

CHCC Youth Ministry Newsletter

March 2010

Renewal

Spring time is a special time of the year. The sun begins to bring warmth back to the earth that has a truly spectacular affect on us and our surrounds. I was amazed how it seemed that the grass changed from brown to green almost over night. I was at my in laws house two Sunday's ago and I saw my first flower not only out of the ground but with a bright yellow flower on it. The sight warmed my heart and put a smile on my face. At 7:00 at night there is still light. The list could go on about how wonderful spring is.

Spring reminds me that we are in need of renewal as well as are the students in our lives. At this point in the calendar the school year is half over and students begin to get worn out. They have been running at full speed now for six months and a break, a time of renewal, is just what they need. Take a moment to ask your son or daughter how they are feeling and see if they are in need of a break. You can use the opportunity to let your children know that there are times when we are in need of renewal in both our physical and spiritual lives.

I was doing a little looking through my Bible the other day and reminded again how often Jesus himself took time for renewal. Time after time he would remove himself from the daily grind and spend time with God. Not only did he do this himself he often took his discipleship with him to model the importance. We have the opportunity to do this with our youth as well. As a family you could declare a TV free night so that they family can spent time together. Or, if you have Guitar Hero or Rock Band show off your moves together as a family. Do a pizza and movie night as a family, go for a walk as a family find ways to enjoy each other and use it as a time of renewal for your family. You and your children will be blessed because you did.

Blessings,
Pastor Todd.



Austin Mills and Bailey Ovenshire playing soccer before the start of LINK.



Girls playing some volleyball before the start of LINK.



Sr. High News

www.chccrca.org/SUMMIT.htm

- **Team Progressive Dinner Competition** - Sun, March 28th is our event night for the month. We are planning our first ever Progressive Dinner Competition. Each team will head out to various restaurants to eat five courses of a meal. The competition is to see which team can eat all courses for the least amount of money. Each person needs \$5.
- **The Rock and Worship Roadshow** - April 22nd we're heading to the US Cellular Center for a concert. There are a ton of bands playing for only \$10! You will need a registration form and payment turned in by April 18th to attend. Forms coming soon!
- **30 Hour Famine** - Each year SUMMIT participates in the 30 Hour Famine. It is an event that helps students identify with those who are hungry every day. We fast for 30 hours, spend Sat. morning doing a service project and have fun. We also fundraise money to send to World Vision that they use to fight world hunger. The Famine is one of the best events we do each year. Watch for more details. Date: May 21st - 22nd.



Middle School News

www.chccrca.org/LINK.htm

- **Out Night** - March 31st is Out Night. We break into groups, hop into cars and each group goes to a restaurant of their choosing to eat and hang out at. Students will need money for their food.
- **Power Connection** - July 30th - Aug 1st. Check for more info above or at the LINK website. Brochures are in church mailboxes or pick one up at LINK. Want to have an opportunity to serve others? Plan on attending the Power Connection Work Camp. It is going to be awesome!
- **Wednesday Night Meals** - The second Wednesday of each month a team from the church provides a meal for families before the start of LINK. The meal is free and all are welcome to come and enjoy it. We encourage parents to come and eat with their children as a way to spend some family time together. The next meal will be April 14th beginning at 5:15.
- **Melaku Wendmagegn** - Our Compassion International child. The past four years we have sponsored Melaku. Each month we send Compassion \$38 to support Mel (that's short for Melaku). Each month we ask LINK students to bring one or two dollars to support Mel.

Discover Ways to Renew the 'Spark' of Kids' Faith

"Apathy is a sort of living oblivion," wrote 19th-century editor Horace Greeley. A common refrain from many parents is that their teenagers are lackluster, or hard to "fire up"—especially when it comes to God and the church. Ironically, the apathy epidemic today just may have its roots in overactivity.



"With so much going on for school and traveling teams, [kids] have no time for church, youth groups, and even family time," says one youth minister in *Group Magazine's* "State of Youth Ministry" report. "Kids are getting pulled in so many directions." Other respondents said their biggest struggles are kids whose lives are compartmentalized and who don't make Christ a priority for daily living.

Youth ministers said they're dying for teenagers who are engaged and passionate about their faith, ready and willing to commit their lives to Jesus. On the positive side, they said they've noticed a hunger among today's teenagers for "deeper" things, as well as a move from "flash" to substance.

So how can you fan the flames of your kids' faith and convince them to invest in it 100 percent? First, lift up your teenagers in prayer often. The Holy Spirit is the one with the power to change hearts and lives. Next, make faith applicable to everyday life. Don't limit talk of God to Sundays. Tie in Scripture to issues that kids face at home, at school, and in their activities and jobs. Make Christ a priority in your own life, and show kids by example what a committed Christian walk looks like. If necessary, cut back your busy schedule to focus more on God. Finally, harness kids' hunger to go deeper by asking them tough questions and issuing spiritual challenges. Teenagers seeking a cause won't find a better one than Christ.

