



**FRONTIER
YOUTH TRUST**
MISSION WITH YOUNG
PEOPLE AT RISK

/News

WINTER 2019



At the tail-end of last year, I was at a regional meet-up of youth workers in Tadcaster (somewhere between Leeds & York). We met on a rainy Wednesday in an unassuming youth centre under the looming chimneys of the local brewery. Here I met-up with the wonderful team of the Bridge Youth Project; a team that brims with enthusiasm, energy and imagination. It is exciting to hear of their work with teenagers: the outreach work in schools, the open youth club, the little ‘church-like-thing’ that they had set up for curious young people, the drop-in for mums, and an amazing commitment to visiting young people in their own homes. And I am stirred by their attempts to innovate in giving young people an experience of the Gospel that is local and contextualised. Frontier Youth Trust is a movement of this kind of pioneering youth work. We’re a family of people and projects that want to see a better world for young people: a movement of supporters, prayers, youth workers, pioneers, volunteers, that are making a difference to the lives of young people.

Frontier Youth Trust is home for those pioneering with young people in this way. We are equipping and encouraging youth workers and churches to take the kinds of risks that mean we have more youth work, better youth work, and work that takes young people on real, meaningful journeys with the Gospel story. And we are working together to champion young people and this kind of pioneering youth work so that more people join the movement. The role of our new leadership team - Gemma Dunning, Dylan Barker & John Wheatley - is to curate and facilitate this movement. Sharing ideas, resources, learning and encouragement between all our members and beyond. As we enter 2019 we are praying that many more Christians see that the power to make a better world for young people is in their hands - and that so many more young people encounter teams like The Bridge.

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HOME

TOGETHER WE CAN DO THIS

You probably know the story of Gideon already. Gideon is sent by God to gather an army to free the people of Israel. To his amazement, he gathers in excess of 30,000 people to fight with him. But this is too many, and God instructs Gideon to send the majority home. Only 300 remain. Together, with God's help, they defeat an army several times larger.

Our experience with GDPR - the European directive that has made all charities seek fresh permission from supporters to receive news updates - has been much the same. Like Gideon, we had an army of supporters that was formidable for our size. But after GDPR we moved into 2019 with four-hundred loyal and invested pray-ers. That's you.

In all honesty, the majority of people that didn't re-commit to receive our news and to continue to pray and support us, probably haven't been invested for a while. And the sheer volume of GDPR requests has been a lot for most people to keep up with. So we are REALLY pleased that you have chosen to travel with us into this new season. It means a lot.

Your support over many years has led us to where we are today. Frontier Youth Trust has resourced, journeyed with, supported and equipped youth workers and young people for over fifty years. We have been a prophetic voice on the margins calling the church to mission with young people. And we have gathered those faithful individuals and groups who have sought to leave their comfort zones to meet young people well beyond the doors of the church.

But just like Gideon, the task ahead feels daunting. Frontier Youth Trust is a movement of pioneering youth work. Together we must convince, persuade and resource the church to journey with young people on the margins. We





are building a 'home' for pioneers - a base-camp if you will - to gather and equip those setting out to reach young people in the hardest to reach places. With God on our side, we do not need to be afraid - but we will need the tenacity, resourcefulness and imagination of Gideon's army to see the church put young people first.

You have been - and you are - the movement that holds the torch for young people on the margins. In my home community, I am working

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with four teenage boys to reach their personal goal of going to Disneyland. They have had to learn business skills, finance skills, how to present, how to plan a trip, and how to work as a team. They have also had to learn to believe that another world is possible. This is the kind of work you are supporting. Only when the church realises and is equipped to show young people another world, will we see the scale of change we long for.

Together we are a small but growing movement that is building a better world for young people. Thank you for continuing to be part of it. Keep praying. Give when you can. Champion young people in your church and in your community. Together we can do this.

RISK

TAKING A BIGGER RISK

Frontier Youth Trust is all about risk taking - that is, the kind of risks that lead to better youth work and more youth work. Risks that take young people on a journey. One of the main ways that Frontier Youth Trust encourages risk taking is through Alongside Coaching - coming alongside youth workers, churches and volunteers and helping them think about their work with young people. Our team of regional activists - Nicola Cooper, James Ballantyne and (until recently) Dan Potter - meetup each term with our 40 member youth teams for an Alongside.

As well as one-on-one support, we think pioneering risks are best encouraged by the creativity of youth workers coming together - so our activists are also hosting regional meet-ups in the North East, South West, London, and the Midlands. If you know of a risk-taking youth worker in one of these regions, feel free to put them in touch (info@fyt.org.uk).



