YTI REFLECTIONS: SAVANNAH HENRY

We asked Savannah, a 2015 YTI alumna, about her favorite YTI experience. This is what she told us...

My favorite time from YTI was a collection of moments actually. In these collections of moments, I realized how much God loves me and how I can make an impact on the world with that love.

The first moment that comes to mind is when our choir sang at the first worship service. I saw so much passion in my peers and found myself thinking, God must want me to be passionate about something too.

The second memory that comes to mind is when I was at the Atlanta Human Rights Museum and it dawned on me how lucky I am to live the life I live. I saw so much important yet neglected history there. And I saw how I could make the most out of all my hard times through God.

Lastly, the moments that come to mind is when I laughed. With many moments to count, I'll say this: the humor I found at YTI, I found through my friends there. We would sit in a room, share our experiences, and laugh so hard.

YTI gave me the chance to be happy in my relationship with God and the community I experienced there. For that, I am very grateful.

SAVANNAH HENRY

I'm Savannah.
I'm seventeen and I live in Atlanta, Georgia.
I love reading, writing, and helping others.
I aspire to make a career out of that.
Whenever Beth or Jessica travel, they try to meet up with YTIers over lunch or dinner. This gives YTI alumni and former staff from different years a chance to meet other YTIers in their region, and for us to share what is new with the program.

On February 28, Beth Corrie met up with former staff member Jessie Smith and alumnae Lizzie Livengood ’04 and Sofi Driscoll ’15 in Chinatown, Washington DC for Sunday brunch.

The Sunday brunch was such fun, Beth will replicate it in Chicago on April 17. A large number of active YTIers live in Chicagoland, and we invite them all to gather for brunch in the Logan Square neighborhood (details to be announced). Beth will also be attending the 10:30 a.m. church service at St. Luke’s of Logan Square, where the Reverend Erik Christensen, former YTI staffer, is the pastor. All are invited for worship and/or lunch afterwards.

If you currently live in Chicago and would like to reconnect with YTI and YTIers (and enjoy lunch on us!), contact Beth at ecorrie@emory.edu by April 8, 2016.

WANT TO RETURN TO YTI?

Unfortunately, you can’t go back to YTI directly, but you can study theology and social justice with other young adults from around the world this summer—in South Africa!

The Volmoed Young Adult Leadership Training Programme is now accepting applications for its 10-week residential course. Young adults between the ages of 18-30 are invited to apply. Dates are May 22-July 31, 2016.

The program aims to equip whole and effective young Christian leaders to become agents of transformation and deal with challenges in our contemporary world. Themes include: Creation and Creativity; Living in Community; Peace and Justice; Reconciliation; and Wholeness and Healing of Memories. Sound a little like YTI? We thought so!

Apply for the program here: http://christianspirit.co.za/volmoed-registration/

Learn more about the Volmoed Retreat Centre here: www.volmoed.co.za
BECAUSE YOU GAVE:

By now you have received the YTI annual spring letter in the mail. I encourage you to take a moment to read the inspiring words shared by your YTI community.

A special thanks to the Rev. Drew Johnson (YTI Staff 1998-2008), the Rev. Kim Jackson (YTI Staff 2007-2013), Matt Shafer (YTI Alum 2008, YTI Staff 2016), and Dr. Beth Corrie (YTI Director) who shared the importance of this program and the value of your support.

As you consider making a gift this spring and reflect on your personal experience with YTI, I hope you are further encouraged by the words of 2015 YTI Alumni:

Through YTI,

“I have grown, been challenged, and formed some of the deepest relationships of my life. I am especially thankful I had exposure to so many new ideas and solutions to the countless issues that plague our world.”

-Courtney Godwin

“I have been able to experience a diverse community that is accepting, something that I do not experience at home. I have learned the basic ideas of theology and tools to help me evolve in my own ideas.”

-Hans Arvidson-Hicks

“I am especially thankful I had the opportunity to fly from Jerusalem to Atlanta to learn more about my faith and the world.”

-Louis Salem

Your gift of any amount plays a significant role in our collective effort to provide scholarship assistance to YTI scholars thus adding to YTI’s long-term sustainability. You can make a one-time gift or set-up a recurring gift online. Thank you for your consideration and thanks to all who faithfully support YTI.

For questions about giving, contact Jessica McDaniel, YTI Development Director at 404.727.0058 or jessica.mcdaniel@emory.edu.
APPLY TODAY! ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT

YTI SUMMER ACADEMY 2016 WILL BE HELD
JUNE 26–JULY 16, 2016

Applicants should have a strong academic record, curiosity about the relationship between theology and public issues and a commitment to serving the public good through reflection and action.

We seek theologically curious youth from diverse racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, denominational and religious backgrounds. We welcome youth who have not been formed by specific faith traditions.

Scholarships are available!

The application requirements include several short essays, two recommendations and a high school transcript.

If you would like more information, please email yti@emory.edu.