Veteran youth pastor Jason Ostrander offers these tips for breaking through with kids who are jaded, bored, or apathetic:

- 1. Be yourself.** When you are who you say you are, unengaged kids are likely to crack open their windows wider. Doing an honest assessment of yourself will turn into a priceless gift to yourself and your kids.
- 2. Be a passionate, engaged observer.** Spend time studying your teenagers and work hard to understand what makes them tick. If we're not fully awake to our kids, we're just as dead as they are. Jesus always paid remarkable attention to the details people unconsciously revealed to him.
- 3. Don't treat kids or spending time with them like just another box on your to-do list.** The last thing kids want to be is your latest project.
- 4. Take a risk.** Engage teenagers through their (sometimes) hidden passions by providing a niche for them to succeed or grow. Often they need something beyond the "status quo" to get them going.



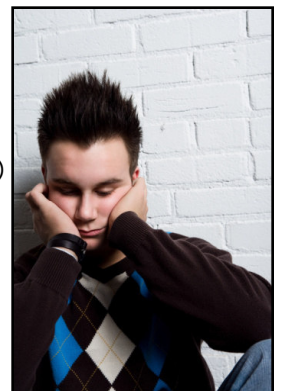
Check out these interesting statistics about how brightly people's fires are burning for God:

- Sixty percent of Christian teenagers lose interest in church activities and organized religion, despite their previous participation.

(Barna Group)

- Researcher George Barna uses the term "casual Christians" to describe the two-of-out-three adults who are spiritually middle-of-the-road or even ambivalent about their faith.
- On the positive side, in a survey of almost 30,000 Christian teenagers from last summer, the majority of kids were passionate about their faith. Seventy-seven percent of Christian teenagers disagreed with this statement: "I've met a lot of people who seem more interesting to me than Jesus does."

(Group Magazine)



Great Questions to Ask Your Kids

Attack indifference by using these discussion starters with your teenagers:

1. What things or people are you most excited about right now? Do God and your faith excite you? Why or why not?
2. Which of your beliefs are you the most and the least passionate about, and why? What inspires you to stand up for something or someone?
3. In what ways is living a Christian life an adventure? What "equipment" is needed to embark on this trip?
4. What would you say to a friend who had lost his or her "spark" for God?



Focus on Prayer

PRAY THAT:

1. Your teenagers will be touched by God's love and become passionate about him—and passionate about living for him.
2. God will open a window for you to penetrate through any apathy that your teenagers experience.
3. Your teenagers will feel like their faith in God has been set on fire.
4. God will use you as an example to show that following Christ is the most worthwhile pursuit a young person can undertake.

Verse of the month

"Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of [the believers]. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:3-4)

On Pentecost, known as the church's birthday, the early Christians were literally set aflame for God. Thanks to the Holy Spirit's power and presence, more than 3,000 people were added to the church that day. The same Holy Spirit can work miracles in hearts and lives even now.

Going Deeper

Want to help your teenagers "blaze with passion" for God? Read this insightful essay by youth minister Mike Kupferer, posted on SimplyYouthMinistry.com.

After cleaning up debris in my yard for three days, I had two large piles of brush to burn. The first pile ignited after I added an outside source (dry paper), and the fire never went out. I had to keep watch over the flames to keep them controlled, but I never had to relight it. No matter what I threw on top of the fire, it just kept burning. I couldn't extinguish it. Finally, it grew smaller and smaller once I ran out of items to burn. Even once I thought it was dying, all I had to do was add something flammable and it would immediately catch on fire.

The second pile was a little more frustrating. I added dry paper and sticks to get it going. It would catch on fire for a minute, and then the flame would go out. I kept adding more and more pieces of paper, sticks, and anything else I thought would catch on fire. Each time it burned for only a little bit. I had to constantly watch it if I wanted it to keep burning, because if I walked away for long, it would go out.

Then I remembered this principle: I know God is the One who ultimately molds and shapes young people, but the reality is that we have a responsibility to encourage and challenge them, too. And because of that, you cannot handle two fires the same way.

Some kids need a constant flow of outside resources to help their fires for God to burn. Without outside help, they will quickly become apathetic toward God. Then there are the kids who consume whatever is given to them and burn more intensely for God. When you challenge and stretch them, they aren't overwhelmed—they excel. One thing is true about both types of kids, though. Without something in their lives to help them burn, they'll lose their passion for God. Care enough to not give up. Fuel the fire, and never stop.



Important Dates to Remember:



Summit Events

Sunday, March 28th -	Team Progressive Dinner Competition
Sunday, April 4th -	No SUMMIT (Easter)
Thursday, April 22nd -	Rock and Worship Roadshow
Sunday, April 25th -	Event Night



LINK Events

Wednesday, March 10th -	Dinner 5:30-6:15
Wednesday, March 24th -	Spring Break, No LINK
Wednesday, March 31st -	Out Night
Fri. - Sun, April 16th - 18th -	Middle School Retreat