



Networks

Fall
2004

National Evangelization Teams of Canada

A long & winding road to NET

Like almost a million other young people from around the world, a young woman named Lucia Pezzarossi, 25, attended World Youth Day in Toronto in the summer of 2002. She boarded a plane in her hometown of Guatemala City, Guatemala, excited about the prospect of seeing the Pope, and wondering if she would find some clarity about what she should do with her future. She eagerly visited all the display booths at World Youth Day and

returned home with a backpack stuffed with brochures of religious orders and ministries. "I can't read all these," she thought. "I just don't have time." She ended up throwing them all out, barely reading any. One brochure, however, somehow escaped the garbage can and resurfaced months later while cleaning her desk. It was a brochure for NET Ministries of Canada.

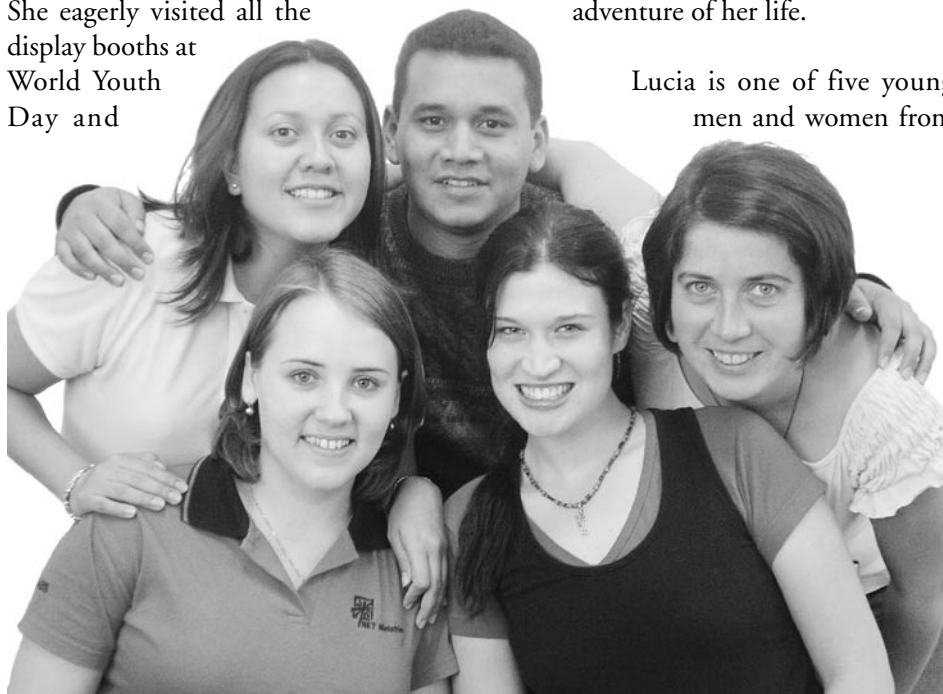
She read it. She liked it. She called NET and began the application process. With the support of her family, she quit her teaching job and said 'yes' to NET's invitation to proclaim the Gospel to young people in a foreign country called Canada. She dusted off her high school English that she hadn't spoken since 1997, packed her bags with her warmest clothes and came to Canada for the adventure of her life.

Lucia is one of five young men and women from

abroad serving on a NET team this year. NET is a challenge for any young adult, let alone the extra difficulties of working in a foreign language in a foreign country. It always surprises NET staff each year when phone calls or emails come from around the world asking for information on the teams.

One such email came from Alvaro Osorio, 26, from Lima, Peru. Alvaro was teaching Italian at a university in Lima, but longed to serve God. He had tried seminary and decided that it wasn't his calling. But while studying at a seminary in Rome, he met a priest who suggested he do some service for the Lord in North America so he could also learn English. Alvaro thought that was an excellent idea and began researching ministries on the Internet. He found NET's website.

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NET team members from around the world. Front (left to right): Gabrielle Walker (Australia), Renee Bennett (Australia), Back (left to right): Lucia Pezzarossi (Guatemala), Alvaro Osorio (Peru) and Aliz Trombitas (Hungary).

New teams on the road!

Archbishop Marcel Gervais, NET's president, commissioned our NET teams on Oct. 2. Two teams are travelling coast to coast leading retreats, while three teams are stationed in parishes for the year, building a youth ministry program. The last team is leading retreats in Ireland until December. Team pictures are inside, and their schedules are on the back page.

Cont'd from page 1: Long road ...

He read it. He liked it. He applied and now he is proclaiming the Gospel on a NET team. Alvaro's English was even weaker, but he listens intently and thinks before he speaks. "I liked the idea of travelling around the country proclaiming the Gospel. It was hard to leave my job – it was a good job. But I figured if I don't do it now while I'm single, I might not get the chance later if I'm married."

