

Temporary Redirection.... Again | Steve Pausch

It has sure been a strange year for ministry! The Sandusky County Juvenile Detention Center has once again asked us to not meet with young people in person. With the county experiencing an increase in COVID 19 cases, we are going back to Zoom video meetings. These were utilized earlier in the year and were as effective as we could be. It's not ideal, but it still gives the young people there a contact with a caring outside adult who is able to share the love of Christ with them. Please pray for the technology, the openness of the young people, and for the staff of the JDC who are involved in the lives of kids daily. We have been very encouraged by the willingness of those in leadership to allow us access to these young people.

More Change at That Place for Teens | Steve Pausch

Our teen center in Brunswick, That Place for Teens, has seen some major upgrades in the past few weeks. Since opening just over a year ago, we have now added a functioning kitchen, new lighting and ceiling tiles, newly painted walls and a new activity area all made possible by generous people and some hard work from some of our adult leaders.

Kitchen cabinets and countertops were donated to us from the husband of one of our leaders and have made a huge difference to the appearance and organization of the kitchen. Ceiling tiles, desks, tables and various items were purchased for pennies at a school auction where a building was being torn down and installed by a team of leaders. A local business took care of painting all of the walls in the teen center and giving it a new fresher appearance.

That Place for Teens in Brunswick is turning into a place where teens are finding caring adults and a safe place to talk. We have had to cut back on our open hours due to the virus right now but are hoping to resume daily ministry in the near future. Please pray for more monthly donors to help this vital teen center stay open for the many teens in the Brunswick community.

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December 2020

Promises | Steve Pausch

We have just come through the 2020 election cycle, and it cost more than double the 2016 campaign year. According to the Wall Street Journal (Nov. 2, 2020), spending of \$14 Billion makes this the most expensive campaign season ever. The amount of money that was amassed by political parties in the midst of a worldwide pandemic is just staggering. All the while, we are inundated with promises from candidates on how the world will be a better place if they are elected. Some of these promises do come to fruition, but many go by the wayside. Yet, do any of these promises make an eternal difference?

All of this brought to my mind Christ. In Christ, every promise God has made is fulfilled. God knows the depth of our sin, and yet in deep love, He sent Christ to rescue us. Because of Christ's death on our behalf, when we trust Him, all our sins are forgiven. In Christ, we are guaranteed an inheritance in heaven that will never fade or spoil. In Christ, we are called co-heirs to an inheritance we can hardly imagine. We could go on and on about all we have in Christ. In Christ, we have far more than any campaign could raise!

It is these promises and this sure and certain hope in Christ that we at Youth for Christ try to communicate to a world of hurting teenagers who feel worthless, who believe God would never accept them, who feel despair daily based on the circumstances of their lives. Now more than ever, teens feel isolated and alone and are dealing with more mental health issues than ever.

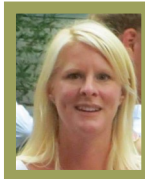
2020 has been a tough year for us and the kids with whom we work. We have increased our weekly meeting times with young people to accommodate restrictions on the number of people who can gather. This has created a need for more adult leaders to work with teens, and it has increased our costs of doing ministry. We are trying to meet the needs of kids who need a trusted, listening ear. As we listen and walk through life with them, we are living and sharing the love and hope of Christ.

Thank you for standing with us in this fight. The world is changing so quickly, and teens seem to be caught in the middle of the uncertain future. Thank you for helping us communicate the priceless, sure promises of Christ to hurting teens. We are grateful for your partnership!

The Why Behind Our Mentors | Laurie Beal

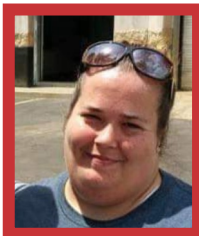
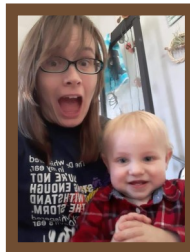
I have heard from many over the years that they have been thinking about maybe becoming a mentor at the Garage. There's usually excitement sprinkled with fear of the unknown as we talk. For those of you still on the fence, the following personal accounts give a glimpse of why we do what we do!

Why do you mentor?....