Ree Harding, the Youth Worker at Keynsham Parish Church, describes her recent experience of Alongside:

'We've been asking as a church, what does it mean to take a pioneer approach to our youth ministry? I met with Dan to see if he could help. The church has been very encouraging of being more outward focused, but I was unsure of some of the practicalities.

I've been thinking a lot about street work (also known as detached work) as a good way of meeting people outside the church. But Keynsham already has a town council youth service that does detached in the community. So I've been holding all these questions about whether more detached work is needed in the town, and if it's something we could do, how could it work in conjunction with the council, or would it be competing? What would the purpose be?

I feel I should already know the answer to these questions - but there's no clear stand-out solution. Dan reminded me that there is no easy answer to any of this and it's something we have to work out as a team, a church and across the town. Working out God's call in youth ministry can often feel like a puzzle. We began to reflect on the issue theologically. Dan asked, 'does being a youth worker in the community wanting to meet young people where they are at' mean street work is the only way to do it?

We talked over some different options, and explored some of the thinking behind our motivation. I found the opportunity to question and reflect outside of the context of my own church extremely fruitful. It was good to have the freedom not to have to know the right answers. Having an Alongside with Dan gave me space to reflect. I left able to approach the opportunity with wisdom and clarity."

MORE MISSIONAL MINISTRIES

This season we have been out at the youth work conferences encouraging youth workers to take a more pioneering approach to their work. So to help them in that we have written **101 Risky Ideas for Youth Work**. At various conferences

and festivals, we have asked youth workers to take a risk from the board and to try it out when they get back to their project. If they like it then they can download all 101 from our website.

RISKS TO TAKE WHEN DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

17

Challenge bad behaviour with radical grace (i.e. if they steal from the tuck shop, next week give away sweets for free)

23

Organise a trip to somewhere you know will be closed to see how the group manage disappointment. Let the group decide what to do instead

25

Have a cooking night but buy the wrong ingredients to encourage the group to use their creativity

RISKS TO TAKE WHEN DEVELOPING SPIRITUALITY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

41

Rewrite a parable and base it in your local context. Tell the story to young people without revealing its biblical origins. What are their interpretations?

69

Create a Doubt Box. Encourage young people to anonymously write down their doubts about their faith. Acknowledge them but don't necessarily try to solve them

77

Work together to create a weekly community ritual which is significant to your group

101 RISKY IDEAS FOR YOUTH WORK

TAKE A RISK

FRONTIER YOUTH TRUST

HOME FOR PIONEER YOUTH WORK

RISKS TO TAKE AS A PROJECT OR STARTING A NEW PROJECT

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Ask a local diversity group to go through your media, like your website, and ask them to point out text and images that don't promote inclusion.

91

Start a project that intentionally goes out into the community to meet young people. Build relationships authentically where young people are and don't try to bring back into the youth club or church.

We want to continue to encourage and challenge youth work to take a more pioneering and missional approach to their work. It is thanks to your support that we can attend these conferences and encourage more youth workers. We are seeing more youth workers wanting to be more missional in their ministry and this resource helps them take that first risk. You can find the whole resource on our website www.fyt.org.uk

PRAYERS FROM VICE-CHAIR, TADZ BILLAM



PLEASE JOIN ME IN PRAYING FOR:

- Our new staff team, as they settle into their roles, and journey with us as we seek to be a home for pioneer youth workers, and a voice for pioneers and young people
- Our trustees, as we add to our number and ask how we too can be shaped by the idea of being a Movement, serving and learning together.
- Our young people, that all our imperfect efforts joined with their creativity and passion means we can start 2019 with a sense of hope and purpose.

NEWS

TRUSTEES

We are pleased to welcome Lori Passmore and Nigel Argall to the role of trustee. They will be joining Mary McGinty (Chair), Tadz Billam, Laura Toomer, Keith White and Sally Nash. We are looking for a treasurer (no bookkeeping involved) to join this brilliant team. For more information, email info@fyt.org.uk. The trustees are the guardians of the Frontier Youth Trust movement and vision. Have you thought about serving us in this way?



FEEDBACK

We are reviewing what information we send out to our members - i.e. the types of mailings, the content, stories, impact data, how often, and in what format - and we would really like your feedback. It is encouraging to know that there is a movement of 400 supporters and 200 youth workers praying for our work and for young people on the margins. What do you need to help you in this task of prayer? Email info@fyt.org.uk

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And check the Website: www.fyt.org.uk

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