



Full Circle— Handing Off the Baton

The Summer Olympics were full of excitement, drama, fulfillment, and even intense disappointment. Perhaps the most disappointed were the USA Track & Field team members who **dropped** the baton. Hundreds and hundreds of times they must have practiced the hand-off only to see it fall to the track in utter disbelief. We feel for them now as we picture the baton, and chance at a medal, bounce awkwardly down the track.

This summer, our executive director, Steve Pausch, had the opportunity to see how well he could allow the baton to be passed on to our future generation. Steve had the opportunity to serve with a former “club kid” as she led a small group of students over a 5-week summer small group.

Julie was involved with our club that partners with a local church when she was in high school. She was a great student to have around and she participated in just about everything we did. She attended events, weekly meetings, and gave her life completely to Jesus Christ on a summer mission trip to North Carolina. Julie found a new HOPE in the person of Jesus and her future plans began to CHANGE even while on the trip. As long as she could remember, Julie wanted to be a marine biologist and work with dolphins. She attended dolphin camp and looked ahead to a career working with them. During a tearful moment on that mission trip she heard the still small voice of God calling her into a new career, a new interest, a new future. God got a hold of Julie and she changed her college plans and went to Malone College to major in Christian Education where she has been the past 2 years.

Julie came home for the summer and was hired by our partner church, Collins Methodist Church, to work with kids and help re-evaluate their ministry to kids for the next year. Julie also had the opportunity to lead two small groups with 5-6 graders and 7-8 graders. Julie needed some adult helpers to be there and she asked Steve and his wife Cathy to help run the groups. Here are some of Steve’s thoughts...

“ I was a bit hesitant at first to sign on and be the “second fiddle”—after all I am the professional youth worker here. This was new territory for me to have someone that was involved in my ministry come back and tell me what to do! After listening to God and my wife, I decided to give it a shot and I am so glad I had the opportunity. Julie did an amazing job of putting meetings together with Cathy, organizing and having everything ready, and really ministering to the young people. I was humbled to be able to serve with someone so ready to lead.”

You make moments like these possible all across Northern Ohio with your prayer and financial support. We are so blessed to have these opportunities because of your care and concern for lost hurting young people. We are looking ahead with great anticipation of what God will do this school year in the lives of young people like Julie.

Getting Closer

Last year we introduced you to our camp property in Huron County where we hope to take hundreds of young people for a close encounter with God’s Creation and His son Jesus. Here is an update on what has been happening.

The Source:

“The Lord said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’ Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 1 Kings 19:11-13 (NIV)

The name and the mission:

The Lord was in the whisper. We've named this place "In the Whisper". It's our goal that those who come here have an opportunity to get away from the earthquakes, fires, and storms of daily life and be "In the Whisper"; to spend time with our Lord, or perhaps to meet Him for the first time.

The Focus:

To do this we intend to focus more on the small than on the large – on relationships rather than on crowds. The core of "In the Whisper" will consist of several sites; each one unique. Most sites will be constructed for 2 adults and 6-8 teens, but larger groups can be accommodated. Throughout the 106 acre site will be team-building elements, marked nature trails, and quiet places to talk, pray, and experience God's Creation firsthand. Common areas will provide combined group activities. A beautiful lake

provides a place for a refreshing swim, fishing, canoeing, or just sitting and reflecting on the Glory of God.



The Gift:

This spectacular gift from God is a place where YFC hopes many young people will make a first time decision to follow Christ but it's also a gift to be shared with the Body of Christ. When life around seems too loud for you or your youth group, and the pressures seem to be building... make yourselves at home in our wooded paradise and listen to God... "In the Whisper".

Things are happening. Groups of volunteers have been busy clearing trails, building bridges, constructing team-building elements, and in general figuring out just how to go about this whole building-a-camp-thing. There's now a mobile home on site that can be used for small group ministry. Volunteers are assembling a cabin made out of two 40' semi trailers. (The view out the windows is awe-inspiring.) Men's groups from two nearby churches

have built a 20'x20' pavilion near the lake and will have a shingled roof on it shortly. Others put in a beach where you can get in and out of the lake with clean feet. By early fall the camp will be ready for at least two small groups to do overnight trips simultaneously.

Widespread Prayer

Check out more photos on our web site:
northernohioyfc.com



Our vision: As a part of the Body of Christ, our vision is to see every young person in every people group in every nation have the opportunity to make an informed decision to be a follower of Jesus Christ and become a part of a local church.

Our mission: YFC reaches young people everywhere, working together with the local church and other like-minded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness in lifestyle, devotion to prayer and the Word of God, passion for sharing the love of Christ and commitment to social involvement.

YFC-USA has identified five essential characteristics of sustainable and fruitful ministry sites. We'd like to begin to share these with you each month so that you may know the heart of all we're doing and why. The first essential characteristic of a ministry site is widespread prayer—deliberately engaging lots of people to pray on our behalf and on behalf of those to whom we minister. For the past five years, we have sought a prayer force of individuals who will pray every week for the ministry. Each week we email an update of prayer requests to these individuals and each week these faithful friends lift up our needs before the throne of our faithful heavenly Father. We have seen God at work in many situations over the years and many answered prayers. Most of all we are convinced that this is the most important step of our ministry process. It is the foundation upon which ministry grows.

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It has been some time since we have mentioned our prayer email. If you would like to join us in seeking God and His will for each step of this ministry, please email us at info@northernohioyfc.com and we will gladly add you to our weekly email list.