

CONNECTED

YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church

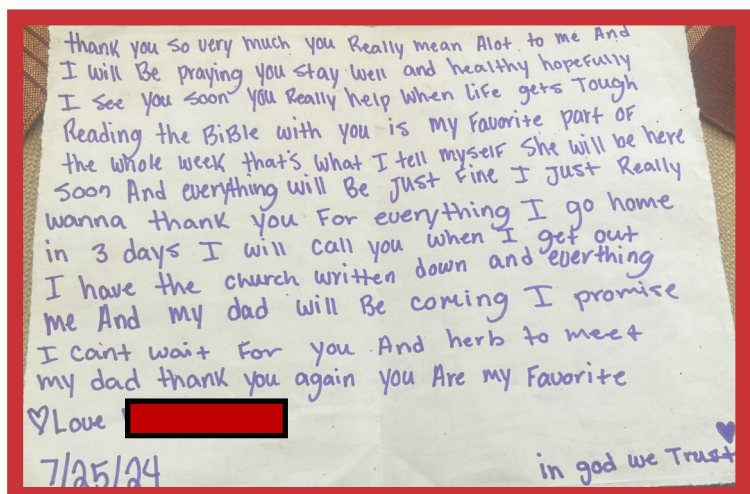
September 2024



Gone But Not Forgotten | Steve Pausch

Youth For Christ has been going into local youth detention centers and sharing the message of Christ for decades with hundreds of young people who find themselves incarcerated for any number of reasons. Many of the young people in the judicial system are there for a very short time, while others have longer stints and some even come back many times due to poor choices. Whether a young person is a first timer or returns to the detention center, many times there is a staff of caring YFC adults ready to meet them and care about them in the name of Jesus. Our committed adults go into the detention center many times in a week to meet with young people holding discussion meetings, teaching times, and even teaching chess to help develop longer term thinking that can transcend into daily life.

Each day that our staff meet with young people they are building a deep connection and helping them look at life and eternity in a different light. When a young person is discharged, we provide them with a copy of the Bible if they would like to take one with them. Many of these young people leave a note for our staff or talk about getting together once they get home. Rarely has a young person taken our staff up on the offer to get together on the "outside" but many talk about it before leaving. Recently, a note from a young person was given to one of our staff and we wanted to share it anonymously with you and ask for prayer for this and the



many other young people who come and go through the doors of the detention center and please pray for our adults who give so much of themselves to these often forgotten young people. All of the young people we work with in the detention center will eventually be gone from the facility, but they are not forgotten, and we pray they will remember the adults who cared about them while at this low point of their lives.

Jesus and Football | Matt Mountjoy

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.” - 1 Timothy 1:15-16

I'm not sure how many of you are fans of the Ohio State Buckeye's Football program, but many of you may be aware of the revival that is taking place within the team. There are several influential players who have become Christians in the past two years and are on fire for the Lord. Recently, one of these young men preached at his local church and spoke on this verse as he taught on the life of the apostle Paul. At the end of his sermon several players ended up being baptized. Even more recently these young men led a worship service on campus in Columbus in which a few thousand students attended and over 20 young people gave their lives to Christ and were baptized.

As we begin our new school year at The Garage I can't help but think about the many football players who attend weekly and the growth that I have seen in them. Many of them are attending Bible studies on their own and have been excited to kick things back up with us. It is such a cool time to be involved with these young people and see how they are seeking out God and receptive to His word.

Listening to this young man and probable future NFL player (if interested search for Gee Scott Jr – Lost but Found on YouTube), I was also convicted by the true power of the Gospel and God's ability to use us as sinners to spread His word. I've shared before that I have the unique position of both working in ministry and coaching many of these young people in football. I like to feel that I generally do a good job of representing Christ to the youth of our community, but when I screw up it can feel hopeless in the wake of my calling to ultimately share the gospel. This happened recently in our first JV football game when things were NOT going well. I, as the head JV coach, am responsible for putting the kids in the best position to not only grow in their abilities, but also to win games. We were hanging in the game and I noticed a weakness in the other team. I called a play to exploit it and our player did not execute as he was supposed to. I calmly explained to him between drives what he was supposed to do and told him what he needed to do to correct it. The next drive I even called a timeout to reiterate what the plan was. The play was called. Again, the player completely ignored what I told him and essentially the game was over. I was livid and my

