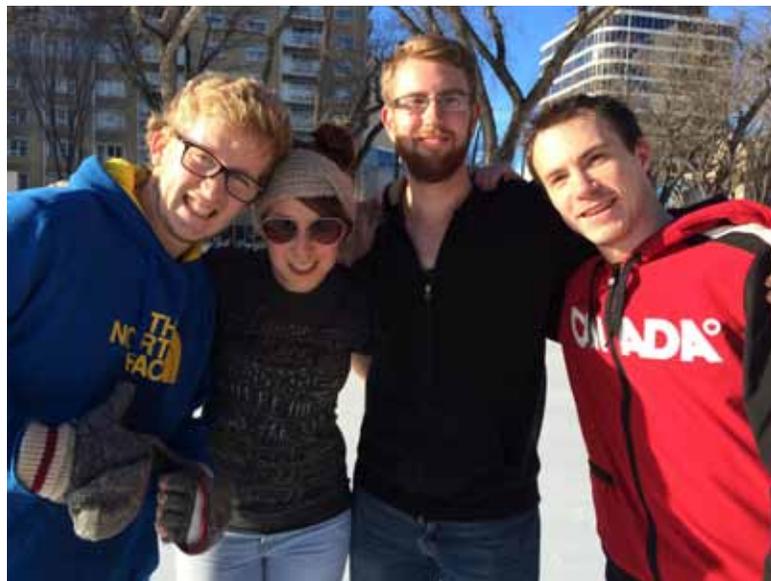


*Setting Christ at the Heart of Our Lives!*

# purewitness ministries 2015-16



Through your joyful witness and service, help to build a civilization of love. Show, by your life, that it is worth giving your time and talents in order to attain high ideals, it is worth recognizing the dignity of each human person, and it is worth taking risks for Christ and his Gospel.

~ Pope Francis, World Youth Day 2013 ~



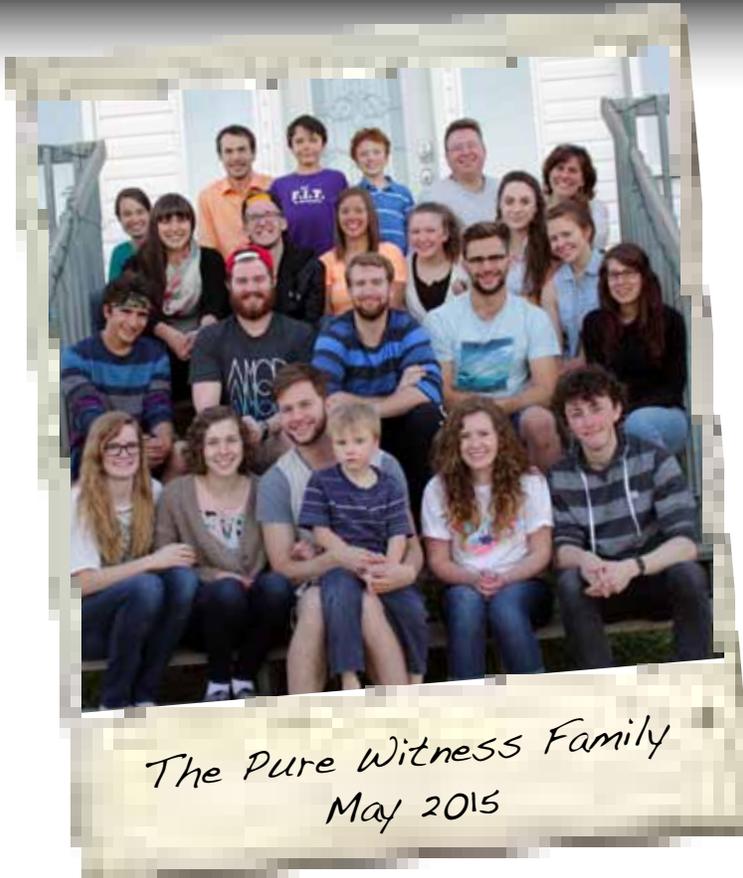
# CHANGING THE WORLD ... ONE WITNESS AT A TIME



## Message From Our Founders

What a grace-filled year we've experienced here at Pure Witness Ministries! Fifteen dedicated and talented missionaries putting on 25 events, 80 retreats and 6 on-going programs, with over 8500 youth and families served! We even had the opportunity to build two houses for two families in Tijuana, Mexico! It's kind of a big deal for a little pioneering ministry like us! God is so good!

