

Dear friends and family,

One of my all time favorite songs is a song translated to English from Dutch and is called, "I Will Be There" by Sela. This song is such a beautiful reminder that God is always present. He is with us always, through our ups and our downs in life:

"A rainbow that shines for the promise you give. Of love always faithful as long as I live. Through joy and through sorrow, through laughter and tears, my rock and my refuge, through all the years."

Since coming back from my maternity leave in May of this year, it has been absolutely beautiful and inspiring to see the work God has been doing in Ponoka. Our first Life360 of this year, there were so many new faces of youth that I didn't recognize! I have loved getting to know them all and hearing some of their stories.

One amazing example of God working is through one of our youth girls. I met her back when I was working in the school and met with her and other girls weekly. She was anti-Christ. She knew the organization I worked for, and she knew I was a believer, but she never wanted to talk about Jesus. While I was on maternity leave, she got the opportunity to go on our Youth Unlimited Adventure Trips to Vancouver. She accepted this offer not fully understanding what she would be doing and had no knowledge of the trip. After speaking with her about the trip, she admitted that the first day she was there, she regretted going because she had realized what it was. But she fully participated and engaged in every activity. While there, she had an encounter with Jesus. She told me she couldn't describe what had happened but knew and felt that it was Him. She shared this with the leaders, and they helped her navigate through this experience and encouraged her to read her Bible and pray to God. Fast forward, she is now a fully committed follower of Jesus! She is committed to our programs each week and is so eager to learn more about Jesus and the Bible! This to me is such a beautiful reminder that, when it seems like what we're doing is 'not enough,' we plant seeds and God does the rest. He will show up, and He will continue His work in each of these youth. Just this past week we handed out another Bible to one of the youth attending Life360 because she loved talking about Jesus, didn't have a Bible and wanted to learn more! Wow! There are so many amazing stories I could share about God's work in Ponoka.

Since becoming a mother and knowing how much love I have for my child, I get only a glimpse of the love our Father has for each of us. I think since becoming a mother, it has only increased my desire to tell these youth about their Heavenly Father who loves them so much. Some of our youth don't feel love in their homes or their lives, and each week we get to teach them a little bit more about Jesus' love for them.

Just like Sela sings of the hope of the rainbow in our lives, **will you help me bring the hope of Jesus into the lives of youth in Ponoka?** I can not do this without your support, whether it's financially or prayerfully. Are you able to commit to a monthly or one-time partnership with me this Christmas season? If so, please scan the QR code below or visit <https://www.cayu.ca/give> and select my name in the drop-down menu.



As I end this letter, I would like to bless you with these words of encouragement from the song:

"My hope for the future is certain, I know. You stand by me Jesus; You never let go. When heaven awaits me I kneel at Your throne, you welcome me Jesus, You take me home. I am who I am' is Your glorious name. Eternal and faithful, forever the same. The Alpha, Omega, beyond all compare, Your name is 'I am' and 'I will be there.'"

We pray for you and your family to have a rich and blessed Christmas season.

With gratitude,

NKroneman

Nathalie Kroneman
Youth Engagement | Ponoka