

That Place 4 Teens in Brunswick | Steve Pausch

I have several friends in the real estate business and we are all familiar with the phrase that the most important factor in a real estate parcel is **Location, Location, Location!** We recently had an opportunity to partner in a store front parcel that is in an ideal location! We entered into an agreement with churches and businesses in Brunswick to open a Youth Center that is directly across the street from 2 Middle Schools with a new building being built that will house ALL middle school students in Brunswick next year! We are currently open on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school and are looking for more opportunities to reach teens. We have several new adult leaders, a



nice article in the Medina Gazette, and have met many middle school students.

We currently are on a month to month lease and need to raise additional monthly pledges before we sign a longer lease but we are encouraged at what God is doing for the young people in Brunswick through our new teen center called...That Place for Teens. You can check it out at: www.thatplace4teens.com and see more photos of the center.

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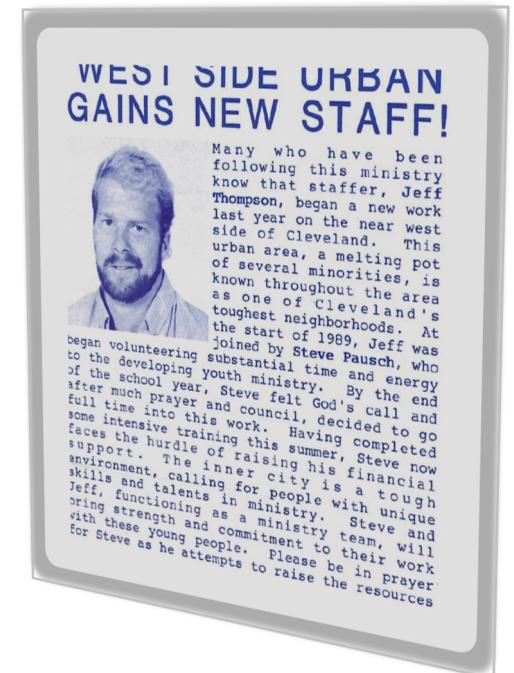
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30 Years of Ministry! Ripped from the Headlines! | Steve Pausch

This photo and article are from the fall of 1989 when YFC of Cleveland introduced their newest staff person: Steve Pausch. I started my full-time ministry career on December 22nd and married Cathy on December 23, 1989. Ministry has changed in many ways over the years..... and yet, in other, ways it has not changed at all.

One of the ways things have changed is media. Back in 1989, we made flyers with a copy machine, clip art books, and a lot of white out. There was no internet yet, so all of our curriculum came from books and long planning sessions. But just like today, the most important and effective way to reach teens was to go where they were, build relationships with them, and invite them to meetings. We need to be in their world as much as possible.

One of the ways things have not changed is kids! As I think back, families were in rough shape then and that hasn't changed. Kids are still seeking for someone to care about them and listen to them. Social media today may give the appearance of relationships, but I think young people, more than ever, are in need of adults who care in their lives. The internet has given kids the world at their fingertips. They can find "AN" answer to any question they ask and those answers often guide their decisions. In 1989, kids had to get an encyclopedia, or ask someone if they wanted to find out about world religions. Today kids ask really strange questions because they read something on the internet and they will argue as if they are an expert. **What has not changed through the years is the Hope of Jesus that teens so desperately need. Our tagline back in 1989 was "Geared to the Times, Anchored to the Rock". While it is no longer our line, it remains true. The way we communicate may change, but the Gospel does not!**



