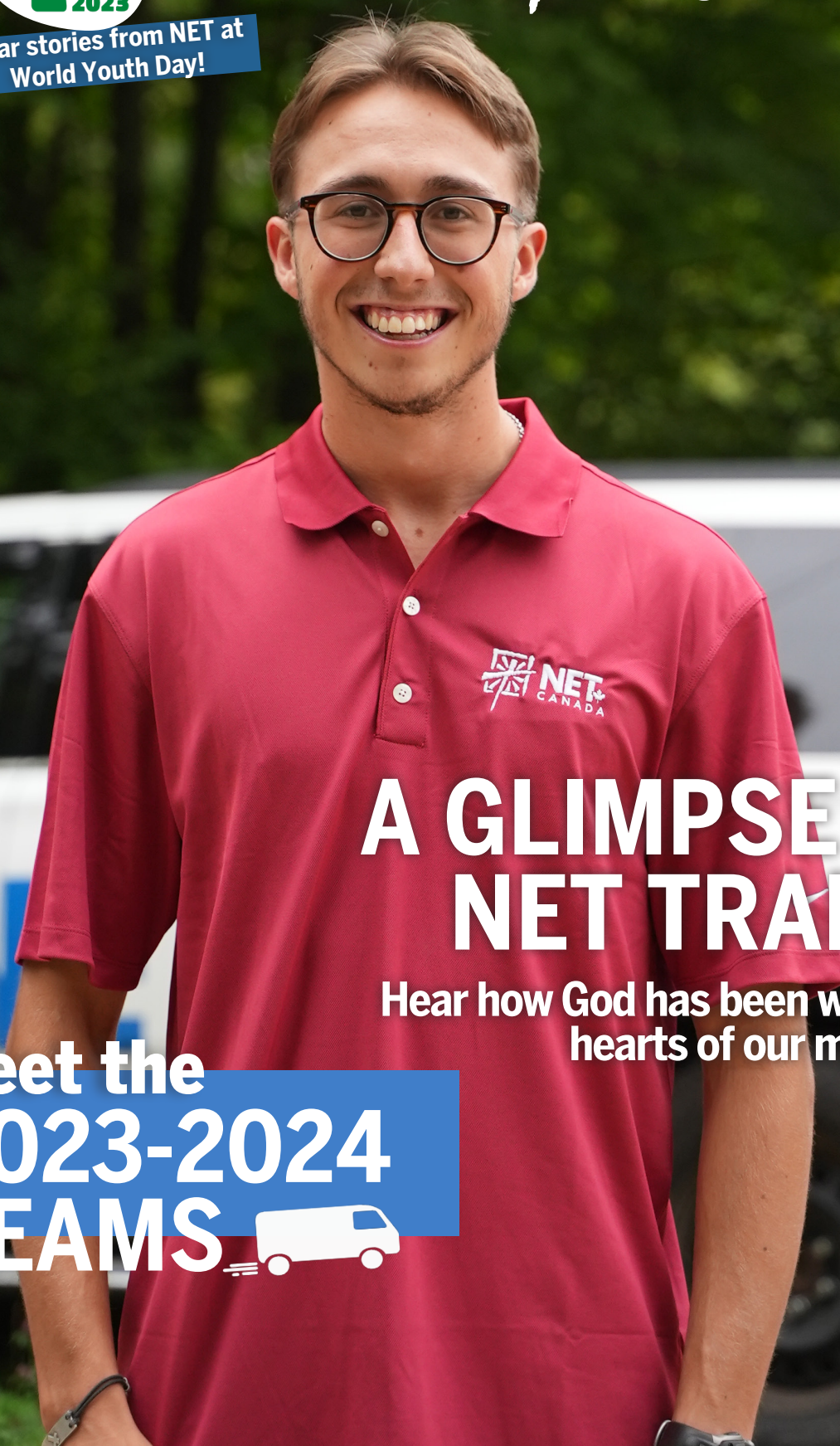




Hear stories from NET at  
World Youth Day!



# A GLIMPSE INTO NET TRAINING

Hear how God has been working in the  
hearts of our missionaries...

Meet the  
2023-2024  
TEAMS



Fall 2023





## A GLIMPSE INTO

# NET Training

### What's been your experience of training so far?

*Mickela Curotte* - My experience of training has been very unexpected! I've learned so many things that I thought I knew already, but God has been showing me that no, I actually don't know as much as I thought. There's been a lot of personal development and learning new parts of myself. For example, I'm kind of a very introverted person, but I'm learning that I love talking to people. It's awesome that we get to experience getting out of our comfort zones together.

*Amanda Dalgado* - Honestly when I got on the plane I sat there like "what am I doing??" I am flying halfway across the world from New Zealand to do this mission where I don't know anyone else. But it's amazing how the Holy Spirit works, how he just equips you with what you need!

### How has your relationship with God changed?

*Mickela Curotte* - God has been showing me that there's a lot I need to know about myself. I'm actually learning why I am the way that I am, which is awesome. God is showing me the places in my heart that I have to work on in order to be a true missionary. I also love the worship - it's been my favorite part - and I really think it's the opportunity to just open up and be yourself with God and with all our friends together.

