

July August 2008 **YOUTH UNLIMITED**

**MINISTRY UPDATE**

Centre Hastings  
Campus Life update.  
Page 1

**DETOUR**

YFC Ministry events  
in July & August.  
Page 2

**MY STORY**

Reality is not always  
the perfect ending.  
Page 2

**LYRICS AFFECT ME**

Helping teens see  
the affects of music.  
Page 3

**FAMILY UPDATE**

The latest news on  
Chris & Jen Burke.  
Page 4

# Centre Hastings Ministry Update

Where did the school year go? I've always been told by my elders to enjoy every day you have, because as you get older, the time seems to go faster, I thought they meant once you get up into your elderly years, not your 20's... this past school year seems to have come and gone in the blink of an eye. While it has seemed so fast, as I look back to the year, and the things that have happened, I like to try and wonder how on earth so much is fit in in such a short matter of time.



I believe Youth Ministry is one of the only jobs out there where you do so many events in a year. Other professions have lots of work, they do paper work, and other things that I don't enjoy, but as I look at the things we have done, I come to realize that Youth Ministry takes pieces of almost every job out there. We have to do accounting, be it setting up our own budgets, or accepting money

for events, we do planning and prep, either for a traveling event, or a weekly club, We are janitors, who clean up after messes students make, we are teachers, who teach students about life and how to live it to the fullest, we are friends, who are there to be a shoulder for a student when they need it. The list could go on and on, but I think you get the point.

As I look back on this past year, I can truly say I am happy with how things have run. This year I have met more students then ever before, and had the opportunity to share the truth of Jesus with them. We had an amazing experience when we took 55 students to Louisiana and worked on the front lines of the disaster that Hurricane Katrina brought.

While the school year may be over, that certainly doesn't mean things come to an end. First up is our Canada's Wonderland trip on June 26th, which promises to be one of our biggest trips ever, as we have booked 7 buses for the day. I also will get the opportunity to head to Saskatoon the end of June to spend time with YFC staff nation wide at our annual staff conference. Once I return, this will get underway with ministry again.

This summer we will be focusing on student leadership, spending time with students who will be leaders for our programs next year. We (continued on page 4)

## You Mean... the Lyrics DO Affect Me? By Jonathan McKee

It started with an anonymous 14 year old girl in a chat room talking about chart topping songs when her friend revealed the meaning behind a song's questionable lyrics. Her response? "i love this song, and i dont really care what the lyrics mean :P"

Is this the way most kids think?

That's the question we were trying to answer when we polled users of *The Source for Youth Ministry* in our recent "What Do Your Kids Really Think?" survey in Jonathan's [blog](#). We can assume (fairly safely) that lots of unchurched teens listen to music that has questionable-to-outright negative and harmful lyrics. But what about the kids sitting in our Wednesday night Bible studies? Are they listening to this stuff? Do

they care about the content of these songs?

We asked youth workers across the nation to administer a very short poll to students that attend their church programs. Over the past few weeks, we have received data from youth ministries representing hundreds of teens.

Below are the six questions we asked, and our "churched" students' responses to them.

1. Do you think that parents and youth workers should stay out of your music, turn a deaf ear, and hope that lyrics don't affect you? (53% said "YES, stay out!")
2. Do you think that the lyrics affect you? (55% admitted the lyrics affect them.)
3. If parents or youth workers (continued on page 3)



All Quinte YFC / Youth Unlimited staff contribute to this newsletter:

Colin Leaver - Executive Director  
Jessica Broekema - Admin. Assistant  
Ian Ardill - Spirit Borne Performing Arts  
Chris Burke - Centre Hastings Campus Life

Andrew Mackay - The County Campus Life  
Mike Mathewson - Quinte West Campus Life  
Make a donation online at [www.QYFC.com](http://www.QYFC.com)  
or send us your feedback at [info@qyfc.com](mailto:info@qyfc.com)

# DETOUR

We know that youth today want to experience life first hand so we created opportunities for them to do that, "that they may have life and have it abundantly". Here is list of all the *Out of the ordinary trips and events to get youth thinking about Life:*

**June 28—July 2: YFC National Ministry Conference**—Youth for Christ chapters from all across Canada gather for an annual time of encouragement and empowerment.  
**July 7-11: Sports Camp at Quinte Alliance**—A sports outreach program for community kids in Belleville.  
**July 13th: Quinte West Youth Worship**—A gathering of local youth groups for a united evening of praise and worship.

**July 30th-August 10th: Quebec Missions Trip**—A team of almost 30 young people and adults will do street ministry during Quebec cities 400th anniversary.  
**August 12: Training for Will Graham and Starfield concert**—Desert Stream hosts a preparation night for a large youth outreach event to happen on September 5th with the band Starfield playing at Maranatha.

