

CHCC Youth Ministry Newsletter

November 2010



Stellar Kart in Concert - Nov. 9th at CHCC. Doors open at 6:00

Stellar Kart will be a concert your son or daughter won't want to miss. Stellar Kart is a Dove Award winner and recently had a number one hit on the Christian charts. It is amazing that we get to have them in concert!

Welcome to the first newsletter of the school year. Its hard to believe that we are already two months into both LINK and SUMMIT. It will be our goal each month to get this newsletter out to you. It is a way to keep up to date on the happenings of the youth ministry and pages two and three are full of some great tools, short articles and suggestion about your teenager. I hope you will find them helpful. We are looking forward to a great year!

SUMMIT Summer Trip - Rocky Mountain High July 22nd - 27th. This once every three year conference is packed full of speakers, worship with 2000 plus students, break out sessions and time in the rocky mountains. More details will be out soon. Our main fundraiser for our summer trip is right around the corner. The first Sunday of Dec. we do our waffle breakfast and bake sale. On Dec. 4th we will be prepping all day and then serving and selling our goods between and after services on the 5th. If your son or daughter is thinking about going on the summer trip they won't want to miss this fundraiser.

LINK - We are off to a great start. The LINK Team has been just pumped to get going this year and meeting new students and seeing old ones as well. Our small groups are going well and we are excited about the lessons we have picked. We believe and pray that God will use them to impact your son or daughter. I wanted to introduce a special child that's part of LINK his name is Melaku Wendmagemg and lives in Ethiopia. He is our child that we sponsor through Compassion International. Each month we send \$38 to Compassion that pays for "Mel" as we call him to go to school, food to eat and clothes to wear. The \$38 comes out to about \$2 per month per student, but we are behind this year \$29.55. Giving to Mel is a great way to help teach your children the importance of helping others and giving an offering. Also, each year we send an extra amount to get him a Christmas gift. We hope you take the opportunity to talk with your children about giving to Mel.



Sr. High News

www.chccrca.org/SUMMIT.htm

- **Reminder - No SUMMIT Nov. 7th: Congregational Meeting**
- **Next Small Group Series** - We are excited to start our next series Nov. 14th on Friends. We will for Biblical insights into some of the most common issues students face in their friendships: Loneliness, Peer Pressure, Comparisons and Identity
- **SUMMIT Summer Trip: Rocky Mountain High** - The details are just beginning to come out for our trip this summer. Read above for a short description about Rocky.
 - Details:
 - Registration Form - Coming
 - Date: July 22nd - 27th
 - Cost: TBD
- **Waffle Breakfast Fundraiser** - This is our main fundraiser for the summer trip. Last year if you came to all three fundraiser the cost of the trip was the deposit of \$150. We are hopeful this will be true again. On Dec. 4th we will gather for the day and bake our all baked goods we sell on Sun. and set up for the waffle breakfast. Begin thinking about if you would like to go on the trip this summer and put the fundraiser on your calendar. You won't want to miss



Middle School News

www.chccrca.org/LINK.htm

- **A Christmas Gift for Mel** - Mel is our Compassion International child that we sponsor. Each year we have the opportunity to send to Compassion International an extra amount that is used to get Mel a Christmas gift. Our extra contribution to Compassion will lead to the only gift that Mel will receive during the year. It is a special opportunity for us to bless a child. We will be collecting for his gift during the month of Nov.
- **Bowling Nov. 17th** - We are going bowling this night. Check out page 6 for a registration form. If you are in need or additional forms they can be downloaded at chccrca.org/LINK.htm
- **Reminder - No LINK Nov. 24th.** All are welcome to come to the Thanksgiving Eve service that night.

Help teenagers recognize and develop their talents

During this season of gratitude, we usually remember to thank God for our families and material blessings. But often we overlook how God, in his wisdom, has given us each unique talents and spiritual gifts. He wants us to show our gratitude for these gifts by using them to their full potential—and to his glory (see Colossians 3:17).



