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Both of these quotes are from two different residents at the Youth Custody Center here in Prince George. The first is from a resident who has been at the center for approx. 2 months. During that time they faithfully come to chapel with me and attend church with the chaplain. During that time they have received a New Testament and come to call chapel "God time." This resident has also begun to ask incredible questions at chapel to the point where sometimes the entire chapel is taken up with answering questions and looking at what Jesus said in the Bible. A continual thing I emphasize regularly is for the residents to ask Jesus to show them if he is real and find out for themselves if he is real.

"I feel myself changing. I feel like I'm not who I was when I came in here. I look back now and realize Jesus was always there. He answers prayer and helps me out. I thank him for bringing me into this place. I mean it's hard, but I've learned so much since being in here and I'm thankful for that. People say you can't meet Jesus when you're in a place like this. I disagree with that. Jesus is everywhere. You can meet him anywhere and he can meet you anywhere because he is everywhere; whether you're incarcerated or not. I thank God for being in here because I've gotten to know him. I'm a blessed man! I'm a God's man! I know he is my Savior and met him in here!"

The second quote comes from a resident who has been at the center for roughly the same amount of

time. When they came to chapel, the first thing they said to me was, "Dude, I had a crazy dream the other night I need to tell you about." They explained to me they had a dream about their grandmother, who was wheelchair bound. "You gotta understand. My grandmother died when I was 8 or 9. The night she died I felt like I needed to call her and tell her I loved her. I asked my mom if I could call her and she told me it was too late and past my bedtime. She said I could call her in the morning. At 3am though I woke up feeling an incredible urgency to call my grandmother. I started yelling, 'Mom! Mom! I need to call grandma! I need to call her right now!'"

My mom came into my room quite shaken. Her and my whole family were awake, which was weird. They explained to me I couldn't call my grandmother because they had just gotten the call that my grandmother had just died. She had died at the time I woke up."

The resident then continued to explain in dream, he was talking to his grandmother, who was still wheelchair bound, but this time, instead of being old, she was young. "My grandmother was young, and beautiful, and happy. She was so full of life and she was free of pain. We talked for so long about so many things. And then she said to me, 'It's ok. You don't have to blame yourself. I'm not mad at you. I want you to know that. I'm not mad at you for not calling me the night I died. You can stop blaming yourself. It's ok. I'm free now. Look!'"

The resident explained at that moment, his grandmother stood up out of her wheelchair and was so full of life and completely free of pain and suffering. There was no sorrow in her at all, just life.

"At that moment I woke up and the dream was so vivid, I knew it wasn't just a dream and I had to call my mom to tell her." Upon calling their mom, before the resident could say anything about the dream, their mother said, "You're never going to believe what just happened! I had a dream about grandma. She was young and free, and no longer bound in her wheelchair. She was alive and so happy."

The resident went on to explain their mother had a dream almost identical to their own. "I know that wasn't a dream. It was too vivid and my mom had the same dream."

"Your grandmother went to church regularly, didn't she?" I asked.

"Yeah. She was a Christian."

"And you've blamed yourself for so long because you didn't call her the night she did, haven't you?"

"Yeah. I thought it was my fault. I wasn't there for her when she needed me."

I explained God loved this resident so much, he allowed them to be able to say goodbye to their grandmother. I pointed them to the Scripture which says all good gifts come from the Father above.

I also was able to explain the Scriptures which explain what our bodies will be like when we are remade and are with Jesus and the new heaven and new earth.

I then asked the resident, "You've been asking Jesus to show you he is real, haven't you?"

"Since the first night I was here and you said I could do that, I've been asking him to show me if he is real. And now he has. The dream was his answer and it's because of that, I've been reading the New Testament you've given me. I want to know Jesus more and I want to learn more about him so I can know him more."

Both of these events happened the same evening at the Youth Custody Center. Two different individuals who've experienced the greatness, goodness, and life which Jesus offers all who seek him. Neither of these things would have happened had it not been for you who read this. It is through your prayers, your financial partnership, and your encouragement that this has happened. Thank you for joining with Jesus is working in his field.

Farewell to our Summer Students

Over the summer we were able to hire three summer students; Cristyn Hogue, Denisa Daduica, and Amy Giese. All three were incredibly instrumental in helping with our existing programs before the summer break, and also in running our summer programs. Cristyn and Denisa both were able to come with me to the Youth Custody Center. Amy helped in a partnership between YFC PG and MCC here in PG in running an elementary age kids program for low income housing. All three were involved with the Drop at Fort George Baptist Church and many other programs. As well they took part in the suicide intervention training event we did at the beginning of August. It was with heavy, but grateful hearts we said farewell to them as they returned to their studies.



SPECTRUM

Programs Start!

With the start of school come also the start of our programs! Two of the programs I am heavily involved with is Spectrum-our peer-to-peer support program for youth who've experienced grief, loss, hardship, and trauma, and the Loft Drop In at Fort George Baptist Church.

Both programs see a large number of youth attend and a great many needs. We deal with and support youth who experience suicide, self-harm, abuse, mental health issues, poverty, abandonment and neglect, and emotional pain. I ask for prayer for the youth and for myself and our volunteers. Dealing with and supporting those who experience these difficulties is taxing and painful. Please pray for help, healing, and life for all involved for through Jesus alone do these things come.



THE LOFT
DROP IN

A place to come hang out with friends, play some games, eat & drink, do some homework, etc.

WEDNESDAYS 2:30-6 P.M. UPSTAIRS @ FORT GEORGE BAPTIST CHURCH (ACROSS FROM RUCKUS)

YFC Prince George and Ft. George Baptist Church partner together to run this program. For more info call 250-562-7110 or visit princegeorgeyfc.ca

Speaking At Camp

During the final week of August, my family and I were at Ness Lake Bible Camp. I had been offered the opportunity to be the camp speaker that week and agreed to do it. The focus of my messages was Is Jesus Real? Can He Really Change Lives?

I encouraged campers to find out for themselves if Jesus was real and if he really could change lives. Instead of taking the approach of telling them what he could do, I encouraged them to find out for themselves. I spoke about how Jesus shows he is real and can change lives to those who are victims of their circumstances, like the paralyzed man in Matthew 9:1-8 and those who are in the state they are due to the choices they



make, like Matthew the tax collector in Matthew 9:9-13. In both situations, the message of Jesus is the same; he is real and really can change lives.

One of my final messages was how when Jesus sets us free from sin, we naturally begin to experience

how good the life he offers is. A result of this is as we experience it, it is evident to others, and as we experience it, we naturally want others, in similar situations, to experience the life he has as well.



A visual aid I used to highlight this was I walked on stage wearing 11 life jackets, courtesy of Ness Lake Bible Camp. I could not free myself and needed someone to help me. As that person freed me from the life jackets I experienced how good it was to be free and breath. Because of this, I would naturally want to help others who were wearing life jackets to know they could be free as well. This, I explained, was how

things were with Jesus. He wants us to join him in his work of helping others.

During this week of camp, my family and I were able to have a lot of fun and engage in a lot of the camp activities. My son and I won twin meal by being the most alike twins; two old men with beards (my wife, Lisa, made the beard for our son).

