few of our kids' homes are becoming increasingly unstable. We've had disclosures of abuse as well as straight up rejection and eviction of students.

One group of siblings ran away from their house after a dangerously tense moment with their caregivers. Another group of siblings was kicked out by their aunt without warning (because at 18, his child tax payments have ended, even though he's not done school). If you've ever wondered how people end up homeless, this is part of the problem.

This experience has made us all incredibly frustrated with our social system. The way we house and take care of students that are not living with their birth parents is a nightmare and incredibly unfair for these kids. Children raised away from their birth parents are already at a massive disadvantage when it comes to attachment and trauma. Adding this on to their experience makes it all the more difficult to find them safe housing.

The documents you need to access these services can be easy for people from privileged families to attain. Take away some of those privileges (like someone keeping track of your birth certificate for you) and things get incredibly hard.

For example, in Saskatchewan you need a credit card to order a birth certificate (which can only be done online). In order to have that you need credit. If you're lucky enough to have a debit visa, that can work, but you need a bank account, which requires a SIN number, which you need a birth certificate to get.



Luckily, we can jump that gap by providing our resources to help these students, but that's just one problem solved. Once we have this all figured out, we enter into trying to figure out affordable housing, which is much much more complicated than this. People are under the belief that these services are easy to access, but we know first hand that this is not the case.

God has placed us in a position to help these students, we are there to help. **Who is there for those kids that aren't involved in our program?** If we don't help these kids, they get nothing, who helps the kids that don't have us?

This stuff is incredibly hard. **Please keep praying that we find the way through this mess.** Sometimes we have no clue what we're doing, but Jesus helps us find a way.

Please keep us in your prayers. We need them desperately.

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PLEASE NOTE: Our dessert auction "Christmas at Crossmount" is coming up on Dec 3rd. Save the date!

YFC SASKATOON | Youth Unlimited 1338 Ave B North, Saskatoon SK S7L1G5 | 306-242-7117 | www.yfcsask.com





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