"I started mentoring at the Garage with the teen mom program to help and bless others. I had no idea I would be so blessed by the girls and their babies. God has used them to open my eyes and soften my heart. I have never met such brave, strong, determined, creative, amazing young gals as I have at the Garage!! It's one big happy (mostly) family!!" Leigh

I love love love the garage teen parents program. Now I know people have some things to say and preconceived notions about teen parents. I don't particularly care about that. God loves us all. And we are all human and deserve to be loved. This ministry gets to show teens that they are loved and that God still loves them in fact he loves them unconditionally. I love watching them learn, and grow, and become who they are. I adore how I get to know them. I get to earn their trust I get to hear their stories and learn about their world. I have been here for years and in those years I have got to mentor teens all the way through the program to where they have aged out. And then I have had the privilege to be the photographer at several weddings of these former teens. I have babysat and been trusted with these teens babies. I have been the confidant when a shoulder has been needed and been a part of the first big announcements like going to nursing school. I have gotten to attend birthday parties for many little ones and attended baptisms. I get to just be there which is my absolute favorite thing." Kristol



"I enjoy talking with the students about life and being there for the students when they need someone. I want them to know I'm there for them no matter what and I am there to pray for them, and show the love I have for them through the love God has for me.

I love getting to know the students more. We can talk. Tell jokes. Play games and have a good time. I have 2 amazing God filled stories.

In June 2019 on our rafting trip. We were put into small groups, a mixture of Wadsworth kids and Brunswick kids. Through out the days we were in West Virginia,

I got to know my group more and the last day I wrote a letter to each student in my Small group, it meant a lot to them. And meant a lot to me as well.

The second is I took 2 students with me to see the praise house. The last day they were there was so powerful seeing one of the girls grow closer to God awesome to be apart of. I recently just started volunteering for my high school ministry at my church and a few of the students have been coming with me. They love it, meeting new people and also continue growing in their relationship with God. I love mentoring because it helps me help the students know who Jesus is and helps me to continue to grow in my faith. God surely has blessed me!" Shannon

And we always need more feet on the ground encouragers who desire to share the Love and Hope of Christ!

Sovereign | Matt Mountjoy

"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted"—Job 42:2

What a crazy and unpredictable calendar year! It has been a time where it will be recognized by most as historical, tragic, stressful, life altering...the list could go on. Through this time, however and not shockingly, I have seen in both my personal life and ministry many blessings. Why is this not shocking? God is in control.

In both our Wednesday and Thursday Club nights, we just finished our annual series on 'Who is God?' It is a focused look at the three persons of the Trinity as well as a very specific look on how our relationship with each of them plays out in the Gospel message. It is my goal to have every one of our kids be able to answer a series of questions with these answers:

What is our big problem? "We sin so we are separated from the Father."

What happens if you sin? "You deserve death, physically and spiritually."

What was the Father's plan to get us back? "He sent His Son to save us."

What didn't Jesus do? "Sin."

So what shouldn't have happened? "He shouldn't have died."

But what did happen? "He died."

Why? "So He could take our punishment of death for us, and He beat death when He rose from the dead."

How do we take advantage of this gift? "If we believe Jesus is who He says He was, and admit that we need to be saved from our sin then decide to live our lives following and in a relationship with Him."

How does that fix our big problem? "The Holy Spirit enters us and makes us one with Jesus, so when God sees us He sees Jesus. And we are able to take advantage of the Gift of Jesus defeating death."

I never thought that I would do a call and response with a bunch of teenagers and they would seem into it...I think they are just excited to know answers to the questions I'm asking! And if you're wondering, they don't get all of them word for word, but in general they are all shouting pretty much the same thing.

Beyond the message of the gospel, we spend each week looking into the names and characteristics of each of the persons of the Trinity and why those are so important. This brings us back to God being in control. One of the characteristics of God is that He is sovereign. It is because of this that in spite of the events of this year that we can rest easy. It is because of the many other verses that affirm to us not only is He in control, but works all things to His good, that we can see God moving in what appears to be chaos to us. While this year has certainly presented new challenges, we have seen great faithfulness from God in our ministry as weekly numbers are higher and more consistent than I've seen in the past. Not only are we getting to share God's Truth with more kids more often, but this group of kids is excited to be there and be hearing that Truth. So regardless of whatever may be happening in the world around us, we can rest easy, knowing that God is sovereign. And as we approach Christmas, we don't need to worry about the future but we can reflect and rejoice about the Gift of God to fix our big problem. Christ came to earth, called Emmanuel ...God With Us.