



February 2025

Below the Surface... Digging Deeper in 2025 | Steve Pausch

Many times a day we have interactions with those around us that often go like this: How are you?... Fine I'm good....O.K. A very superficial response and we are off on our way. We are trying to change that with the young people we work with and not let interactions stay on the surface.

We are looking to not let a young person get away with a quick answer. We are working to become experts in the area of helping young people engage in deeper conversations with caring adults. Our desire is to really find out what is happening in the lives of the kids we serve and to hear what they are thinking about. This relational excavating really helps young people feel heard and cared for, and it helps us address all of the issues today's teens are facing.

This type of communication has been taking us longer when talking with young people, but it is proving to be worth the time and effort. Teens today are inundated with information in the palms of their hands that often leads to overload and confusion. We are committed to going the long road and to spend more time in '25 getting to know teens better.

Thank you for your commitment to this ministry and for helping us get below the surface in the lives of teens.

Praying for 2025 | Matt Mountjoy

“And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.” - 1 John 5:14-15

I'm writing to you now with a fireplace roaring that hasn't been on in 3 years, and wishing I was back in the Caribbean on vacation instead of in the -14 weather. Over the last few weeks, we have had our traditional Christmas break, and now we are getting back into the swing of things this past week. During that time, the hope is that our leaders get some time to rejuvenate, and we come up with some solid direction for the new year. For me personally, taking a vacation with my family was incredible, as was getting to come home in time to watch the college football National Championship...Go Buckeyes! As we are getting back, I felt that it would be important to share the direction we are heading over the next few months with the students. I also thought that this would be a great opportunity to share some things that everyone could be praying for in The Garage ministry.

For our Wednesday night group, we will spend the next few weeks talking about spiritual warfare, heaven, and hell. It is also my goal for this semester to push the young men on taking steps forward in their faith journey. As a group, they have been engaged and vocal on desiring to grow. Please pray specifically that they put their words into action in their lives. Pray that those who may be on the edge of making a commitment to Christ hear that calling and make the life changing decision. Pray for growth in the group outwardly as well, both in them sharing God and inviting more kids to hear the gospel.

Our Thursday night crew will be entering a series on what it means to “love.” We'll cover all the different types of love and relationships with others. We will also be trying to add in more event-type nights in an effort to grow the group. With this group, please be praying for opportunities to meet new

kids. Pray that the current core group of kids will continue to grow and can become student leaders at the Garage. Pray for all of our mentors that they can be invigorated to pour into the lives of our students.

A few additional things to pray for: Pray for finances with our YFC region, that we would be able to have the necessary resources to effectively run the ministry. Pray for Steve as he leads our region that he has the support that he needs and the wisdom in his role. Please pray for anyone that might be considering joining the ministry in a mentor role that they would know God's will for the situation. Thank you!

Goals | Laurie Beal



We are beginning a new series in our Teen Parents support group. We'll be working on setting goals, talking about things that can distract and derail our goals, discussing the importance of staying in tune to God's best plans for our lives and creating individual plans to grow in our personal relationships with Christ.



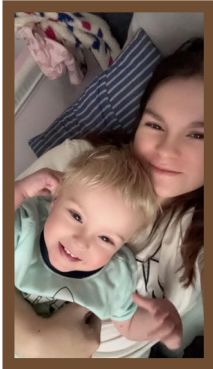
We kicked off the new year with each of the young parents and mentors coming up with a single word that we wanted to focus on for the year.

We've done this for the last few years, and it has been very insightful and fun to hear each person contemplating different words and then hearing the reasons

why they were drawn to certain words.

I especially like how serious everyone is when picking their





word.... fully embracing it as a one-year commitment!

A few in the group were going to think about it more before deciding but some of the words that were chosen , at least tentatively, were Grace, Joy, Holy, Connected, Hope, Community, Strength, Disciple.

It was awesome hearing young people talk about wanting to get closer to God and learn more about Him,

hoping to make an impact on the world around them, wanting to work on areas of their life they are struggling with and make better choices.

One of the young dads shared that he wants to put his bad choices behind him and make this a year of moving

forward. One of the moms discussed wanting to find a church and pray with her little family daily and teach their boys about God.

What a blessing it is to be involved in this group of young people! What a huge gift to have the roles of cheerleader and mentor and friend, alongside them on their journeys!

Thanks to ALL of you who make our ministry possible...giving young people, and their little people, HOPE!



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