Of course, none of this would happen without the financial and prayer support of people like you! On behalf of every student in school who experienced the excitement of their faith for the first time, every youth on retreat who discovered that Jesus truly does love them, every parent who saw their child experience transformation this year, every priest, teacher and parent who were inspired in hope for our Church by the witness of so many youth engaged in their faith ... thank you! Your support is needed, your support makes a difference, and your support is changing lives – and our world! Thank you!



*The Pure Witness Family  
May 2015*

I encourage you to read the feedback we included in this update from retreatants, teachers and parents. The work of the New Evangelization is essential to our world. Our youth and families need support to engage in a life of faith in a culture that is increasingly hostile toward Christianity. We all need to remember that we were created for more than what this world has to offer! We were created for greatness ... and our lives have purpose! As we spread this message through the events, programs and retreats that we put on, we see the difference it is making in so many lives. As one grade eleven Yepper said to me: "Coming out to YEP every month helps me to face day-to-day life in my school and to not forget why I'm here and what life's really about!"

"We must believe that every morning the Church is revived through her saints," said St. John Paul the Great! We are all called to be the saints of this generation - bearing witness to Christ in our lives in a world that has lost faith. In every aspect of our lives - in our homes, among our friends, in the work place - we are called to be his witnesses, willing to "take risks for Christ and his Gospel" as Pope Francis has called us each to do.

Pure Witness Ministries is "in the business" of helping to form these witnesses for Christ in our world. These witnesses include our missionaries who serve with us and all those they reach out to with the Gospel message! And indeed, as founders of this ministry, we are humbled by their authentic witness and challenged daily to grow in purity of heart and in holiness so that we too can become the best witnesses for Christ that we are called to be! Please keep us, our missionaries and all those we reach out to in your prayers. Together, we are changing the world ... one witness at a time!

James and Carmen Marcoux  
Founders of Pure Witness Ministries



*Pio and Nicole*

*Saskatoon  
Fundraiser Dinner*



*Sean and Joey*

*Local Outreach  
Band at a YEP*

# THE PURE WITNESS TEAM 2014-15



Abandoning myself, my will, and my desires, to God's plan for my life has been extremely challenging, and though I often fight for what I want, I am learning to succumb to His will, because it is there where I will find peace.

- Silken Neutelings, 21 - Kamloops, BC



This year has opened my eyes to my role as Christ's ambassador to others. In sharing the gospel message with others and by living in community, you feel and understand on a new level that you are Christ's heart, smile, embrace and voice of truth to others.

- Rebekah Marcoux, 22 - Saskatoon, SK



The powerful effect of being on PW will ricochet into my adult life and beyond. God always supplied the grace and the friendship and the cheesecake when I needed it. I know I'll be telling my kids about the adventures of this year (and next year)!

- Nicole Mallett, 19 - Tramping Lake, SK



This year on Pure Witness has taught me to unrelentingly seek joy and to believe in the truth of Pope Francis' call that the youth of our world are capable of responsibility and love. A year like this fulfills that call within our souls, and it's an unrepeatable gift.

- Leah Borris, 20 - Morinville, AB



Every year that I work with Pure Witness is a new and exciting adventure and I love every moment of it! I can't imagine not having the community and faith formation that Pure Witness provides, and I'm excited to continue to grow with it in the coming years!

- Laura Rice, 21 - Saskatoon, SK



The mission of this ministry has transformed the way I approach life and what I count as important. Pure Witness digs deep and doesn't shy away from calling you to your best, even in the simple things. I was not made for comfort, but for greatness.

- Mikaelah Marcoux, 20 - Saskatoon, SK



This year God has taken my hand and led me into the depths of my heart. I continue to discover more each moment that I live of what it means to live a joyous life. I can proudly say that Pure Witness has brought me closer to Christ than I ever would have thought I'd be a year ago.

- Kayla Grimard, 20 - Chilliwack, BC



Pure Witness has offered me the opportunity and gift to step back and see things with new eyes, to love with a new heart, and to seek God in each moment ... to regain wonder in his promise and plan for me.

- Nicole Painchaud, 24 - Sturgeon County, AB

In every opportunity God presents me with something new to learn, but with Pure Witness he gave me a framework for how I should live my entire life! Through Pure Witness God has instilled a desire in my heart to follow him with everything I am.

- Joey Paul, 20 - Calgary, AB

What a year it's been! I hoped for a year to learn to love God from the heart. I got everything I hoped for and much more. I will always thank God that I had the chance to do Pure Witness.

- Pio Hartnett, 21 - Galway, Ireland

Serving a year with Pure Witness Ministries has shown me how I can live a life of ordinary holiness. Setting Christ at the center of one's life will completely transform it and change the ordinary into extraordinary. I'm excited to become a saint of this generation!

