

CONNECTED

YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church

March 2023

Kids Be Gone??? | Steve Pausch

Drive by one of our teen centers, and you will see teenagers hanging around. It's in our name. Since the 1940's, Youth For Christ has been creating spaces and places for teens to congregate, have fun, and learn about the greatest gift ever given. That is our mission! I was recently disturbed by an article I saw regarding a device created to keep teens away... The Mosquito! Teens in cities across America are running and covering their ears and some of the adults around them are happy about it.

This came from a July 8, 2019 Today article by Ronnie Koenig:

"At 10 p.m., the devices are activated and a high frequency sound — somewhere between 17.5-18.5 kilohertz — is emitted.

It's main setting is audible to individuals from age 13 to 25 years old, according to the company that makes it, Moving Sound Technologies. (As the cells in our ears age, they typically lose the ability to pick up higher sound frequencies.) However, there have been reports of people outside this age range hearing it, and some audio experts say children could likely hear it, too.

The Mosquito devices have been installed in 31 sites across the city, including at Chalfont Playground in northeast Philadelphia and East Poplar Playground.

"Philadelphia Parks and Recreation began installing the Mosquito devices in collaboration with city council members, partners and the community as part of a holistic effort to deter overnight incidents where they had occurred previously," Lauren Cox,

deputy communications director in the Office of the Mayor of Philadelphia, told TODAY.

‘Every Parks and Rec site has unique safety needs. These devices are one approach, taken in collaboration with residents and partners, to address overnight safety and vandalism issues. However, due to recent feedback, an internal review of the use of overnight sonic devices is currently underway.’”

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:14.

I believe Jesus also wants the teenagers we see around our towns and cities to be able to hear His message of love and not the buzzing of a manmade device created to keep them away.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support that makes it possible for us to have places where teens can be cared for and enjoy themselves without a box on the wall chasing them away.

Romans 10:14-15...¹⁴ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!” NLT

Investments | Laurie Beal

We are blessed with so many individuals and churches and small groups and businesses that are on board with what we do at our Youth for Christ sites. They get our mission and want to somehow play a role in getting the message of Jesus, and the Hope that only He offers, to the young people in our communities. These people and groups help us embrace kids in a variety of ways, and I love how God orchestrates us all into one big hug for the kids.

The roles of this intertwined team range from mentor, to a small group organizing the prom dress area, to local moms making cookies for our groups, to a local business doing a hygiene item and diaper drive for our teen parents group. Every strand is needed.

One long-standing part of the ministry team at the Garage is Jon Wertz. Jon owns Fat Boys pizza in Norton and has provided free pizza to feed everyone at our Thursday night meetings for YEARS. We often tell the kids about the coolness of someone not even knowing them yet caring enough about them to give them free pizza every week!

This past week, Jon came to our Thursday night group to share a message with the kids as they ate the pizza he provided. He's come before, but these were all new faces to him. Jon shared the message of "we are never too gone for Jesus to love us", no matter what we do. God knows all we've done. Yet, he's standing there right with us waiting for us to come to him. He tied in his personal story and the parable of the prodigal son and told it in a way that was very gripping to the kids and mentors. The part that stood out to me is when the son happened upon his dad on his way home to ask to be a servant, his dad was far from home. He had been out looking for him not just waiting at home. And he was so excited to see his son, not condemning him, but embracing him. I love that story and I have an even deeper appreciation for it now. I love that we have a God who loves us unconditionally, no matter what we do, and enters into our mess to wait for us to turn to Him so he can embrace us even tighter.

Before Jon left, I thanked him again for the gift of pizza EVERY single week. He said ..."it's the best investment we ever made." I love that we have the opportunity to share this Good News with hurting kids and that there are so many around who want to also invest in that mission with us. Thanks to ALL who make this ministry possible!

Wednesday Night Trivia | Matt Mountjoy

One thing that I have learned over the last several years at The Garage is to not assume that kids have heard even the most basic elements of the Bible. Growing up in a Christian household and eventually going to a Christian college, I took for granted that most people had at least heard of some of the most basic Bible stories. For example, surely everyone had heard the stories of Noah and the ark, or Moses. I mean they may not have gone to Sunday school, but they've at least seen Charlton Heston in the "Ten Commandments" or "The Prince of Egypt" cartoon, right?! Or we've not strayed so far as a "Christian Nation" that the word 'Sin' isn't unknown to them? In the world of college football coaching, there was a common phrase you'd hear as a reminder to coaches particularly at the beginning of the year: "Coach them like they're freshmen." Essentially, this meant that we should not ever assume that the basics are known. Teach them in detail and at worst, basics are valuable to be heard over and at best you are teaching the most important building blocks.

It is because of this idea that Steve and I first discussed doing a Bible Trivia Night. We found that there are HUNDREDS of various levels of Bible knowledge quizzes online. So the two of us printed off a handful of some that we felt had the most basic questions regarding significant stories or theological questions. Two weeks in a row, instead of a lesson, we did these trivia nights. What was neat was not only did we get an understanding of how much of the Bible they did know, we also got the chance to organically discuss a wide range of things from the Bible as we went through the questions. The trivia nights were fun and while it was originally just going to be a one-night deal, it was extended on the request of the crew of students!

 <p>YOUTH FOR CHRIST P.O. Box 323 Wadsworth, OH 44282 330-273-5794 www.northernohioyfc.com</p>	<p>Steve Pausch Executive Director</p>	<p>Local Ministry Directors:</p>	<p>Board Members:</p>
	<p>Laurie Beal Director of Ministry- Wadsworth</p> <p>Barb Pfeiffer Office Manager</p>	<p>Scott Hulet Herb Miller Matt Mountjoy Roger Seward Stacey Stender</p>	<p>John Heese Barbara Moran-Engler Eric Pfeiffer Bobby Puls Kathy Stehno</p>