Throughout the New Testament, we read how people have varying gifts and capacities for using them (see Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; and Ephesians 4). Instead of burying our talents, God wants us to hone them. Teenagers may need help recognizing their special gifts and how they can apply them for God's kingdom. Young people will lead more fulfilled lives when we help them discover and give out of their strengths.

Leadership is just one of many gifts young people may have. But leadership potential in teenagers often goes unnoticed and undeveloped. Here are five common indicators of a high leadership aptitude: 1.) Peers listen to a teenager and pursue him or her for ideas. 2.) The teenager has lots of opinions and ideas about how things should function. 3.) The teenager has already been singled out by other adults for leadership roles. 4.) The teenager isn't satisfied with the status quo and always has several projects on his or her plate. 5.) The teenager is sometimes disruptive; leaders by nature are noncompliant. Read on to discover more about helping your teenagers recognize and use their God-given talents.

These tips from the small-group Bible study *Guy Talk, Girl Talk 2 (Group)* will help kids pinpoint and use their gifts:

1. **Stop comparing.** Comparison is always a lose-lose situation. It leads to either pride (when we think we're better than someone else) or shame (when we feel we don't measure up to expectations).
2. **Embrace who God made you to be.** It's hard to control the voices in our heads that whisper, "I wish I could do something other than what I'm doing" or "I wish I could be somebody that I'm not." Know yourself: your strengths, your talents, and your personality.
3. **Serve out of your S.H.A.P.E.** This acronym helps us understand the areas that make us who we are: Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experiences. Knowing your S.H.A.P.E. will help you find a place to serve that fits you. Sometimes finding a place to serve is like trying on a new pair of jeans: The first few might not fit, but eventually you'll find the perfect pair. Knowing and using your S.H.A.P.E. leads to fulfillment and joy. It also causes any feelings of pride or shame to quickly fade.



Here are some recent findings about teenagers and their developing talents:

- Although 66% of teenagers can identify at least one "spark" (talent, passion, or gift) they have, fewer than half get support for these sparks from outside their families. (Search Institute)
- Fifteen-year-olds who develop strong relationships and receive adequate opportunities have a sense of hopeful purpose, express caring values, are actively engaged in school, and take on leadership roles. (www.at15.com)
- Talents are nurtured most successfully when parents guide kids at an age-appropriate pace, gradually allowing young people to make responsible choices on their own. But parents must communicate they're "there" for teenagers by providing some structure and setting limits, when necessary. (University of Michigan)



Great Questions to Ask Your Kids

Help teenagers open up about talents by asking these questions:

1. What talents has God given you? Which of these might people be surprised to learn about, and why?
2. How well do you use your talents? Do you use them to serve yourself? others? God?
3. Think about a talent you'd like to work on: What would it take to further develop it?
4. What leadership qualities do you have, and how are you using them?
5. How can you make a difference with the gifts God has given you?



Focus on Prayer

PRAY THAT:

1. God will help your teenagers recognize the unique gifts, abilities, and talents he's blessed them with.
2. God will give your kids courage and confidence to explore their talents and opportunities to develop them.
3. Your teenagers won't be tempted to compare their talents and skills with other people's.
4. Your teenagers will see a range of valuable contributions they can make at home, at school, and in church.

Verse of the Month

"In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. ... If your gift is serving others, serve them well. ... If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously." (Romans 12:6-8)

Wisely, God made each of us different. As individuals, we have a wide variety of talents—and a wide variety of ways to use them. God wants us to harness our gifts to meet other people's needs and to give him glory.

