

CONNECTED

YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church

September 2022



Fore! | Steve Pausch

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 ¹⁹Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

The Apostle Paul was clear in the above passage that we need to be willing to leave our comfort zone in order to reach others with the message of Christ. We spend a considerable amount of time at YFC planning for the next school year. We consider meeting spaces, staffing, programming, trips, events, resources, and weekly curriculum as we seek to reach young people in a given community. But sometimes, God brings along an opportunity that makes us move or shift our plans.

FORE! If you are on a golf course and you hear a person yelling, "FORE", it means you better be ready to move because a ball is coming in your direction! God can often make us move. This summer, I was asked to coach high school golf in a community where we are already doing ministry. I have coached high school sports for many years, but I have not coached golf. I have played golf for years, and not very well. So, I was somewhat familiar with the game, but now I needed to dig into the rules much deeper. Coaching has provided me with great access to students and community members over the years but this was different, I was not sure what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised with the amount of time golf provides for discussions with young people. Three days into practices I knew about their families, their future plans, what they liked and didn't like, and had begun discussions about church and what they think about God. 6:15 a.m. practices still got me off the course at a reasonable time to get on with the other parts of my job as YFC Director.

Sometimes God gives us an opportunity that we weren't looking for so, keep your ears open to hear God yell, "FORE!", and get ready to move out of your comfort zone.

Back to School! | Matt Mountjoy

It's that time of year. Everyone is going back to school. For the first time in a few years, it's not just the kids. The Garage is going back to school too! In the years prior to COVID, a big part of our weekly ministry was going into the high school during lunch hours to meet with students. While we were limited to just general social interaction, it was always an incredible opportunity for multiple reasons.

First off, it was a good chance to touch base with our regular students a day before our meetings. I always felt like there was a big connection between talking with kids midweek and their attendance at the Garage that week. It also is a great opportunity to see them and talk with them in a different environment, and it gives the chance to have conversations about things they may be dealing with at school. Kids seem to open up differently in different environments, and while we are limited in how we can bring up topics regarding faith in the public school setting, oftentimes discussions will begin when the kids bring it up themselves.

The second major category of benefits of the weekly school lunch meeting is the opportunity to meet new students. Many kids have begun to attend the Garage after meeting us at the school. Oftentimes, this comes from friends of our current students, but at times we are able to meet brand new kids who are just curious as to who the random adults are in the lunch room. We get opportunities to sit down in a casual setting and play games or just chat and build relationships with students who might not otherwise just attend a Garage meeting. I often think of one of our students who graduated a year ago. When I first met her in the cafeteria she was friends with a few of our regular students. She, however, was not in the slightest interested in the weird random people who came and talked to her friends at lunch and oftentimes would give us the "uhh, who are you?" Eventually, while she didn't really warm up to us, she actually showed up at the Garage one night. She still didn't warm up to us right away, however, slowly over time just seeing us consistently, she began to open up and eventually returned to the Garage and ended up becoming one of our regular students her senior year.

Fortunately, now that some time has past since the beginning of the pandemic, the school has decided to allow guests in again. We are very grateful to be given the opportunity to be a part of that as it is a huge answer to prayer. Thank you for all of you who have been a part of that prayer effort! Now we ask that you continue to pray for this awesome ministry opportunity that it provides fruitful opportunities to build relationships and share the Gospel!

Blessed! | Laurie Beal

Privileged. Honored. Blessed.....to have 17 teens WANT to hang out with one of our YFC mentors, Leigh, and me for the latest girls overnighter at the lake house in Chippewa Lake! It was such an adventure to be surrounded by the energy of so many young people! You may hear "Teens these days" ,but they are such amazing blessings to this world!

It was a privilege to share the important message that not only are they our future, but they have HUGE value to the PRESENT. They are wanted and needed and more powerful than they may realize! They heard the truth that night about being created with a plan in mind by a God who loves them unconditionally and for always. We talked about how we all have strengths and struggles and ways we can make an impact on the world around us. We discussed how we can use those strengths to reach out in creative ways and even use the struggles to empathize with others in a real way. We decided to put thoughts into action and the gals helped make a beautiful "bouquet" for a friend struggling with something the girls, and adults, admitted to ALL struggling with ..anxiety.

It takes a village and young and old are all part of that village. And God has created us ALL with purpose ...that doesn't wait til adulthood to start! I LOVE TEENAGERS!... something that's not said enough!

Of the 17 gals that came, TEN of them were at a Garage event for the very first time. I was very proud of our regulars who stepped up and made sure to make the newcomers feel welcome AND I was very proud of the 10 gals who were brave enough to try something new in unfamiliar territory! I heard lots of good feedback from all 17 and my favorite was, "I m so excited! I've made lots of new friends and that's something I never do!" That's a good way to start a new school year :)



And thank you to a former stranger, Leslie Burns, who had seen my Facebook post inviting



girls to the event and reached out and asked if she could provide snacks for the night! The gals worked up an appetite kayaking and paddle boarding and so appreciated it!

All glory to God!

A Special Day of Golf | Steve Pausch

On August 1st a special day of golf was held at Weymouth CC that was representative of God's Kingdom. In God's Kingdom His people are united in purpose and do not compete against one another for resources to do His work.

Zion Industries, a local Medina County company, and long time supporter of our ministry hosted a fundraising golf tournament for three local area ministries... The Oaks Family Care Center, Ohio Roundtable, and Youth For Christ of Northern Ohio.

The Oaks Family Care Center (OFCC) has provided free family support services to our community since 1998. OFCC is dedicated to providing support services focused on meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our clients. Services include: family building programs, material goods, parenting support, pregnancy testing and support, post-abortion recovery, spiritual growth, supervised visitation for parents, youth outreach programs, jail and detention center outreach programs, and food pantry.

The American Policy Roundtable (APR) The formal organization of the Roundtable was established in 1980. APR does the work of public policy as a non-profit, non-partisan mission to America. APR's goal is to reach all people with the message of true liberty. We believe in the promise of America as articulated in the Declaration of Independence and established in the Constitution built upon the consent of the governed. APR endeavors to help people rediscover the principles upon which that promise stands.

Youth for Christ of Northern Ohio (YFC) 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 the Word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ, and commitment to social involvement.

This day of golf and partnership was a blessing to the work of these organizations and an example of how we should work together to reach those across our area with the message of Christ. Thank you, Zion Industries, for hosting a great day of golf and for allowing us the opportunity to see an example of Kingdom Golf.

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