

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the **Fulop family** and their small group from **Reimer Road Baptist Church** for feeding our Friday night hang out crew with a taco bar!

We are thankful to **Grace Church in Bath** for their ongoing support and their recent collection of food items and paper products that they delivered to us!



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YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

April 2019

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church



Spring Weather... Tricky Like Teenagers! | Steve Pausch

Spring is here...or is it? One of the ways our staff stay engaged in the youth culture is by coaching at the local school. I have had the opportunity to coach baseball in a high school for the past 15 years. Coaching gives access to a group of students every day for several months, and if things go well a longer trip in the playoffs. I still talk with many of the players I have coached over the years on a regular basis.

The big issue with spring sports in Ohio is the weather. Sunny and warm one day, cold and rainy the next, with wind and the occasional snow storm mixed in just to keep it interesting. Scheduling is difficult with games being cancelled due to the weather and you never know what each day will hold.

This is also a big issue when dealing with young people. I am so impressed with our staff and adult leaders as they spend time with teens in so many different areas and places. But, teenagers are as fickle as the weather. One day they want to know about a relationship with Jesus, the next you read a social media post from the same teen that makes you blush. A teen may be a staple at every meeting, every trip, and participate in all discussions then, they get a boyfriend or girlfriend and they disappear. You don't hear from them anymore, they don't return messages. It seems they have dropped off the face of the earth. Just like a warm sunny day in March, you never know what will happen tomorrow when dealing with teens.

Please pray for our adult leaders as they go into the world of the teenager and are so willing to risk relationships to share the love of Christ with teens across Northern Ohio.

Middle School Mayhem | Matt Mountjoy

Know someone who is currently between 6th and 8th grade? Let them know of the exciting event coming up May 3rd! We are currently preparing a special night for middle school students and those about to become middle school students. On May 3rd at the Wadsworth Middle School from 7 to 11 pm, we will be holding an event with food, basketball, dodge ball, karaoke and a special guest speaker sharing The Gospel. Our goal is partner with several local churches and create an event where they can get to know the local students. We are very excited to be hosting A Night of Middle School Mayhem. We look forward to being able to have an exciting night where we can not only have a good time with local middle school students, but also share God's truth and hopefully plug those who are not already involved into local bible teaching churches. Please pray for this exciting ministry opportunity, that we are able to reach many students with The Gospel and can connect them with churches where they can continue to be fed!

God Glimpses | Scott Hulet

This song makes me miss YFC & Sovereign Grace so much and the wonderful men who came to visit me in the hospital. Y'all saw me at my worst, you were dependable and you pointed me back to Jesus the only source of true healing. I will always thank God when I think of you three. Im not sure i would even be alive if God hadn't used you in my life. Thank you Bert, Scott and Jace from the bottom of my heart.



I often refer to messages like this one pictured to the left as "God Glimpses". We cherish these messages because we know that God is graciously giving us glimpses of His Glory, that He is ever-present and faithfully working to rescue the kids that He places before us in this ministry.

We met Emma back in 2012 through her sister (who attended the Wadsworth ministry site regularly). She had an extremely rough childhood. In her early teens, Emma was adopted by a wonderful woman who belongs to the church we attend now. She was struggling with deep depression and suicidal ideation. In 2013, Emma attempted suicide. We visited her in the hospital and continued to spend time with her and minister to her in the months that followed. We had her over to our house, helped her with her house, and talked over the phone. In the years that have followed, Emma has increasingly turned to God and has been blessed with a beautiful family of her own. She is also an instrument in His hands now as she loves and points other hurting people to Jesus.

After receiving this message, I took the time to go back and read over the long chat history that our family has had with Emma over the years. It was overwhelming to see how God has been so faithful to meet her in her pain and struggles. Through this God Glimpse, I am reminded that a person is not completely changed/fixed overnight. God would remind us all that we must be faithful to love/minister over the long haul, knowing that His Spirit is always at work, accomplishing what can only be done by and through Him!

50 Years | Laurie Beal



My amazing parents just celebrated a big day that happened 50 years ago! Even more, they were celebrating all the little things that have happened in 50 years of marriage. I'm so thankful that, as teenagers in 1969, they were excited about the "little thing" in my moms belly...me! Against the odds some would place against them, they fought to create the stability and life and love and happiness and amazing childhood for me that they did not have growing up. I am eternally grateful for them teaching

me how to love well, what to look for in a life partner, the importance of coming alongside hurting people and loving them like Jesus does, teaching me the message of Ephesians 2:10 that in Christ I am enough and for loving and serving each other. I have truly never met two people more in love than my parents!

I was so thankful when they agreed to be guest speakers at the Garage. A message of love and hope and stability is always one teens need to hear, especially in this broken world! Many of our teens come from hard spaces, broken relationships and uncertainty. They were a very attentive and engaged audience as my mom and dad shared how their relationship with God and their commitment to each other and their promises to each other helped them make it through 50 years together! We played a "Not so Newlywed" game with them and as they answered the questions, my parents interjected pieces of their story and struggles and triumphs. There were tears, "awwwwe's" and very thoughtful questions at the end. It was a true blessing to see my parents share about their rough start and see it be redeemed and offer hope to teens and teen parents who are in the midst of where my parents used to be. I love how God works!

Me and David | Doug Bryant

I've known this guy for about 3 years now. I'll call him David. He is one of the most open and genuine teenagers I've met. I met David at a local church as he started to come to Christ at youth group. He was also starting to come to some of our programs. To my surprise, he asked me to baptize him at his church. He later asked me to mentor him. After receiving Christ as his Lord and Savior, David has been through a tough journey. He has so many non-believing friends who challenge him. So, he talks to me when he is struggling with questions and feelings of faith and also how to reach his friends. Now amongst other programs he attends, David also attends YFC Core. He is genuinely seeking answers to the tough questions his friends ask about Christ. What a wonderful journey reaching teens one at a time!