Going Deeper

On SimplyYouthMinistry.com, author Doug Fields writes about cultivating young leaders:

Teenagers aren't the leaders of the future; they're the leaders of today. We must create an environment where kids are challenged to serve others and can discover the significant life God has called them to live. Here are some tips for making that happen:

- **Think small.** Cultivating leaders is a process of developing kids individually. Use resources such as youth ministers and guidance counselors to help your teenagers discover and apply their talents.
- **Paint potential.** Teenagers need to hear from us that they're gifted and talented, and that they can use those talents to carry out God's work. Some kids believe that if they aren't outgoing or popular, they can't make an impact. We must encourage and challenge them by "painting their potential." Kids need to know and see that their lives can make a difference—now.
- **Position individuals.** Set up your teenagers to win. Maybe they want to start a baby-sitting business, for example. When my three kids were younger, they'd always want a few "favorite" baby sitters: the ones who were the most fun, the most energetic, the ones who'd jump on the trampoline with them, wear weird clothes, etc. When I'd hear that, I'd put my arm around the baby-sitting teenager and say, "My kids love it when you come over. You have a gift with children. Why don't you get involved with the children's ministry at church?"



Every teenager has potential as a leader in some area. Helping them find their niche won't only benefit God's kingdom, but it can alter kids' understanding that God has shaped them in unique ways. Developing your teenagers' talents will leave an imprint in their community and a legacy in their long-term walk with Jesus.

Important Dates to Remember:



Senior High Events

- Sunday, Nov. 7th - NO SUMMIT - Congregational Meeting**
- Tuesday, Nov. 9th - Stellar Kart Concert! Here at CHCC and Free**
- Sunday, Nov. 28th - Bowling: \$4 and we need 4 extra parents**
- Saturday, Dec. 4th - Waffle Breakfast Fundraiser Prep**
- Sunday, Dec. 5th - Waffle Breakfast in the morning**
- Sunday, Dec. 5th - NO SUMMIT**



LINK Events

- Wednesday, Nov. 17th - Bowling: \$5 and we need 4 extra parents**
- Wednesday, Nov. 24th - NO LINK - Thanksgiving Eve Service**



We're Going Bowling!!

Sunday, November 28th

SUMMIT is heading to the bowling alley Sunday, Nov. 28th for a night of food, fellowship and fun. Oh, and of course some BOWLING!

Here are the details:

When: November 28th

Time: 6:00 – 8:15 (we will be leaving as close to 6:00 as possible, please be on time!)

Where: Meet at the church and then we'll head to May City Bowling

Cost: \$4 for your shoes and bowling

Who: You and all your friends!!

Forms: Extra forms can be found at www.chccrca.org/SUMMIT.htm

Help Needed: Bowling is one of our biggest SUMMIT events. We will be in need of 3-4 extra adults to help out by bowling with the students and getting them to May City Bowling. Please let Pastor Todd know if you can help.

SUMMIT Bowling!

Illegible forms cannot be accepted

Name _____

School _____ Grade _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Do you know anyone from Cedar Hills Church? If so whom? _____

Church you attend (if any) _____

Expectations: basically nothing illegal, unsafe, or inappropriate. Students must remain with the group, and respect the property at times. Have fun!

Parents sign: I understand the expectations above, and I give consent for my son/daughter to be under your care during the event as indicated. Should I need to be reached, my phone # that night is _____

Parents' Permission Signature _____

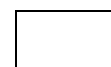
Parents' Name(s) _____

To Register:

Bring this form with you the evening of the event to:
Cedar Hills Church
6455 E Ave. NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

DATE OF EVENT:
Nov. 28th, 2010
6:00-8:15 p.m.

Cost for this event is \$4, payable the night of the event. **Please make checks out to Cedar Hills Church.** For more information about this event, contact Todd Joslin at 396-6608.



Office Use Only:



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Wednesday, Nov. 17th

LINK is heading to the bowling alley Wednesday, November 17th for a night of food, fellowship and fun. Oh, and of course some BOWLING!

Here are the details:

When: November 17th

Time: 6:30 – 8:10 (we will be leaving as close to 6:30 as possible, please be on time!)

Where: Meet at the church and then we'll head to Westdale Bowling

Cost: \$5.00 for your shoes and all the bowling you can get done

Who: You and all your friends!!

Forms: Extra forms can be found at www.chccrca.org/LINK.htm

Help Needed: Bowling is one of our biggest LINK events. We will be in need of 3-4 extra adults to help out by bowling with the students and getting them to Westdale. Please let Pastor Todd know if you can help.

LINK Bowling!

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Paid?

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