CONNECTED

YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church

June 2026

School Is Out And The Fun Has Just Begun | Steve Pausch

Back in 1989 before I came on staff with YFC, one of things I was told was that our schedule is like that of a teacher with the summer off. That has never been true, and honestly summer is my favorite time of ministry. Your support makes it possible for us to spend quality time with teens in a variety of different settings and locations. The school year for teens is often a very busy and hectic time. Activities like sports, homework, and jobs often leave them stressed out. Summer gives us the opportunity to get together with teens and get prolonged time to talk about the things they are thinking about. Trips are also one of the ways we get teens out of their routines and offer a change of pace. We have several day trips and extended times away planned this summer. Additionally in Brunswick, we are doing weekly evening meetings. We will be working on bicycles, building wood crafts, cooking together and enjoying movies and game times together. These are more ways to connect and be involved with teens in their world.

Because of your financial and prayer support, we are able to be available when teens are and work our schedule around their times. Thank you for making it possible for us to be in the teen world and tell them about Jesus.

Student Spotlight| Matt Mountjoy

As many of you know, our Wednesday night group has several young men that, by the time you are reading this, have recently graduated high school. This group has been incredible to work with and watch grow both spiritually and as young men. We have spent the last few weeks really digging into practical life applications of how to pursue a relationship with Christ, particularly for the older guys that are about to step out more onto their own. I am so excited to see what awaits them in the future and will greatly miss them all. I wanted to take the opportunity for a few of them to share with you about themselves and some things you could be praying for them as they enter into their next chapter of life. I gave each of them five brief questions:

Dom:

1: How long have you been attending The Garage Ministries? **Three Years**

2: How has your time at The Garage had an impact on your life? **The Garage as a whole has allowed me to grow in my relationship with Christ through questions and guidance for a better life.**

3. What is your favorite event or memory from your time with The Garage Ministries? **My favorite memory is the annual Turkey Bowling traditions.**

4. What are you plans for after graduation? **I plan on attending The Ohio State University to study Civil Engineering**

5. How can people be praying for you in this next stage of life after graduation? **You can pray for me to continue to prioritize Christ and continue to be bold and open about my faith in Jesus**

Jake:

1: How long have you been attending The Garage Ministries? **Three years, since my sophomore year.**

2: How has your time at The Garage had an impact on your life? **The Garage has helped me grow as a believer and was a kickstart to my path in faith. It also helped me build a lot of meaningful relationships.**

3: What is your favorite event or memory from your time with The Garage Ministries? **My favorite Garage memory is going out to Steve's house and then over to his friend Jim's farm and doing all the things there with my friends.**

4: What are your plans for after graduation? **I plan to attend the University of Pennsylvania to study Biology and play football.**

5: How can people be praying for you in this next stage of life after graduation? **People can pray for God to move me in the right direction and give me the courage and strength to bring others closer to the Lord in my new environment.**

In It for the Long Haul | Laurie Beal

Last month, I mentioned to stay tuned for May's newsletter article that would be about how Garage kids continue the need for a mentor, no matter how old they get. Well....Here i am writing my article, a day late, sitting in the parking lot while a former Garage teen, now 23 is in an iron union facility interviewing for a job. A job that could be life changing. I am watching other young men leave the building, dressed sharply, fresh out of their interview. Some looking discouraged. The young man I picked up just after noon, for our hour drive, had his hands covered in spray foam and other materials that he cannot get off his hands. ...remnants from his current job that pays much less than half of what he'd make at this job he's hoping for. He stepped in the car wearing a hoodie and hadn't eaten... which is something I had wondered about before I left my house. So he snacked on stuff I had intuitively brought along, as we headed north.

I saw his Facebook post earlier in the week. It was a plea for a ride to an interview on Saturday. His car needs repair. I messaged him and told him that I had Grandkid's soccer games to go to, BUT if he didn't find a ride by Friday to let me know and I'd forego the games to take him. I didn't want him to fret all week and wonder if he'd be able to make it. Friday came, no other offer...and here we are...me in the parking lot, him inside.

This is just one example of many, where we mentors get calls and answer calls. An answer to God's call, originally, to minister to teens does not end when they leave our doors. The relationship and trust has already been built, and as these young people embark into adulthood they often bring us along.

Recently, I've received multiple calls from young adults, often with the tagline, "I'm not sure who else to call." One young man wanted to let me know he was getting baptized and invited me to come. I was his only support person there. One gal messaged and said she was struggling mentally and asked if I could meet with her because she didn't know who else to call. One guy wanted to just get together and hang out ...so, a former volunteer, a current volunteer and myself met up with him for dinner. One former teen mom was preparing to become a foster mom and asked if I could write a reference letter for her. It was an honor to write it. A young man trying to make some extra money to make rent called and asked to borrow a crow bar. After confirming that why he needed it was legal and legit (a side job tearing apart pallets) and to avoid an hours' worth of driving for the exchange, I ordered a

crowbar and gloves for him to pick up at the Home depot near him. And I still have one former Garage kid's diploma on my desk. He had stopped in to see me about a year after he graduated and asked if I could keep it til he was in a stable space. He said he couldn't trust it with anyone else. That was several years ago. It will be waiting for him when he returns.

Another way we are continuing to be involved with former teens is something that makes me feel every bit of my age. We now have THREE kids currently coming to our Garage events that have Moms that were in our teen Parents program!

We truly are one big family and become family to these kids...and to their kids. We are often a type of consistency and unconditional love that they do not have elsewhere in their life. One toddler that comes to the weekly teen parents meetings asks for appa daahhssss (applesauce) every time he sits at the counter. He knows we'll have it.

I catch myself being sad, at times, that I/we are their go-to support system...even so many years later. I, myself , have always had an amazing family and a strong support system, and I offer the same thing to MY kids. When I need help, I have many people to lean into. I often don't even have to ask. They are just there. In fact, the car I drove the young guy up to this interview in is my mom's car that she brought to me because mine is in the shop. So, when i see that these kids don't have that same support I am sad...but I also feel very blessed that God lets ME, of all people, be in these young people's lives, let's me show HIS love to them and lets me offer them the same HOPE that I have in HIM. All glory to God!

And P.S. As I was typing this, Logan came out to my mom's car with a huge smile on his face. He got the job! I took him to Burger King to celebrate! He'll be making $56 an hour!! I'm tempted to say...maybe I'm in the wrong business. But, being in the "business" of sharing God with young people is more rewarding than any paycheck there could ever possibly be. Plus....I have to be there when Anthony comes to get his diploma. ;)

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