For more info on any of the above, please visit our website at [www.qyfc.com](http://www.qyfc.com)

## My Story

I was good kid. I didn't get in no trouble. My mom and dad split up a long time ago. I lived with my dad until I was 14 when all of a sudden my step mom didn't want me around anymore. My dad couldn't pick a side and so I was sent to live in a group home. And then I moved into a

I asked myself, 'Am I going just to eat food and have fun?' I realized the reason why Colin was doing all this was to bring up the topic of God.

foster home where I stayed for 2 years. I went to a church with my foster family but I wasn't totally into Jesus. I went to the youth group and there was a lot of church music but I wasn't totally into it. They asked me if I would like the wine and bread for remembering God but I wasn't ready for it.

Two years ago I moved to Trenton to live with my mom. It was just after school, about June 20<sup>th</sup> and a friend told me about this guy, Colin. I went down to the park and we played football, I went to Wonderland with Campus Life. I asked myself, 'Am I going just to eat food and have fun?' I realized the reason why Colin was doing all this was to bring up the topic of God. Colin was getting me to do stuff but wasn't forcing me to do what I wasn't ready for.

After that I tried a youth group. I went to a lock down but I never really went that much and I didn't get connected. I got busy with friends and other opportunities came up. They were cool but I think they would have been cooler if I got to know them better. I felt like crap when I said I was going to go but I didn't show up. I would get upset with myself.

I went to the Bible study at Trenton high too and I felt like it got stuff off my back. I could get away from some annoying kids. It was all Holy there but when you leave there was these succubus kids. When you go there you hear the truth but in the halls it's all rumours and I want to stay away from that stuff. I trust the Bible and it's better than hearing those crazy people talking about the big bang.

To tell you the truth about my relationship with God, it's kind of off on the side. I'm not making a big deal of it. My family calls themselves Christian but it's not worth their time. I have my own opinions and I'd love to make a difference. In fact, when Colin told me that I have a gift, I was like "Wow" - but tell you the truth, I believe in the occult, witchcraft, Ouija boards and the spiritual world. I believe in angels and demons and I believe in heaven and hell but I think I'm going to hell because I'm not making a priority out of what God said. It worries me but I don't know what to do about it. It's scary but I don't fully understand and I know that's why I only have part of my life with Jesus.

- Ronnie (grade 12 student at Trenton High)

(continued from page 1) discover that a song is vile or degrading, should they explain it to you and warn you about it? (78% said adults should warn them.)

4. How many of you would still listen to the music even if you knew the lyrics were bad? (73% confessed they would still listen to the music, regardless of content.)
5. Should parents draw a line and enforce rules of what you can and can't listen to? (Less than half, 43% of our kids, said parents should draw a line.)
6. What should that line be? Or, what criteria should they use? (This answer brought in a cornucopia of responses. The largest response centered around foul language and sexual content being the deciding factors.)

Thanks for helping us out with this, even though it's not all good news. (Remember, these are our church kids!) I usually leave statistical interpretation to people far more intelligent than me, but I can't help but point out a few observations from this survey.

First, over half of the students admitted that music has an effect on them, good or bad (question 2). And they're right. Jonathan provided some stats to back this up in another recent [blog](#). I was comforted that at least a slight majority of our church kids are aware of the influence music can have on their lives.

Secondly, while just over half of the kids polled said adults should stay out of their music (question 1), over three quarters of the same kids said it would be OK for adults to weigh in on musical choices (question 3). I think this means that kids want to believe they're in the "driver's seat" when it comes to musical preferences, but it's OK with them for adults to "ride shotgun" sometimes.

Finally, I think all of us realize that question 4 really gets down to the truth of the matter. We asked, "How many of you would still listen to the music even if you knew the lyrics were bad?" And 73% said they would. A majority of these kids already admitted that the lyrics affect them, but that doesn't stop them. In other words, *temporary pleasure wins over what they know to be true.*

So, how does this information impact our role as youth leaders? I think there are a few things youth leaders can do that will bring this conversation to the forefront of

**Jonathan McKee**, is the president of The Source for Youth Ministry which provides free resources and ideas for youth workers around the world on his website, [TheSource4YM.com](http://TheSource4YM.com). He is the author of numerous youth ministry books including [Do They Run When They See You Coming?](#)



teens' thinking. If your kids are like those polled, they will admit the lyrics affect them, but will still want to make their own decisions about music. So...

1. **Try this simple experiment.** Familiarize yourself with a few of the top 10 songs from [www.Billboard.com](http://www.Billboard.com)'s "[Hot 100](#)" or iTunes (enough that you can quote a portion of each song's lyrics). When you're with your kids the next time, play "Finish the Lyrics." Start into one of the choruses and then see if they can finish the lyrics. Chances are good that they will be able to loudly and confidently sing along. Then say, "Most teenagers say that they don't listen to the lyrics. I guess we can see that this is not the case." Then, share some of other lyrics of the songs they just sang. Usually the top songs will have some racy or questionable lyrics.
2. **Share some of the research [linked](#) above with students and parents.** For example: In 2007, The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) revealed that "teens who listened to lots of music with degrading sexual messages were almost twice as likely to start having intercourse...as teens who listened to little or no sexually degrading music."