sin nature took over. I knew I was upset but I definitely didn't realize how I handled it until I was informed later. By many coach's standards, my reaction probably wasn't that terrible, but for those who know me it was out of character. In the aftermath, I felt horrible about the witness that I was in that moment. But here is the cool thing, when I was thinking about how much of a sinner I am, and how unworthy I am to share God's grace and mercy, He drew my attention to this sermon by a football player of all people. I had the opportunity to go to this player with humility and have a conversation to build him up, and affirm to him that while he does need to take coaching,, I was in the wrong for my level of anger in the moment. We had a great conversation and mended the situation. Later in the day, he heard me talking to one of the players who was very excited about The Garage starting back up. When he asked me what we were talking about he seemed really into the idea and told me that he would try to come. That moment was a great reminder to me of what God did with Saul who became Paul, and what God continues to do with us as great sinners. Amongst our failures, if we humble ourselves in repentance, God can still use us for His Kingdom. As we begin this new school year, please pray for those of us sinners in ministry that we can continually lean into God, and that through His grace and mercy we can still be great witnesses to

How Can I Help? | Laurie Beal

One of my favorite questions I get regarding Garage Ministry is a myriad of questions, actually. "How can I help? Is there anything I can do? Will you let me know if there's ever anything I can do to help? I'd love to help, but I'm not sure I have anything to offer?" There are lots of ways to say it, but they all boil down to, "I'd love to be part of what God's doing here. How do I do it?"

I truly think most people want to be part of helping others. They often just don't know how to jump in or know what needs done. I always guarantee folks posing these questions that I can for sure find SOMETHING for them to do to be part of our mission! Then we set about figuring out what their talents and resources and connections are and what opportunities are available at the ministry, and then God does the stirring in their hearts to help them figure out their puzzle piece to contribute.

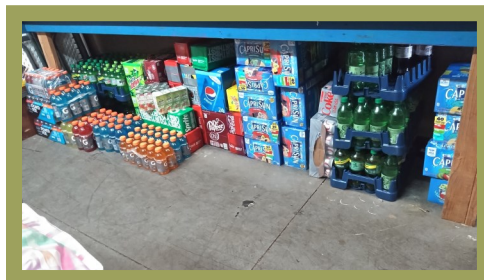
In case YOU are one of the ones wondering how you could jump in and make a positive impact on struggling teens in our community...to start the conversation, here are some ideas of what others have been doing recently to keep the mission going strong!

Keller Williams Realty, once again, blessed us with devoting an entire day and lots of volunteers to sprucing up our indoor and outdoor spaces! They did everything from deep cleaning to painting to organizing to TONS of weeding and planting flowers! Maybe YOU have a business or work for a business looking for a way to make a positive impact on the community?

Northside Christian Academy brought a whole crew of students and parents and teachers and spent several hours cleaning our lot, organizing our ministry space and organizing the entire homeless supply camper. They have done this for several years! Maybe YOU are a teacher or have a kid in a classroom who wants to do a community service project?

A family who has helped with a variety of different outreach projects we have done over the last several years has wanted to step in and help again but is in a very busy season of their lives right now. They do not currently have time to donate, but they did have some extra funds this month, so they stopped by with an envelope. Another family brought homecoming dresses and a baby stroller. Maybe YOU have part of your tithing that you've been trying to decide where it should go or maybe you have a closet full of formal dresses you'll never use again?

Freshwater Community Church recently hosted a pop drive, again, to help stock us up for the upcoming semester and they FILLED our space! Maybe YOUR church is looking for a way to reach out to the struggling kids in our community?



The local Knights of Columbus group recently asked me to speak at a couple of their meetings. They are continually looking for ways to make a positive impact in Wadsworth. They were excited to hear what's going on in our town, a couple blocks from them, and sent us a donation to help us keep doing what we are doing. Maybe YOU are part of a community organization that raises funds for other ministries and are looking for a guest speaker and a new place to jump alongside! Or maybe you want to organize a fundraiser of your own for YFC?

Or maybe you are interested in mentoring and cheering on the youth in our community, as you steer them towards Jesus?!

We need ALL of YOU to make this work! How can YOU get plugged in?

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