

CONNECTED

YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church

May 2026

Long-Time Volunteers | Steve Pausch

We are incredibly blessed to have so many amazing adult leaders who pour into the lives of the young people we serve. We have people from many different walks of life and across the age span, but each of them care very much about the students and are excited to tell them about Jesus. We are not able to brag about all of the leaders here this month, but we plan to introduce them to you over the next few months. I want you to get to know three adults who are making a difference in the lives of area teens currently.

Roger Seward has been a volunteer with YFC for over 30 years and has helped in many different areas and communities. Roger is currently heading up our outreach to middle school students in Brunswick after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He has been instrumental in remodeling our teen center, That Place for Teens, and spends many hours a week with teens now that he is retired. Roger is a favorite among teens and his spikey hair visor is now famous across the community. Roger often brings his dog Roscoe who is a certified therapy dog and the teens just light up when he is around. Roger is committed to seeing young people find Jesus and creatively comes up with ideas to make that journey fun. Roger is often seen taking the time to sit with a teen and talk with them during our after school program. Thank you, Roger, for all you do to share Christ with teens.

Jim Garwood has been a friend of the ministry for over 20 years and has a heart to see teens become followers of Jesus. Jim is a retired farmer who has uniquely taken a portion of a barn and turned it into a space for teens to participate in a series of competitions. (See Matt's article) An indoor, rustically decorated area with items, like deer antlers and rusty tools hosts an axe throwing area, bb gun targets, and a gallery full of competition items that has been a get away for many groups of teens across our ministry area. Jim still has some of the tractors from farming days and hosts many long hay rides deep into the woods where he ends with an epic giant bonfire where we share a talk about Jesus changing lives around the fire. Jim



has been a great sounding board to young people even as they grow into adulthood. Many of them stop by or call to talk about their lives today showing him their newest car, or pictures of houses or children. Jim has been a long time help to kids who are not so much kids anymore. Thank you, Jim, for caring about the eternal address of young people.

Herb Miller heads up our ministry to young people involved in the juvenile justice system in the Fremont area and has done it for many years now. (see Herb's article on the inside page) Herb not only coordinates all of the adults who go in and share with the young people he also spends time with kids in the detention center. He even plays chess regularly as a way of talking about choices and direction, something the teens there need help with. Herb is committed to making sure our several weekly meeting times with young people are staffed with high quality adults who seek to help teens see Jesus even in jail. Herb updates everyone weekly on what has happened with the teens and staff and shares tangible ways to pray for the teens in the SCJJC. Herb is committed to seeing teens who have made bad choices look at things differently and become life long followers of Jesus. He is making sure that these kids are not overlooked and are cared for and loved. Thank you, Herb, and all those serving in that ministry for reaching out weekly to change lives.

YFC is a ministry that relies heavily on volunteer workers but there are still many expenses involved in running a successful outreach to students. Insurances, building expenses, supplies, food, lights and heat to name just a few. We are currently experiencing a downturn in our financial resources. We need additional partners to underwrite this work. Your financial support helps us spend time with teenagers to help them understand the need for a Savior. Will you pass this newsletter on to a friend and share about the work of YFC in the lives of teens and help more youth find Christ?

God Stacked Our Team | Herb Miller

I loved playing softball as a young(er) man. I was a pretty good shortstop – as best as I can recall. I remember softball tournaments where someone would put together a team of super-stars to “stack” the team in search of sure victories. (I don't think I ever got an invitation to join one of those).

When I think about our jail ministry volunteers – I think someone “stacked” our lineup. That could only be the work of God. The variety of skills, experience and knowledge of our volunteers makes for an impressive team. In every volunteer, you can see the love for Jesus and a commitment to minister to the teens in the Sandusky County Juvenile Justice Center. We have a great mix of veterans and new people in our ranks.

Over the last year, we had a real need for more volunteers. Yet even in the times we were short-handed, we missed very few opportunities to visit the kids. That alone speaks to the

quality and commitment of our people. As we prayed, God answered. He brought some excellent additions to the ministry over the last few months.

It's interesting to see the wide array of spiritual gifts in our volunteers. We have teachers, administrators, evangelists, servers, mercy givers to name a few. Each volunteer creates their sessions using their gifts. We can see how our individual parts make for a great team as the body of Christ, "Now the body is not made up of one part but of many" (I Cor. 12:12).

As we have gotten better at communicating our visits to each other, I think it has helped us to be more effective in ministry. Even after their release from the SCJJC, many of the young people still have contact with our volunteers. Some are being mentored and some others are attending youth groups in various churches. We've seen excitement in our twice a month chess club. Many of the teens continue to play chess after their release. While we would love to see every young person accept Jesus, we recognize the results are in God's hands.

Clearly, this ministry would not be possible were it not for the love of Jesus in each one of us. That's the glue that makes our "stacked" team so formidable! I believe every incarcerated young person we meet with feels the love of Jesus and knows how much we care about them.

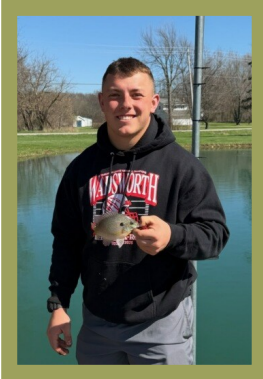
Manly Men | Matt Mountjoy

"When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon saying 'I am about to go the way of all the earth, Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in His ways and keeping His statutes, His commandments, His rules, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you may turn' - 1 Kings 2:2-4

Having good men is important. Culture has a lot to say about what it thinks a man should be. In some areas it gets it right, in other areas it puts forth a massively confused message. Fortunately, the Bible has a lot to say about what a godly man looks like. In 1 Kings we have a really cool look as David gives his final words to his son Solomon. David charges him to "show yourself a man" and focuses on the core of that being to keep the charge of The Lord. The verses that follow flesh out his charge even more.

The Bible is full of passages that include descriptions of what men are to be, how they should act, rolls they should fill etc. We had an opportunity this past month to take a group of guys out for a special event that we have done many times before





called the Manly Man night and talk about this topic.

We start off by going out to Steve's place and do some fishing and hanging out. Letting these young men just spend time together outdoors and just being young men and adventurous. This year that included them having a blast driving golf carts around the property. Many fish were caught, and one of the guys even cleaned and cooked his over a fire. From there we went over to Jim's farm. Jim is a friend of Steve's and friend of the ministry who has often volunteered his time and space to help us pour the love of Christ into

young peoples lives. There we had some friendly competition with things like ax throwing and bolt tossing contests. Steve grilled an awesome dinner for some very hungry teenage boys and then we went out to have a massive bonfire in the woods. It was around the fire where we had a great discussion about what it means to be a Godly Man. There is something special about a group of guys just sitting around a fire together. One of the young men brought this up and said "It's like God hardwired into men something about just sitting together and looking at a fire." I couldn't agree more, many times in my life some of the deepest moments of connection, conversation, and contemplation have come fireside. We talked about God desiring men to be strong, be protectors, be sacrificial leaders, be loyal, and be uncompromising in standing for the Truth of the Gospel. It was an incredible night filled with fun and deep moments!

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