



May 2025

### **It's Been A Long Time | Steve Pausch**

We have been blessed in many ways to be involved in ministry for such a long time. Over the years, there have been so many young people we run into that were a part of our ministry when they were in high school, and they reminisce about events or fun times. Our leaders who serve in the Juvenile Justice Center in Fremont often share stories of young people who will stop them in public and thank them for sharing with them while they were incarcerated, sometimes 15-20 years ago. Recently, we have realized a new wrinkle in our ministry history. We are seeing the teenaged children of former ministry students now involved in what we are doing today. Not too long ago, I had interactions with 4 young people who had one or two parents involved in YFC activities when they were in high school.

Thank you for your faithful support of this ministry and our work for many, many years. Your support has made it possible for us to reach into generations and be able to share the love and message of Jesus. Please pray for the young people we are working with and for their parents. Some of their parents are doing really well and serving the Lord while others are still struggling with some of the same issues as when they were in high school.

## Reunion | Matt Mountjoy

It's crazy to think that The Garage has been around for 20 years! I remember being there to help out once when it first opened, right after I graduated high school. Then 10 years ago, I joined the staff and the rest is history. It's been an incredible experience being able to share God with so many teens over the last decade. There has been more fun times, frustrating times, deep times, and more than I could possibly remember. One thing I will always remember, though, is all the incredible relationships we've built with kids. With all this time gone by, it was only fitting for us to host a reunion and invite back all the former students that came through!

It was a really neat night and a great chance to catch up with so many former Garage kids who are now adults. There was a range of people there who graduated within the last two years ago all the way to some who were students already in the ministry when I first came on board. It was fun hanging out with so many people we have deep relationships with, and we got some cool updates. Two of our former students who met on one of our trips and have been a couple ever since are expecting a child in a few months. One student is finishing getting his CDL and has a job lined up. A young lady has just finished up her freshman year at a Christian college and was so excited to share about her growth there. There were many other updates from the fifteen who were able to make it. There were also a lot of students who weren't able to make it, but were excited about the idea. It opened up avenues to talk to several of them in depth as well and catch up with them. While most of the night was fun and light-hearted, we had one young lady who was really going through a tough situation, and the timing was good for us to be able to support her through it. The day prior, she lost one of her closest friends in a tragic accident with a falling tree. We were able to come around her, encourage her and just be there for her. We always stress to our kids that we will always be there for them throughout life, and this was a practical opportunity to show not just her, but all of them that it is true. Finally, and most importantly, I got one more chance to share an Easter message with all of them. There could truly be nothing better than getting to talk about The Gospel with a bunch of people we care so deeply about!

## Positive Drama | Laurie Beal

In last month's newsletter, I was vulnerable and shared about the recent frustrations of leading our Teen Parents group. Since that article, God has moved in the hearts of the young moms and dads and in the relationships amongst the group in a variety of ways. There is still work to be done but it is encouraging to see progress and to see the young people put down their guard and pick up compassion and peace.

Which is a good segue to this month: I am switching gears back to sharing some of the more positive things happening at Garage Ministry.

I want to share three little snippets of conversations and interactions that happened at last night's Teen Parent's support group.

First, our meeting started with one of the moms coming in sitting down and immediately blurting out...."your husband is having quite the impact on my boyfriend. He will not stop watching inspirational videos...and it's getting quite annoying, actually." She was laughing but also clearly irritated. We helped her unpack what was going on and pointed out the positives... and the things that could be "tweaked." Both she and her boyfriend have been asking many questions about what it truly means to have a relationship with Christ. It's cool that her boyfriend is wanting to learn even more about God...and cool that she also is hearing Truth as he watches the videos. She was surprised one of the videos he was watching was talking about temptations and how to avoid them, and she said he doesn't even struggle with those temptations. I explained that awareness and accountability and avoiding situations that could lead to problems are things Jim has discussed with the guys. We then talked about how ALL of us have temptation to sin, and we are all sinners. We pointed out that it was cool that her boyfriend was eager to learn more about staying on a healthy path. And we acknowledged that he could be doing much worse things on his phone. She was able to see the positive sides of his new found past time. We then talked about the excessive amount of time he is watching these and boundaries she could suggest.

The second thing that stood out about the meeting was that the girls all came alone. The one usually does, but the other two usually bring their babies and their boyfriends. The girls shared that the guys said they saw that their girlfriend's needed a break and a girl's night, so they stayed back at one of the houses to play with all the kids! Jim certainly missed having the guys there, but at the same time, was proud of them for stepping up and noticing and then supporting the moms of their babies. These young men were acting on some of the things they have been talking about in their group sessions.

The final standout of the meeting actually took place after the close of our meeting. Two of the moms opened up privately about different hard things they were facing. They were able

to vent in a safe space, share their struggles and fears and have help coming up with a game plan to move forward!

Some of these things can seem simple on the surface. However, for young people who have only seen dysfunction being modeled as they were growing up, these little coping skills and communication techniques they are learning are monumental. And will then be carried on to a new generation, replacing unhealthy ones.

What a privilege that God ALLOWS us to help guide these young people! Thank you to all of you who support us and make this happen!

Thank you to those who gave to help us get our bus  
back up and running. We will be getting it into the  
shop soon so we will have it ready for summer  
excursions.

**YOUTH  
FOR CHRIST**  
P.O. Box 323  
Wadsworth, OH 44282  
330-273-5794  
[www.northernohioyfc.com](http://www.northernohioyfc.com)

Steve Pausch  
Executive Director

Laurie Beal  
Director of Ministry-  
Wadsworth

Barb Pfeiffer  
Office Manager

**Local Ministry Directors:**

Scott Hulet  
Herb Miller  
Matt Mountjoy  
Roger Seward  
Stacey Stender

**Board Members:**

John Heese  
Barbara Moran-  
Engler  
Eric Pfeiffer  
Bobby Puls  
Kathy Stehno