Aliz Trombitas, 28, from Esztergom, Hungary was teaching math for grades 3 to 7 when she befriended a visiting teacher from Windsor, ON. Aliz says she was hungry for fellowship in her faith and also wanted an opportunity to serve. When her new friend returned to Canada, she asked her to look into options for places to learn English in a Christian environment. She ended up leaving Hungary and spending time with a ministry in Combermere, ON. While there, someone told her about NET Ministries. "I thought, 'Oh my gosh, I want to do this!'" says Aliz.

Aliz says it was hard for her family to see her leave Hungary in the first place. Then, when she discovered NET she had to call her family again to tell them what she wanted to do. "I told my family I wanted to travel across Canada with NET for a year. My father said, 'How big is Canada that you need a year to travel it?' I told him it wasn't about the travelling; it was about the evangelizing."

Aliz applied and was interviewed by NET. As it happened, while waiting for

word from NET on whether she would be accepted, she was also considering two job offers from Hungary that needed immediate responses. She took a risk and declined both jobs, hoping that things would work out with NET. They did, and she is now happily serving on a NET team.

The adjustments the foreign NET team members have had to make are too many to name, from driving on the opposite side of the road to eating different food. But if you want to strike fear into their hearts, you need only say two words: Canadian winter.

This is especially true of the two Australian women serving with NET this year. Renee Bennet, 18, says that her team laughed when she showed them what she considered her "winter clothes". "They said that would be good on a fall day, if you're lucky. They issue weather warnings in Brisbane when it goes below 0 degrees!"

Alvaro admits that Canada's winter temperatures were one of his father's

biggest concerns for his son. "Before I left he said, 'You want to get used to the weather? Go to the fridge.'"

Gabrielle Walker, 19, of Rockhampton, Australia, says she is thrilled with the differences. "I love being in a different place. I love seeing maple trees instead of the gum trees we have back home. I've collected some maple leaves!"

All five of the foreign team members agree that the experience so far has been a lesson in trusting God to take care of them and provide for them. All of them consider it a privilege to proclaim the Gospel and are excited about what the year holds.

Aliz sums up her feelings, as well as the mission of NET, when she says, "I'm most excited about living out my faith as part of the team. To me, evangelizing isn't only about sharing the Gospel with words. It's about putting our faith into action, so that when the young people on retreat see us, they see how much we love each other and them. That's what will attract young people to the faith."

We need new vans

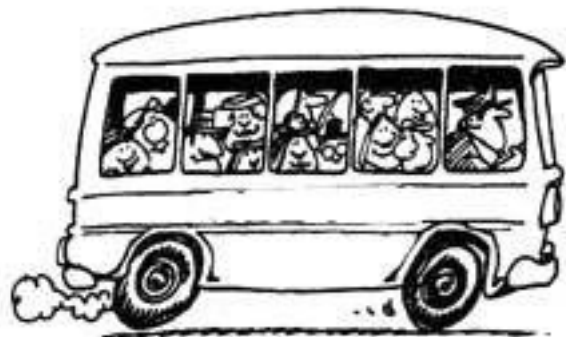
We need to replace the 15-passenger vans that transport the teams. God has provided for our needs in the past, giving us two vans some years ago. One van was generously donated by the Ontario Knights of Columbus, and the other van was donated by a group from British Columbia. Both were absolute saving graces for the ministry, however, both now carry heavy mileage and are

becoming very costly to maintain, frequently needing serious repairs. We have faith that God will provide once again and continue to pray for new vans. As well, we are still searching for a camp that can house up to 90 people for our fall training that would be within three hours of Ottawa, preferably in a peaceful, prayerful setting. Do you know of any? Perhaps you can help us out.

WWW.NETCANADA.CA

NET Canada sends out Catholic young adult teams who share their faith with over 20,000 youth in dioceses across Canada each year. We are a non-profit organization and rely on your donations to help us bring Christ to young Canadians. Come partner with us!

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Small town boys receive 'big' town support

Adrian Boudreau and Justin Doucette of Yarmouth, NS got a letter in the mail in late July that would change the rest of their year, maybe even their life. It was an acceptance letter from NET to become a team member and to come to Ottawa for training. The only problem was that training began in 2 weeks!

Adrian and Justin applied to serve with NET late in the summer, and although they were processed as quickly as possible, it still only left them with 2 weeks to prepare, which included fundraising.

The challenge: they must each raise \$4,500 in the small fishing town of Yarmouth in 14 days. Each team member must raise money to help offset the costs of training and supporting him or her for the year.

Adrian explained, "I asked my youth minister, who had been raising money for the youth group for years, what he thought my chances were of raising that kind of money in two weeks. He told me, 'slim to none'."



Adrian Boudreau, age 20, of Yarmouth, NS

One might think that their task would be easier if only they lived in a big city where big money is easy to find. "It's not like there's a lot of money rolling around in Yarmouth," says Justin. Yarmouth, however, is not to be underestimated. Like many small towns, people band together when a need arises. Call it a survival instinct.