- Sean Roche, 22 - Medicine Hat, AB

My year on Pure Witness was an experience of a lifetime and an experience that changed my life in so many ways. Especially through formation, self discipline and prayer. It was truly a gift to do a year of youth ministry.

- Nolan Conrad, 23 - Halifax, NS

Pure Witness this year has affected me largely through community life with the missionaries and around Saskatoon. I have really felt God's love being here, and I have found so many new friends and loving families that I will never forget.

- Ian Rankin, 25 - Windsor, ON

This year has been the most extraordinary experience of my life. The impact I saw in our outreach consistently astonished me. I was so humbled to see God use this ministry and myself to inspire so many people to place Christ at the heart of their lives.

- David Paul, 22 - Calgary, AB

I can't even begin to tell you how much blessing I have received this year! It is a privilege to witness Christ at work in the lives of those around me and see the impact that has made in my own life.

- Daniel Taylor, 23 - Aurora, ON

Working with our missionaries these past four years has given us hope that the Church is truly being revived by a generation striving to become saints. We thank God for their witness which has inspired many with hope for our Church, for our future, and for our world.

- James and Carmen Marcoux



# Is God Calling You to Join Pure Witness?

Have you ever thought of giving a year of your life in missionary service? Pure Witness Ministries engages teams of Catholic men and women, eighteen years of age and older and trains them as missionaries to: proclaim the freedom, hope and joy that come from living pure lives for Christ, and to present the teachings of our Catholic faith to youth and families across Western Canada in dynamic ways that speak to this generation. Pure Witness missionaries experience a transformational year in their lives as they live out the three-fold mission of: Community Life, Faith Formation and Outreach.

**Discover all that you were created to be and be a part of the renewal of faith in our Church, as we work together to love a generation back to Christ.**

For more information check out [www.join.purewitness.com](http://www.join.purewitness.com) or email [recruiting@purewitness.com](mailto:recruiting@purewitness.com).



*Rebekah and Nicole at an ALIVE retreat*



*Mission trip to Mexico*



*May YEP "The Art of Celebration"*



*Pio at an ALIVE Retreat*

## What people are saying about Pure Witness

Over the past few months I felt alone in my faith but coming to YEP and being surrounded by so many people so alive in their faith gave me new hope and I truly felt God's presence.

- Grade 10 Yepper

Today, through both talks and some great small group discussions, I felt called to learn more about my faith and be prepared to share my faith with my friends.

- Grade 10 Yepper

Thank-you PWT for being role models to our children. Living out your Christian life as teenagers in this secular world is not easy. Knowing that someone of your generation besides you is striving to be holy, who challenges you to do the same, helps.

Also ... good, clean, honest, fun never hurts!  
- Parents of Seven

Thank you for making God not quiet, but fun and exciting!

- Grade 3 Student - ALIVE Retreat

We are ever so grateful for these young people who so generously volunteer to enrich and encourage teens through music and through the formation provided at the YEPs.

- Parents of Three

The Pure Witness Team led by example and allowed our students to experience God in a variety of ways and challenged them to continue to spread the love of God in all that they do. Thanks to the team for lighting the spirit of Christ in our students.

- Principal of Elementary School

God really inspired me to go to confession, be challenged in my faith and to go spread God's love, even if it leads to awkward moments. So thanks God, and thank you Pure Witness, for challenging me!

- Grade 9 Yepper

The Lord touched my heart by introducing me to the Pure Witness Team. They are an awesome group of people!

- Grade 6 Student - ALIVE Retreat

God touched me with the talks and the gift of meeting new people and giving me the chance to be friends with them. Thank you! Can't wait for the next YEP!

- Grade 8 Yepper

I came here alone, not knowing anyone here but I was still able to connect and feel welcome in this family of faith and for once was able to feel as if I was not alone on my journey with God.

- Grade 12 Yepper

Pure Witness was a blessing to our students this year on retreat. Their joy, faith, and ability to related to young people was made evident over the course of the retreat.

We are grateful for their joyful witness of Christ's love to our students.

- High School Teacher

God helped open up my perspective on the world showing me how there's another part of my life, my faith, which I've been shutting myself out from. I realized on this retreat that I should reconnect myself with God.

- Grade 10 Student - ALIVE Retreat

At the YEP today God re-centered my life on holiness. All my worries I carried before today - stresses of finals coming up, worries about my future - were gradually wiped away by Fr. Dan Yasinski's talk and the fun times with friends.

- Grade 11 Yepper

The PWT provides a safe, wholesome environment for our kids to come together on a regular basis to grow in and share their faith. We are so blessed to have young adults willing to share their faith and talents with the youth of our parish and community.

- Parents of Teenage Son