

Winter 2022

As we quickly approach the end of the calendar year, we take the time to look back upon the past year and reflect upon its moments; it's ups and its downs, it's successes and its failures. Perhaps, that isn't always such a good thing. I personally tend to be overly critical at times and attempt to judge things based upon my own expectations or desires. When I do that, I sometimes fail to see the amazing things that God is/was doing during those times.

This past year was like that. As usual, we plan ahead for each new year, and the return of some familiar events and optimism in the public sphere brought great expectations for our ministry. We excitedly prepared for the return of RibFest and the opportunity to have a presence at the Canada Summer Games. We anticipated a busy summer serving food at the various festivals, hopefully raising funds to help offset the costs associated with our programs as the past couple of years have been tough financially. Things didn't go according to plan. The festivals and events were not as busy as they had been before Covid. We failed to raise the needed funds regardless of our preparation or execution and sometimes this felt like failure.

But we were continually reminded that God's plans are greater than ours. He provided countless opportunities to interact and share our faith and ministry with thousands of people this past year. We were able to minister to students, guests and vendors on a regular basis. More people heard about the ministry of Youth Unlimited Niagara Falls this year than at any other point with our traditional methods. God used a summer that was planned to raise money into a summer to sow seed. For that, we are eternally grateful.

We look back upon this past year and see only the ups, because even in the downs, <u>He was there</u>. We look back and only see success, because in the perceived failure, <u>He was there</u> making good of it. This year we were reminded of how important this ministry is. How many lives it has affected in a positive way. How many people, whose lives are forever changed because God chose to use us and this ministry for His glory. How can we not look back and be thankful.

Thankful for His presence, and His leading, For His provision and His grace. Thankful for you and your continued support, both in prayer and finance. Thank you to each of you who have contributed monetarily, we are grateful. We are however, in need as we approach the end of the fiscal year.

If you are able to contribute to help us either with a one time gift or a monthly donation, please fill out the enclosed form and return as indicated, or go to www.yfcniagarafalls.com and donate electronically. Your generosity allows us to continue to minister year in and year out. For that, we are thankful.		
Blessings,		
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James Ball		
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