Their small parish, one of three in the town, was filled with families who had watched each other's children grow up. When Justin and Adrian reached out for support, they were overwhelmed with responses. "The support from the churches was unbelievable. Not just ours, but the other two churches in the county, too. Honestly, I don't know how all the money just came in." says Justin. "I think people just believed in NET and saw how badly we wanted to do this."



Justin Doucette, age 19, of Yarmouth, NS

Adrian adds, "It was always my dream to serve God with an organization like NET. People were so generous because I think they saw that one of their children was realizing one of their goals. It was amazing."

Adrian and Justin approached just about everyone they knew to ask for help. Their parents' help was also invaluable, asking co-workers and business contacts. Adrian explains how his father, a lobster fisherman, did his part. "My dad took me around to the other fishermen and I would tell them what I was doing and ask for support. Almost all of them gave!"

Not only did both young men reach their goal, they surpassed it. Between them both, they raised over \$18,000!

The community is also praying for them. Their parish has organized a system where a different family will be praying for them every week until next May.

Both young men learned big lessons from the experience. "It was the most humbling experience ever for me," says Adrian. "I was so prideful when I was younger in thinking that I was too good for my little town. But their support made me so proud of this community. I learned to trust in God. I've never had a more tangible lesson in 'ask and you shall receive'."

Justin agrees and adds. "The moral of the story for me? That word travels really fast in a small town," he laughs. "And of course, that I only have to do so much and God will do the rest."

Ireland team ministers at Ground Zero

God called NET team #6, bound for Ireland, into action sooner than expected. While waiting for their flight out of New York, the team visited "Ground Zero" downtown, as it happened to be Sept. 16 – five days after the anniversary of the tragedy. While praying a "Chaplet of Divine Mercy", a family had gathered behind the team. When they finished, the family asked who the team was and thanked them for praying for the victims, as their son was one of them. The team spent some time listening to their story and after tearful hugs and prayers, they said goodbye. It was a moment that neither the family nor the team will soon forget. (For info on how to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, see www.catholicity.com/prayersdevotions/divinemercy.html)

News & Notes

YOU WROTE ... WE LISTENED

"To all NET teams: keep on going! You're all amazing! Our youth are so important. After praying my rosary this morning, I'm sending a cheque. I hope that a gift of this size will buy some gasoline for your vans!" — Dave and Susan Humphreys, Orleans, ON

"Congratulations on attracting so many young people to give of their time and energy to serve other young people. I will keep you in my prayers that the coming year will be fruitful" — Naomi McAlpine, Ottawa, ON

"It was great to have your team visit the diocese of St. George's. Your extended stay was a further blessing to me. Thank you for your youthful energy, your joy, your honesty, your goodness and your commitment to BE and to proclaim the Good News! The young people you met are still talking about the experience! Come again — often! it would be a joy to have NET members in the diocese for a longer time." — Bishop Douglas Crosby, Diocese of St. George, NF

"I believe your work is very important for the youth of Canada. We enclosed a cheque to help you. We pray that our grandchildren (at least some of them) will be called by God to serve in this way." — Jim and Joan Daley, Fredericton, NB

"The retreat was great. From going to the retreat it helped me understand God better and helped me find the path of God. It showed me that, yes, there will be rough times but as long as you stick with God you'll be able to get through them." — Braden Yakubow, age 11, Edmonton, AB

"God bless you one and all! You folks are a tremendous group that has the beautiful job of having others reach out to many to love and serve Jesus. You are in my prayers, hopes and dreams." — Joyce Beaton, Calgary, AB

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

This year we must raise \$440,000 to cover the costs of sending our six NET teams out to proclaim the Good News. Perhaps you can help! We have monthly automatic deduction from your credit card or bank account available for your convenience. Call Jean at the NET office at (613) 521-4426.

FALL SCHEDULE

Team 1:

Oct. 7-30 Edmonton, AB
Oct. 31-Nov. 10..... Whitehorse, YT
Nov. 11-17 Prince George, BC
Nov. 18-27 Kamloops, BC
Nov. 27-Dec. 15..... Calgary, AB

Team 2:

Oct. 7-Nov. 5 Calgary, AB
Nov. 6-19..... Vancouver, BC
Nov. 19-25 Victoria, BC
Nov. 26-Dec. 13..... Edmonton, AB

Team 3: St. Leonard's Parish,
Manotick, ON

Team 4: Diocese of North Bay, ON

Team 5: Diocese of Cornwall, ON

Team 6: Dioceses of Raphoe & Dublin,
Ireland

JOB OPENING

Youth ministry position available at St. Mary's Parish in Collingwood, ON. For information, contact Fr. Jim McLenaghan at 705-445-1970.



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Catholic youth in
Canada!**

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 I would like to give a **monthly** gift of: \$ _____

I would like to have a monthly gift deducted automatically from:

- my chequing account:** (Please include a voided cheque)
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Card number _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date _____ / _____

I hereby authorize NET Ministries of Canada to make a monthly deduction from my bank chequing account or credit card for the amount indicated above.

Signature _____ Date _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Miss	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. & Mrs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Name _____				
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