

Dear Friends & Family,

I just want to begin by saying I hope you're doing well! Thank you for taking your time to read this update letter; it really means a lot to me.

Thank you also for your endless support of my work with Youth Unlimited. Things have been a bit different due to the pandemic, but your support has not wavered. I am beyond grateful that you decided to join me on this journey!

As you may have read in my previous letter, I'll be working with Light Patrol and Bridletowne Park Church for the duration of my internship. In this letter, I'll go a bit into what I'm doing with each ministry. Please know that names of people are changed to protect them. I've also got some exciting news at the end of this letter, but we'll get there in time.

## **LIGHT PATROL**

Light Patrol is a street ministry working with people experiencing homelessness. On Wednesday, January 13, 2021 I got to join their outreach at Trinity Bellwoods and talk to some of the people living there. We had underwear, water, snacks, gloves, clothes, and tarps to give out to people who needed them. In pre-COVID days, we would be in an RV serving hot soup, clothes, sandwich, coffee and a lot more, but unfortunately due to the pandemic, our outreach capacity has been limited. Nevertheless, I got to meet some really interesting individuals:

- Chris is an aspiring photographer and even has a camera and takes photos and posts them on social media. I found it interesting how Chris had hope. He used to work for DoorDash, but he wants to find a job related to harm reduction. He said he became homeless in August 2020, and that he has been homeless in the past.
- Gregory is a hardcore bicycle rider. He's biked across Canada several times, but he's also had to deal with having his bike stolen. He is very tall and a very kind soul.
- Joshua is definitely different from most of the people I've met; he described himself as the mayor of his encampment, and that he thought of the people living there as his children. He's also implemented some initiatives in his community, including one where each female member of the community gets a blow horn to help protect against assault; he also has plans for another which involves picking up garbage. Joshua recently lost a friend due to drug overdose, so please pray for Joshua and his friend's loved ones.
- Daniel is a youth who Light Patrol connected with outside of the normal program, but has been able to maintain a really supportive relationship with him. Many people wouldn't be able to say this, but my outreach was to play video games with him. He wasn't very chatty and I'm not very good at Battlefield 2, but I tried my best, and I think we had a great time.

A few things I learned:

Paula observed how people experiencing homelessness often build a close knit community, watching out for one another and caring for each other. They live life with one another. I was reminded that we as the church need to live this way too. The life we live with our church community should not just be a Sunday, one day, thing; we should be actively engaged with each other, knowing what's happening in each other's lives

These people are open and honest with us because we have relationships with them but also, they see in us genuineness, compassion, and God's love.

Please pray for the people on the streets experience homelessness for their protection, health and safety and for them to experience God's love.

## **BRIDLETOWNE**

As some of you may know Bridletowne Park Church is the church where I first accepted Christ, specifically at a youth outreach program that Alain Virgin was running at the time. Alain and I always had a heart to reach that neighbourhood or bring back a youth outreach program in that church. Fast forward to now and, while chatting with the church's current pastor, he brought forth this idea of me interning with them as a Community Outreach intern. I suggested that this could possibly be part of my Youth Unlimited internship, and if you're reading this now, you know that that's exactly what happened.

My goal is to restart the youth outreach program at Bridletowne but also restart their summer camp this summer. Right now, due to COVID-19, I'm still in the planning stages of the youth outreach program--deciding our goals/vision and mission and what we want to accomplish through this outreach, figuring out what food we will serve, and just nailing down all the logistical and budgeting aspects of the project. Currently, I'm working on a PowerPoint presentation to hopefully show the church what my plan is for this youth outreach program.

Please pray that God provides me guidance, wisdom, and direction as I plan this program.

## **IN CLOSING**

And that's pretty much it! Thank you for your time reading this update letter, and once again, thank you for your continuous support. Whether it be financially or through prayer, you allow me to continue to do what I do with Youth Unlimited.

## **EXCITING NEWS**

Just before I sign off, I promised something exciting, so here it is: I'll be arranging a zoom meeting for those who are already supporting me and for those who are interested in supporting me or would like to hear more about my ministry with Youth Unlimited. I'll be bringing in some people to share a few words on what I've been doing in my internship. If you'd like to link to the zoom meeting please don't hesitate to reach out to me. The zoom call will be scheduled for sometimes in February. As of this moment, the date hasn't been fixed yet. A Google form is listed below to see what days work well for you. I'll email everyone with the time and the zoom link once all that's finalized.

Here a link to the google form to figure out what time works for the zoom meeting.

<https://forms.gle/EeGp2ZzxEVzj9BxX7>

Shalom,  
Kirushanthan (Cricket) Krishnapillai