Steak Dinner and Pottery Peddling Traveling Preacher | Matt Mountjoy

One of the most exciting things for me right now in ministry is the new group Campus Life, where I get to take the general ministry of coaching and pull some of those relationships into the active ministry at YFC. We have grown in numbers to having 14 as the highest at one event. We still need to get more girls involved and more underclassmen, as of now we have 3 girls and 3 juniors in total. The format is slightly different from any of our other nights. The kids arrive, they hang out, we feed them, and then instead of having any organized games we go straight into a discussion called “open wire” where they get to ask any question no matter how big or small about God or the Bible. This generally turns into great discussion and teaching opportunities. In some cases, a question or topic will be brought up that is hard to cover in a reasonable time so it becomes the following weeks lesson. The lessons are still open for questions and answers but just under the topic we are teaching. I normally try to keep this section to a half hour, but one night we went over by another half hour. Even when the first half hour was over I let them know that we were officially done and all of them could feel free to get up and leave. However, they all stuck around continuing to ask questions and discuss for the whole hour. One of the most incredible things happened though when this group created an opportunity to have a great chance to share The Gospel with kids that didn’t even come to the group. Allow me to set the stage:

Every year to honor our seniors on the football team the coaching staff goes to a neighborhood clubhouse where we grill all the seniors a nice steak dinner. There are four tables set up in the room and at this point all of the kids are eating and the coaches are milling around on the other side of the room.

Campus Life Kid #1: “Hey Coach Mountjoy, we need you to help us with something super serious” (I walked over to the group of about 10 seniors on the football team) “Campus Life Kid #2 says that killing someone and lying are the same level of sin...tell him how wrong he is”

Me: “Well, I can’t really tell him that...all sin is sin and the punishment for all of them is separation from God and death”

Campus Life Kid #2: “Boom, see I told you”

Campus Life Kid #1: “Well then why are there different punishments for lying and murdering”

Insert theological discussion about Laws of Man vs. Laws of God and immediate consequences for actions and sins vs. the ultimate punishment for sin

Random Senior: “Ok coach, I have a question. The other day I was out golfing and this random guy asks if he can join in. So I let him, and it turns out he is some sort of travelling preacher that gives sermons while making pottery. Most of the time he spent talking about pottery and trying to sell it, but one thing he said stuck with me. He said something about the Bible says something like ‘Before ye can be saved, ye must be reborn’...and I have no idea what that means, but I keep thinking about it.”

It was then when at a football function, in front of a random group of guys that I was able to have a discussion about the need for salvation, the way to it, and the process of spiritual rebirth.

A New Creation | Laurie Beal

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17 Many people talk of having a life verse and how the hope and message of their verse gets them through each day. If The Garage had a life verse, I think 2 Corinthians 5:17 would be perfect. We often share it when talking about transformation and what God does in our lives and hearts.

Our Project Impact Team just stepped up to the challenge of transforming a gutted and old camper trailer into a piece of art to serve the homeless. Our teens worked together to create a plan of design for the inside and out that best accommodates and displays goods needed by the homeless! We’ll have shelving for bins filled with clothing items, a rod for coats, smaller bins for flashlights and gloves. We even have a salon chair that will rest in the camper until we go to serve and we have 3 girls who are taking cosmetology and are excited to help with fresh hair cuts.

We have a core group of young people who have really developed a heart for the homeless friends that we have made in Akron and even ask regularly when we are going next. Two of the teens just helped serve Thanksgiving dinner at a local homeless event. We are excited to take something old.... and make it new again... all for the glory of God!



Jail Break-Through in Sandusky County Juvenile Detention Center | Steve Pausch

Youth For Christ leaders have been meeting with incarcerated young people in the Sandusky County Juvenile Detention Center and telling them about how to follow Jesus for over 30 years. We have three new volunteers who have gone through training and more who are in process who are helping fill the gap for 2 of our leaders who have “retired” after 30 years of meeting with kids. Herb Miller agreed to head up this ministry a couple years ago and has done a great job of recruiting, training, and engaging new adults in the ministry. We have a mentoring program in place, leaders meet with teens in the detention center several times during the week, and we have a new reporting system so the next leaders know some details about those who met with teens before them.

We have had great reports of the steps teens are taking to make better choices and 3 young people have made a decision to follow Christ in the past month. We have been blessed with a good relationship with the county leaders of the detention center for years. The 2 staff who have been there are retiring soon. We have put together an agreement of services and are praying for the same kind of partnership with the new directors.

Thank you for praying for the teens and all those who minister there on a weekly basis. We are seeing God do a mighty work in the lives of young people.