

RELATION MINISTRY

Get an inside look at a NET team's ministry. Pg 1

See what YOU are making possible this year!

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Relational Ministry

FEvery person desires to be seen, known, and loved"

Are you unfamiliar with NET? Wondering what NET's ministry looks like?

NET missionaries do what we call **"relational ministry"**. Put simply, they meet young people where they're at, as their peers, and evangelize through the power of authentic relationships. And who better to describe it than someone currently putting it in practice? Here's how current missionary Jessica Taylor, on the Vancouver team, put it:

"Our main focus is just intentionally getting to know the students and really investing in them! Every person desires to be seen, known, and loved, and each student has their own story – things that they love and things that they struggle with. We want to know them and we hope that through building genuine relationships, we can help lead them to the ultimate good, which is Christ."

It's a simple formula. Relationship - trust - spiritual growth.

I've noticed in school that many non-Catholic or non-mass-going students have prayer cards in their phone cases. They have had meaningful experiences of God's love and presence in retreats and NET ministry activities. A number of youth have expressed that their relationship with NET **helped revitalize their faith** at a time they described themselves as barely hanging on to that faith."

A NET Team isn't a Band-aid solution.

A NET team is integrative. NET missionaries are at their most effective when working alongside existing school or parish leadership to provide something that can be sustained after the missionaries leave! Daniel also shared from his experience of working with two different NET teams across the last two years:

"For NET to work most effectively, ministry leaders need to be able to work closely with the team; it's not a matter of handing off ministry to NET for a couple years and taking a break. A NET team is not a uniform product but a group of people – as unique as those individuals, their lived experiences, and their intragroup relationships. Be prepared to discover the strengths and gifts unique to each team during their ministry, and avoid preconceptions of what a NET team will 'be like'."

A NET team is not intended to be a long term solution for a parish, school, or community. At the end of the mission year those missionaries will leave a community, so it's vital that they work as closely as possible with local volunteers and leadership to create something that will last beyond the years of their presence.

If you'd like to know more about having a NET team in your school, parish, or diocese, contact <u>info@netcanada.ca.</u> We'd love to hear from you!

Does it work?

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Hear from Daniel*, a teacher and youth ministry leader who has worked closely with NET teams in his community for the last two years and has witnessed lives being transformed around him:

"I've heard some of our youth tell how they've felt a greater desire for a life of faith after participating in

NET ministry activities. The Lord has touched these youth's hearts through the NET team. In schools they have been a counter-cultural sign that faith is relevant and have been a way for God to show other young people that He and His Church are always relevant in every age. In host homes the NET teams have been a source of fellowship and Christian witness, and through them the Lord has blessed host families.

*Daniel requested that he remain anonymous in print. His name has been changed to respect his privacy. "I was leading a small group during Alpha in a grade 9 religion class. I asked the girls in my group if they thought it was possible to have a personal relationship with Jesus and we discussed what it means to have Him at the center of our lives. One of the girls said, "I want Jesus in my life, but right now, He is a part of my life. I want to make that shift, I just don't know how." I then led her in a prayer inviting Jesus to be at the center of her life and gave her advice about a daily prayer life."

> - Gabby Douglas, Vancouver School Team

"In one community, we had the privilege of attending Daily Mass, and it was usually scheduled after our youth gatherings because we were busy throughout the day. After a few days, some of the youth realized we were staying back in the church and asked if they could join. We explained to them that of course they could, however this was a different, more prayerful atmosphere, unlike our usual high energy programs. Many of them chose to stay anyway. I recall the parish priest saying in the first few days of us being there that he often celebrated daily mass alone or with the company of one or two parishioners. By the end of our time in this community we had multiple youth staying after our program to attend daily mass, it was truly a beautiful sight!"

> - Jaq Ceron, Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas Team

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"My team and I have been trying to invite youth to Adoration every Thursday at one of the Parishes we are at. There has been one youth in particular that I have been messaging. She has been coming out for the past month and on Friday evening she messaged me. She began to share with me that she had an encounter with The Lord while she was at Adoration, she began to cry and she shared with me that she was able to truly feel the love of God. She said she didn't even know how it happened but that she was truly able to know that He loved her."

> - Monica Palacios, Fraser Valley East Team

FNET



FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING



A YEAR SPENT WITH A TEAM OF OTHER DYNAMIC YOUNG ADULTS



A CHANCE TO TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF YOUTH ACROSS CANADA

A LIFE CHANGING OPPORTUNITY

Being a NET missionary is a transformational experience.

We are currently recruiting young adults age 18-30 to be missionaries for next year and you likely know someone who would make a great NET missionary! We would love to connect with them to discern if a year with NET might be a part of God's plan for their lives!

PASS ON OUR CONTACT INFO TO SOMEONE YOU THINK WOULD MAKE A GREAT NET MISSIONARY!

613-292-9991 **Y**recruit@netcanada.ca

YOUTH MINISTRY PODCAST

We want to help you journey with the youth in your life! Listen to our Youth Ministry 101 podcast today on our website, YouTube channel or the podcast service of your choice!



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