



# MyJourney with NET

by Adam Godin

Before joining NET my life was honestly pretty incredible. I had tons of friends, an incredible girlfriend, a part time job, and I went to a party or retreat every weekend. I always felt so loved by everyone in my life, but I believed I had to earn that love. I thought I had gained the love of the people around me because I had done things for them and had loved them. Because that was how I saw my relationships with people, that was how I saw God's love too. I knew He loved me so much, but I thought it was only because I was faithfully serving and loving Him. My worth was in what I had to offer. This also affected the way I saw others. I loved those who brought me joy, and were kind and caring. If someone was always a downer, never worked, or was selfish they didn't seem lovable to me.

My days were filled with so much fun. My life was always an adventure and I was always doing something. I would rush from one fun moment to the next, but I struggled so much just being. I found a lot of fulfillment and joy from going to Catholic retreats and I joined NET largely because I wanted to share that, and I knew I would have fun doing it.



On NET I am coming to see the reality that I am not perfect. I often used to compare myself to others, but I realize now I'm not actually the best person. I make mistakes and I make a lot of them. When I fail to love my teammates, the youth we're ministering to, or those at home, I still often don't feel loveable, but I know now that God is there for me even in those struggles. He still tells me He loves me and it doesn't make sense to me, but He doesn't change. He has been calling me to take my identity in Him instead of my strengths and failings.

I know I am loved not for what I can do. but for who I am. and I have learned to see others that way too. When I am struggling, sinning, or living life my own way I am still so loved by God. Whether I obey Him and love

him back or not does not change His undying love for me. His love is not conditional. He is there for me all the time, loving me through my highs and lows.

I've realized this year that living my life for having fun is not actually as fulfilling as it seems. Having fun might fill me up for a moment, but as soon as it ends I am still left empty. God's love is the one thing that lasts. He is the one who I can lean on when I am totally empty, the one who loves me perfectly and satisfies my heart completely.

This is exactly what so many youth are missing right now. No matter how many parties they go to or how much success they find in life, they have a longing for something greater. They are searching for lasting peace and real happiness. The only thing that will ever satisfy their restless hearts is God's perfect love.

Without my relationship with our Lord I could not live my life, here on NET or in general. And that's what these youth are going through - trying to live life without Him - and my heart is burning to share what I have been given to them. I want every youth to know how truly seen, known, and loved they are. Jesus has called me to be His instrument this year. Every moment counts. Every smile, shared

experience, and small conversation I have with a young person - it does make a difference to them, and it makes a difference to me.

This year I've learned that God's love for me is never ending and never changing. I've realized that God is the only thing that can satisfy my restless heart and He has ignited my heart with passion to spread His love to the youth who are waiting for Him, whether they know it or not. I have grown so much through this year with NET and I am so excited to see how God continues to shape me and work through me this year and all the vears to come. Praise the Lord! God bless you!





#### Does Adam remind you of anyone in your life?

Do you know of a young adult who would benefit from a year like his? Tell them why you think they'd make a good missionary!

If they want more info, text:

613 292 9991

## Mission Moments

Lately, we have had the opportunity to observe some long term effects of our retreats. We returned to some schools for a second retreat and many students shared with us that, since the first retreat, they had started to pray to God daily. And the impact of our retreats on each student is visible on a larger scale as well! In one town that we went to, the pastor of the parish was very worried about how deserted by young people his church was. However, he was willing to try starting a youth group after the retreat we were going to lead. When we saw this priest again a few months later, he shared with us that after our time there the youth group had indeed started... and with 41 students! In other words, half of the youth from the initial retreat we had done attended the first few youth group nights. Praise the Lord!

- Estelle Grison

The NET team has been a great blessing to our parish family. Anna, Hailey, Lucas, Marie, and Thomas are prayerful, and generous, compassionate and bold disciples. I can tell they have a strong desire to introduce people to Jesus. In just a couple of months we are seeing young people respond to their invitation in our youth groups and small groups. They have definitely already created a strong foundation for many opportunities to walk with young people and accompany them on their journey through the thresholds of faith. I have been impressed with their willingness to seek out encounters and the way they complement each other in their gifts and charisms. I am grateful for their presence in our parish.

- Fr. Tom Ferrara (St Michael's Parish, Leamington)

The host home we were staying with had a teenage daughter who was the perfect age to come to our senior youth night. At the beginning of our stay, she was a bit distant and didn't seem too excited about us being there. But by the end of our time staying with her family, she was talking to us at her school and she even came to our youth night for the first time!

- Stefania Matuszewska



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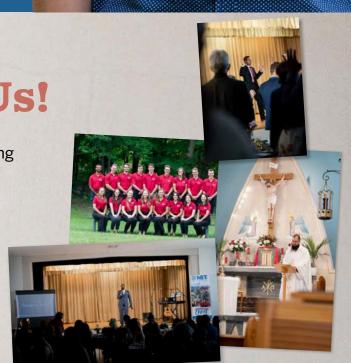
Get your tickets to the end of the year Thanksgiving Banquet on **June 3**!

Visit our website or call us to buy your tickets!

netcanada.ca

613 841 4141

Or join us virtually via livestream on the NET Canada Facebook page.



We all want to see a flourishing Church.

Without young people, it won't be possible.



It's not enough for people to only know about Jesus and what He can offer them. If we want young people in our pews who are living lives of faith, they need to make the choice to follow Him.

You can help them make that choice. Your support can make it possible.

During this Easter season, please consider being a part of this important work of evangelization through a financial gift.

Your donation will send NET missionaries across Canada to invite Canadian youth to accept Jesus's invitation.



### I WANT TO SEE YOUTH RE-ENGAGED IN THE CHURCH!

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