3. **Give kids an opportunity to discuss this with you.** Use the resources that we provide for on our web site. We provide numerous "ready-made" discussions on the topic. Our [MOVIE CLIP DISCUSSIONS](#) page has a great [one](#) using a clip from the third Lord of the Rings film, and [one](#) from 24... but also check out some [Object Lessons](#) like the one on [Purity](#), the "Special Brownies" [one](#), etc. Good discussion material.

You and I know that music affects us all, even though its influence is often terribly underestimated by teens today. Long before our current struggles with music, Shakespeare wrote, "Music oft hath such a charm to make bad good, and good provoke to harm."

The Bible is filled with teachings about the lives of God's people being markedly different from those of the world. Teenagers can make a powerful statement about their faith... if their musical choices won't undermine it. Resolve to be a constant source of decision-making aid for your teens in their musical choices. ~

## FUTURE VISION: A Note from the new Executive Director

There have been some significant changes to Quinte YFC / Youth Unlimited in the past year. New ministries, new staff and a new director. With this in mind, I would like to share with you what I believe is God's vision for our future ministry :

1. **Campus Life** - we believe strongly in continuing to grow outreach and evangelism to local Quinte high school youth.
2. **Junior High** - start developing ministry to pre-teen youth in public schools to create a culture that grows up with God.
3. **Student Leadership** - investing our time in young people who will reach their peers and become future ministers.
4. **Advocacy** - representing a desperate generation to parents, to the community, to churches and ultimately back to God.

Will you plan on supporting Youth Unlimited for the 2008-2009? We need your partnership to do effectively. Please see the included response card on how you can give. And thanks in advance for believing that God can use us!

- **Colin Leaver**, Executive Director of Quinte YFC / Youth Unlimited

(continued from page 1) will be doing a program this summer called CAOS (Christian Acts of Service) where weekly we will take students out to the community to provide help anywhere its needed, be it a free car wash, cutting some grass, or just spending time with people, if you know of somewhere that we can be of service, please feel free to contact me with your ideas.

In the past months I have met many new students who will be coming to our program next year, when they get into high school. I shared with you last newsletter to pray for these students, and I must thank you for that, because they are starting to come out just to meet some of the older students, this way when the fall time comes, there will be no weird feelings of joining our program. Continue to pray for these students, as some of them already are showing potential to be a part of our student leadership team.

If I could take a moment to step aside from sharing ministry experiences with you and ask for your prayers, that would be wonderful. One of our big prayer requests for this newsletter is that you pray for finances. With the cost of gas rising up,



I'm sure you all know that everything else is starting to get more expensive as well, which also includes our ministry expenses. Also in this past year, due to certain circumstances we have had some donors who have had to drop off their support, undoubtedly one of these being the high cost of gas. If you could please pass our newsletter on to other friends of yours who you believe have a heart for the youth in this community, that would be very helpful to us. We want this program to continue for years to come, but if the funds aren't there, we will be unable to do that.

We have a lot of plans for the future, and some other avenues that we are exploring for finances, but its local people in this community that really make this program a success. Jesus says something absolutely amazing in Luke 12:34, For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also. Broken down, all this verse means is, the things of value in your life (for example money) where you put that, it is also where your heart will be. So if you have a heart for the youth of today, and many of you do, Jesus says that that is where your treasure should be. ~

## Family update

We had a fantastic 2 weeks vacation with our family, it was wonderful to breath the ocean air once more. We had family photo shoots on the beach, a baby shower for my sister who is due in August, and we ate plenty of lobster and fish and chips, REAL, fish and chips, mmmmm so very good!!

Now we are home and getting back into the swing of things, this means back to packaging cheese for me.

In our last letter we announced our pregnancy and we are pleased to say everything is going very well. We are soon getting ready to set up the Nursery and get our home ready for baby. This brings me to my prayer request, we currently live in an apartment building for retired adults and we are concerned that a crying baby may not be ideal in this setting. We are totally open to the possibility of renting a different space (with more room) that would allow us to function as a young family.

Please pray that we might find a town house or duplex type space to rent for about the same as we are paying here or that we would feel settled in this space if this is where we are to remain.

Well, I guess that's it from me. I hope you have a wonderful summer!!

Much Love,

Chris & Jennifer Burke



# prayer & PRAISE

Here are some ways you can pray for the Centre Hastings Campus Life ministry:

## PRAYER:

- Finances
- For Jennifer and the Baby that things will continue to grow and develop
- For our summer plans that they will give teens the opportunity to come to know the love of Christ

## PRAISE:

- For our baby which is becoming more of a reality each day
- For this past year of ministry, and the teens who had the opportunity to hear about Jesus love for them
- For summer! It's going to be a good one!



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