*Chris Vandenberg* - My perspective has been transformed. Just changing the way that I see my life as a follower of Christ, and my life this year as a missionary. My perspective and my approach to building my faith has changed completely. And a big part of that for me has been devotion to Mary.

*Elly Gouthro* - My relationship with Him is growing in that I'm realizing and recognizing more and more that I don't have to do anything to earn God's love. So coming into prayer with that in mind - knowing that I don't have to say the right words or the fancy words, but I'm already loved and known and seen.

*Amanda Dalgado* - The way I communicate with Him, and the importance of daily prayer. You can see the difference in your



relationship with God when you communicate with him every day. I think I just had this conviction - I can't say that I love God if I don't know God, and the only way I can know God is if I have a relationship with Him, and to have a relationship with someone you need to communicate with them.



## What's been a highlight of training so far?

*Chris Vandenberg* - I love that communal prayer is through praise and worship. I've had this desire to do it more, and sometimes it can be super happy, and sometimes I'm super sad or emotional doing it, but it's such a profound way to come together as a community and as a team no matter what.

*Elly Gouthro* - The talk that really stood out to me was on our identity in Christ. We talked about, when you're doing something and you're feeling insecure, ask yourself are you putting your identity in Christ or in what other people think about you? That really stood out to me.



## Describe training so far in one word!

*Mickela Curotte* - Transformative! Every single day I'm learning something new about being Catholic and about myself. I really feel like I've grown so much already, and can't wait for the weeks to come.

# 2023-24 NET Canada Teams



## Travelling Retreat Team

**Back (L-R):** Mariah Barter (Chipman, AB), Blaise Letterio (Belleville, ON), Chris Vandenberg (Lucan, ON)

**Front (L-R):** Mickela Curotte (Hammond, ON), Anastasia Ibach (Grand Prairie, AB), Amanda Dalgado (Auckland, New Zealand), Mackenzie Danahy (Belleville, ON), Aoife Kiely (County Cork, Ireland)



## Lethbridge, AB

**Back (L-R):** Francis St Pierre (Casselman, ON), Carson Lapensee (Ottawa, ON)

**Front (L-R):** Anna Spithoven (The Netherlands), Elly Gouthro (Cape Breton Island, NS), Maya Jaglarz (Windsor, ON), Bernadette van den Bosch (Spruce Grove, AB)



# NET at World Youth Day

**“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”**

**- Pope Paul VI**

This summer, NET Canada was present at World Youth Day in Portugal! Our team of staff and alumni volunteers were blessed to be able to run a catechesis site for three days, and the Holy Spirit was moving. Hundreds of young people got to experience the testimonies and reflections of the NET Canada team!

During one particular catechesis session, one of our team members shared a testimony of the first time she attended World Youth Day a number of years ago. She spoke about how she had motives for coming that had nothing to do with God, but was touched by Him in a profound way while there. After she finished sharing, a young woman, we'll call her Megan, approached with tears in her eyes.

“Your story is my story,” Megan said.

Megan shared how she had felt God trying to work in her life all week, but had been nervous and hesitant, unsure of what Jesus would ask of her. Hearing the team member's testimony gave her the courage to finally answer that call, and that day she went back to confession for the first time since she was a child, and made the decision to commit herself to Jesus. She said that she was ready to really embrace who God says she is and what God wants for life.

Another of our team members met a young woman who wasn't Catholic and asked about World Youth Day, curious about why so many people chose to attend it. She shared that she was curious about faith and had even started to turn to God during hard moments in her life, but had always been skeptical of the impact those decisions actually had on her life.

Our team member engaged in a meaningful conversation with her about the importance of community and not walking through life alone. The young person opened up about her own life and they were both amazed at how similar their paths have been!

*“I shared that it's so important that we have community because we're not in it alone. I asked if I could pray for her. She was struggling with similar things that I had experienced, so I shared how I went through those things, and how God's love changed my life. We both started crying and I asked if I could pray with her then and there. So we sat on a couch and prayed. Afterward, she asked a bunch of questions and finally said that she wanted to give faith a shot again!”*

We are so grateful to have had this opportunity to be present at World Youth Day. Please for all the young people like these two who were present there, and that they continue to open their hearts to the Lord!







Join us in praying this scripture  
this year!



Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:17-20



## Introducing NET Canada's new Program Director!



**We are excited to announce NET Canada's new Program Director, Amy Hall!**

Since her conversion in 2001, she has had a passion for evangelization and journeying with people in their faith. She has previous experience working with Catholic Christian Outreach and is currently doing her Master of Arts degree in Theology through the Augustine Institute. Please join us in welcoming Amy and praying for her as she begins this position!



Follow us!  
@NETCANADA



NET Canada relies on your generosity. In addition to giving a year of their lives, team members are asked to raise a portion of the cost for their mission year. So far, this year's missionaries have only reached 75% of this year's goal. Will you join them in the critical work of bringing youth to Christ across the country?



## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



Yes!

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