

The View continued

Take me back to when me and my mom were on good terms
Take me back just take me back Oh Lord I ask this one time
Reverse the clock I promise I'll do it different
I can't handle this mess up I can't at all
My brain screams Why? Why did you do this?
I answer back I don't know , my brain and heart don't work together
My heart overpowers my brain at the end of the day
I always never seem to want to succeed
Please just take me back

I have been to the detention center many, many times and the place is very well run and taken care of. The staff care about the young people and only want to see the best come from their time there. I've been there many times but it's always on my terms, I can leave when I am done. Please pray for this young lady and the many others who find themselves on the inside. Pray that God will meet them there and help show them His plan

Knuckles continued

Weekly programs and a rafting trip, hiking, music festival and countless smaller meeting have made for a very productive summer of building into the lives of young people.



Thank you for your support that has made this summer possible. We expect the time invested in teens to pay off as the school year starts and they can walk across the street from the new middle school and be a part of daily programming. We are in the business of helping teens, and this summer we were close enough to bust our knuckles, blister our hands, and make some pretty cool craft projects to take home.



Please pray for us a the school year starts. We are in need of more leaders to be involved and help show and tell kids about the love of Jesus.

YOUTH

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YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church

August 2021

The View From Inside| Steve Pausch

YFC has had an active ministry to young people in the Sandusky Juvenile Detention Center for decades now. Adult leaders are inside ministering to young people several days a week and sharing the love of Christ with them. Recently, a young lady from many states away spent several weeks in detention and hence spent time with several of our leaders. One of those leaders really connected with her, and she shared some of her writings with her. With this young ladies' permission, we are sharing some of her writings here. Her hope is that by sharing this some other teens will be helped and other adults may sign up to be involved in the lives of teens.

Stuck In Jail

I'm in Jail
I'm Frustrated
I'm Mad
I'm Sad
I'm stuck in a coop
24 Hours we do the same
I regret coming here
I regret leaving home
This place makes me hate myself & people
Wearing the same clothes 24/7
People won't understand until the door locks
I hate jail
I hate it a lot
Take Me Back
Take me back to the day before everything went downhill
Take me back to when I woke up the day I messed up
Take me back Just please take me back
I'll risk anything and everything to just get one more shot at life
I'd do anything to have my freedom back

Building Trust| Laurie Beal

We recently had the blessing of watching our 2 grandkids, Amber, 6, and Emmett, 4, while our daughter and son-in-law went to Iceland for 10 days. We had a blast, went on daily adventures and stayed up late every night. The kids settled into their new digs and routine, relatively hiccup free. The week and a half brought back many memories of things we did with our 4 kids at those ages.

The smooth transition the kids made from their home environment to life with Mimi and Poppy and their 2 uncles was relatively seamless. They missed mom and dad, but they were still with people that love them, are a huge part of their life already and that they could trust to take care of them and provide all their basic needs, so they could relax and have fun. That was comforting to see, yet also got me thinking about the teens we connect with and the vital role God allows us to play in the stability department of their lives.

The teens that come through our doors, unfortunately, often do not have stable living environments or stability in the form of people around them. We see kids that move frequently, often living with different relatives or friends, kids that are made to feel like a burden, and kids that don't have basic needs consistently met. These teens also sometimes come from a background of abuse and sometimes haven't developed healthy relationships or they have difficulty with their relationship skills for a variety of reasons. Years of this can be very damaging. They can be very vulnerable and sometimes their behaviors reflect that. Their abrasiveness can be defense mechanisms to hurt others before they can hurt them. They can be attention seeking because they do not get healthy attention at home. The teens we see sometimes resort to harmful behaviors to numb and deal with hard things. There are layers.

I have taken the training for something called TBRI / Trust-Based Relational Intervention therapy. It is often geared towards helping provide effective support for kids from foster care or orphanages that have faced "complex developmental trauma," that then comes out in their behaviors and coping mechanisms. Many of the young people we connect with fall into this category. They often lack nurturing support, thus barriers are set up preventing developing healthy relationships. And brain chemistry can actually be altered.

The TBRI research shows that relationship based trauma can only be resolved with implementing loving, stable relationships. Makes sense, right? We have an amazing opportunity, then, with these hurting young people to BE those loving, stable supportive relationships that can provide healing. We can encourage and empower and connect and love unconditionally. We can make a true difference in how the rest of their life can go. We don't take that privilege lightly. We invest in their lives through meaningful relationships, taking them to lunch, going to their celebrations, engaging in conversation, listening to their fears and concerns, helping them navigate life and decisions and simply loving them and helping them learn to love themselves. And THEN we have the opportunity to take it a step further and help them discover the ultimate relationship they can have with a Father that never leaves them, never stops loving them and is there for the ALWAYS. What a blessing to be involved in a ministry that fosters hope and love for weary teens. Thank you to every supporter that helps make healing an option for these precious souls. Psalm 62:2 He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken.

Summer Fun| Matt Mountjoy

Our summer schedule is a little bit different than our regular school year. It gives the opportunity to give our hard working mentors flexibility with some time for recharging as well as the ability to provide more unique opportunities for our students with one-off events that they can take advantage of. These get-togethers are a little less focused on lessons and teaching but more on relationship building. While this wet summer has made scheduling a little more difficult, we have still been able to have some cool opportunities to hang out with some of our kids. This includes our annual trip taking the kids to the drive-in theater. While the weather tried to cancel it for us, we adapted and turned it into a movie night at The Garage and we rented a movie and made popcorn there. It ended up being a great time where we still got to watch a movie and actually be a little more loud and interactive without worrying about ruining other people's viewing experience.

This past week, we had the opportunity for some of our students and leaders to come out to my house for a bonfire and basketball. It was a great opportunity to have fun with the kids and get to know them more and also have some conversations about where they are in their faith lives. Some of the most fun for me actually came after the event officially ended and I hung out at the end of the driveway with some students waiting for parents who arrived late. Sometimes, it's the unexpected opportunities to spend time with kids that end up being really important.

BONUS CONTENT*

During the last few weeks one of the biggest things that the kids have wanted is to talk about is thoughts they've had since the rafting trip and about how they've really been thinking about the talks and lessons we had there. I even had one mother tell me how excited her student was coming home and they had several talks where the student was telling her mother about the lessons we shared on the trip!

Busting Knuckles Together| Steve Pausch

Busted knuckles, blistered hands, hot fingers, tired brains, hand crafted creations...it has been a busy summer in our Brunswick teen center. School starts up in Brunswick again in less than two weeks and we are looking forward to continuing the relationships that were started with young people this summer.

- We were able to be right next to teens as we busted our knuckles working on repairing a bicycle and then watching the ride off on it.
- Families and staff worked together in the garden tilling, planting, pulling weeds and getting blisters together
- Many young people had hot fingers as they learned, prepared, and cooked recipes this summer in the cooking program
- Staff, volunteers, and teens pushed their brains to the edge as they programmed their robots in the Lego robotics program to perform tasks.



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