

Young Adults

by Robbie Brydon

In Young Adult circles

Circles are not always obvious. This year's *Opus*, the continental spiritual retreat for UU young adults, was titled

provided soulful, powerful, thoughtful and sometimes very comedic entertainment and ministry throughout the

OUR ANTI-OPPRESSION MATERIAL WAS PRESENTED IN CYCLES – CIRCLES – OF DISCRIMINATION AND LIBERATION AND EACH STEP WAS SPOKEN TO POWERFULLY WITH NARRATIVES FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF PEOPLE PRESENT.



A closing circle of the conference.

PHOTO: ASHA PHILAR

“The Circle Game,” but did not seem to hold tightly to the theme – until you stopped to think about it.

The five days at Unicamp in August were the first time that *Opus* had returned to a site, having occupied the same ground four years previously. It was remarkable to note the changes – and consistencies – within the community in one turn of the circle.

Our anti-oppression material was presented in cycles – circles – of discrimination and liberation and each step was spoken to powerfully, with narratives from the experience of people present.

Three stalwart members of the community aged out in a tearful farewell around the campfire. One member-to-be, the charming Leif Bailey, joined us for the first time at the age of five months.

Our numerous phenomenal musicians – professional and otherwise –

conference. For me, personally, it was the closing of a circle as music I had first heard there, four years ago, came back in powerful ways.

The 80 of us, a dozen Canadians and four Brits included, strengthened old bonds, built new ones and looked for ways to extend the music, the worship and the vibrancy we have beyond our young adult circles. Let's share our new dreams, maybe better dreams and plenty – before the last revolving year is through. **U**

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Young Adults are actively involved in organizing the CUC ACM. Join the email list by sending a blank email message to cuc-acm-young-adults-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

by Joel Fox

Exciting new wave for the Young Adults

After the ACM, a couple of us young adults (YAs) got to talkin' about havin' ourselves a camping trip. The word was spread and soon we were set for four days on Island View



Kellina Dyer and Cora Babey at the BC Young Adult camping trip.

Beach, in Victoria.

The weather was perfect for all four days with barely even a cloud. We awoke each day to sunshine's happy glow and feasted merrily on the apple and plum trees that abounded. We soon found the beach and some of us went for a little swim. The water was cold and rocks and shells sliced up my feet, but it was so refreshing! We also enjoyed flopping down on our beach towels and bathing in the sun. Relaxation was the name of the game here, and we knew how to play it. Oh, the joys of having absolutely no responsibility! Every night, we wandered over to the beach and built a campfire and warmed ourselves under the starry sky. During the days, we enjoyed delicious gourmet dishes, chatted, played cards, hung out with some other YAs we met – and Curtis and I had one hysterical laughing fit.

Unfortunately, right towards the end of the trip, some misunderstandings and hurt feelings surfaced and we realized there were some group dynamic issues that needed to be resolved. Some post-trip discussion produced valuable insights that will help make sure everyone's needs are met in future trips.

Overall, it was a definite success, and we are all excited for the next one. Unlike the few YA cons out there, smaller, regional gatherings such as this are affordable, flexible and as frequent as people want. You really get to connect with the others in your area. It's a great way to create community. YAs, get connected!

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