

Inglewood Youth Update

Conversation with the Congregation

Editor: Jenna Boonstra

Art: Jarin Ten Hove

GRADE 12 GRADUATES

Zachary Bosch
 Zachary Brandsma
 Bryanna Clarke
 Kara de Jong
 Ilse Klapwyk
 Josh Kool
 Emma McKinnon
 Cievya Melifste
 Jake Omar
 Julie Rhebergen
 Janna Versluys
 Emma Wine

Some of the grade 12 graduates who have been a part of our family in some way in the past number of years

Reflection on the Year

As our season of regular Tuesday night meetings comes to a seasonal close, it is useful to reflect on the season and what we've accomplished together.

Overall it was a great year. We had the opportunity to study curriculum with faithful small group leaders most Tuesdays of the fall, winter, and spring. Youth and leaders had fun and spent valuable time together at a variety of events both within Inglewood CRC and with CRC's across Edmonton. Favourite events include: Laser Tag, a Prayer Walk, Bowling and the Mall Hunt.

Through a prior survey about Youth Ministry, and a recent Congregational Breakfast, ICRC members



Friday May 12: Youth and leaders enjoy some post-laser tag pizza together.

were able to share their own hopes and dreams for Inglewood's Youth Ministry. To create space for intergenerational components, local service opportunities, mentorship, and opportunities for youth to take leadership and

ownership in various ways in our Church's life are what matters. There are so many dreams and opportunities for youth ministry and our congregation in the years ahead and we can be excited for the potential.

Summer - Save the dates:

July 31 – August 4

AIA Soccer Camp

August 22

Outdoor Movie Night

Highlights/Favourite Memories

Tirza: "Games night – it was pretty cool because I learned to play a game I had never played before, and I got to hang out with cool people."

Ester: "When we had ice cream and brownies for Kaden's birthday and he wasn't even there."

Julie: "When I lay down in bowling to prove a point to Pastor John and got a strike."

Shae: "On the last night when I got points because I burned Spencer at Pitt."

Jack: "When we were bowling and the lane attendant slipped on the lanes."

Andrew: "On the Arizona trip last summer when Keith almost left me in a place called Mexican Hat." (Feel free to ask Andrew more details about this experience!)

Kaden: "When we were bowling and Jenna slipped and fell." (Feel free to also ask Andrew more details about this.)

Lia: "On bowling night when the bowling balls were stuck on a lane and the attendant fell trying to get them."

A SPECIAL THANKS
TO OUR DEDICATED
LEADERS

Ryan Brown
Keith Goutbeck
Isabel Klapwyk
Joel Nydam
Spencer Nydam
Pastor John Ooms
Zoe Rozema

*See if you can guess
who's been caricatured*

Topics Youth would
like to explore in the
future

- After Life
- Bible Stories
- End Times
- Fruits of the Spirit
- Holy Spirit
- Revelation
- Sabbath
- Spiritual Disciplines

STAY TUNED FOR
THESE ARTICLES IN
UPCOMING ISSUES

- Youth of the month
- So what did really happen on those Serve Trips...
- Comics and Jokes
- Curriculum Overview
- And more...

*If you have any suggestions
for articles you'd like to see,
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Words from the Wise: An Interview with a few young people

I had the opportunity very recently to sit down with Ilse, Cieyva, and Julie – some of the recent Grade 12 graduates – and talk about their experiences, challenges, and ideas related to youth ministry in our church.

We talked about some of the things they enjoyed most about this year, and throughout the last 6 years, All 3 girls reflected on their personal growth and how this impacted Tuesday night meetings. As Julie put it, this year “we got to have a different kind of meaningful conversation... this was more like faith based and we got to talk about constructing our own foundation and figuring out real tools to set ourselves up.”

They shared fond memories of the serve trips to Yukon and Yakima – memories of making sandwiches, cleaning up a skate park, and being able to stay in a completely new wing of a hotel for free after they assisted the hotel in prepping the rooms. Julie and Cieyva both reflected on their experiences with washing each other's feet on a serve trip. The

moment, and the tears shed during, was very meaningful for these girls. As Julie put it “you really realized that that was the kind of service that was necessary”.

We chatted about the importance of youth and the impact of growing together over the last 6 years. Cieyva said “we would all be in different places in our lives if we never went to youth. As Ilse put it “we genuinely care about each other”, something the youth showed by checking in with each after absences from youth events and meet ups. Cieyva reflected “we've had some really deep conversations; there's been a fair amount of tears”. Staying on topic, paying attention, and making sure everyone was comfortable in the group were sometimes difficult but very important during Tuesday night meetings.

They reflected on their leader's desire to be engaged asking “what do you want to talk about, what do you need to talk about” when it was difficult to stay on topic, and the meaningful conversations those questions lead to.

These girls have their own hopes and dreams for Inglewood's future. Some of them hope to be involved one day and lead youth just as they have been led – a wonderful desire to have.

Their appreciation for leaders who have joined them over the years was obvious as was their appreciation for leaders who led them through some very tough spots in their own lives. Cieyva specifically expressed her satisfaction with leaders following youth through multiple years and hopes this will continue. She would also love to see intergenerational ministry across different programs (e.g. Sunday School to Youth). Ilse dreams about interactive Sunday sermons – finding ways to make the message more meaningful to younger people. And Julie hopes we can “continue to be a work in progress together”. It is obvious that these girls have as many good memories, as they have hope for the future. What a delight!