



Keeping in Touch

Central Maryland Youth for Christ, P.O. Box 3944 Frederick, MD 21705 January 2012

Young Parents Mentoring by Rita Mellott

Darkness of Their World

What strikes me the most when mentoring young moms and their families is the overwhelming sense of darkness that pervades their lives. Perhaps a more literal description of that darkness would be: a void or lack of love, morality, kindness, gratitude, hope and joy - to name a few. The void of these is not visible of course, but you can feel its ominous presence in the spirit of the parents, their children, and even their homes. It is a sense of tremendous sorrow and loss.



I Am The Light of The World: Jesus

In contrast, have you ever met someone that just seems to be a ray of light everywhere they go? In their presence you come away feeling like you are lighter and happier. You perhaps feel a renewed sense of hopefulness as well. What a blessing they are for all of us!

That is how I strive to be when I enter the lives and homes of these young girls. I want to extend the love, grace, hope and light that Christ has shown to me. Sometimes I fail miserably though. When troubles in my own life seem overwhelming, I am less optimistic. But I must always remember, that if I am truly walking in faith, there is always hope and light for the present and the future and that message should be shared with the world both in presence and in word. Please pray for our ministry.

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
John 8:12

Jesus: I am the Good Shepherd by Cindy Williams

Ballenger Creek Middle School Club Launched

In October, a new Campus Life M launched in the Ballenger Creek area, increasing the territory, the volunteer team and the student population reached. It has been a huge success. These two clubs are serving 138 kids in two locations with 18 volunteers.



Students from Monocacy, Crestwood and Ballenger attended Alive 2011

Learning Names!

One of the greatest challenges for me and the team of volunteers is learning all the students names, especially when many names are non-traditional.

15 years ago when I began to work in the youth ministry field, I thought I would never recall so many names. Humbly I noticed that I never forgot the name of someone IMPORTANT.

I know a dairy farmer who names his cattle by their unique characteristics and mannerisms. Imagine that! 450 head of cattle, all known by name. On a larger scale, Jesus knows each of us by name. Like the dairy farmer, “He calls his own sheep by name.”

The watchman opens the gate for ‘the Good Shepherd’, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. John 10:3-4

Modeling Christ in Ministry

If our students are potentially God’s sheep in His pen, then I should attempt to learn every name with the same love and passion Jesus has for me. A variety of studies demonstrate that learning another person’s name is a powerful means to open communication and build lasting relationships. It is perhaps, the law of the universe that Jesus, himself, demonstrates for us and asks us to model in our work.

I Am The Bread of Life at Crestwood Campus Life by Denise Gindlesperger

Hanging Out At Campus Life

As 3 o'clock approaches on a typical Tuesday afternoon, students arrive to smiling faces and big hellos. Some come just so they won't be alone for the afternoon, others come to pass time before their next activity but most come to just hang out.

Volunteers Hang With Students

Each one can find a different reason to be at Campus Life but what I notice most, is that all of the students want to communicate with the adults. The volunteers eagerly await them with a love that can only

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."
John 6:35

be expressed as God's grace. They enjoy sitting around the table. Even when it has been only a small group of six, they share a meal and talk as a family. Kids have rough days too. They all have

different lives, but what they all have in common is a great God who loves them.

Food Attracts Teenagers-Physical and Spiritual

Students want to be fed physically. In the quiet moments, when just hanging around in a circle, head in hands, they listen to the Word and they are filled and

don't even realize it. They have a moment in time when life is talked about, no judgment made, just listening ears to the Word of God. When they come for food and drink they are fed. When they come to Campus Life they are fed



Taking time to eat and share at Campus Life

twice. They will never hunger or thirst when that moment of belief comes.

Four are now new believers! PRAISE GOD four hearts are now being fed by the bread of life ...Jesus ! Amazing how God is moving in just a small group of students who continually meet together.

Barb Hanna: Social Media Administrator: The True Vine via a New Line

by Barb Hanna & Arn Bjorndal

Communication with Students is Changing



Barb Hanna will be transitioning from her position in Student-Led Ministries to a new position managing CMYFC's social media.

Building relationships with young people involves social media as well as face-to-face contact such as clubs, trips, small groups and Bible studies. Students, volunteers, donors and partners with the ministry are increasingly relying on social media to communicate.

Barb as Trainer/Consultant

Barb will be working on training and supporting the staff of CMYFC to be effective in their use of social media such as Facebook, the chapter web-

site and Twitter.

We believe that this will help our staff to reach young people



in more ways and increase our contact with adults in the community

who might join with us in our mission to share Jesus with young people! Check out www.yfccm.org.

YFC Brings Assembly to over 5000 Students

"Get A Grip" Assembly which emphasized "Self Control" was very well received at 7 schools and the Youth ranch. We are thankful for their willingness to let us come and share. Many thanks to John & Ellen Nicodemus for hosting the technicians.



Nov	School	Enrollment
7	Middletown H.S.	1277
8	Tuscarora H.S.	1542
10	Maryland School for the Deaf	150
10	Walkersville	796
11	Maryland Sherriff's	9
11	Brunswick M.S.	501
14	Crestwood M.S.	556
Dec 8	Monocacy M.S.	761

Ocean City "Alive" Trip brings New Life to the World of Middle School Students

by Rebekah Davis

I AM the Resurrection and the Life

*Into the darkness you shining
Out of the ashes we Rise
There's no One like You
None like You.*

*Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer, awesome in power
Chris Tomlin: Our God*

Nothing could stand against Christ the weekend of Nov. 17th -19th. On this cold fall weekend, thousands of middle school students made their way to Ocean City, MD. for

Alive. This event was full with speakers, worship, playing on the beach, learning of Jesus and how to be free in Him.

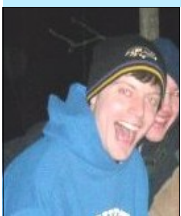
Invited To Receive Christ

The most awe-inspiring part of this weekend was Saturday night. A guest speaker gave the message and called students forward if they wanted to accept Christ. The response was incredible. I had the privilege of going forward to be with the students that were making decisions to follow Christ. I was able to pray with two girls. One had tears streaming down her face. You could sense that Jesus was releasing her, and breaking chains in her life. There were four girls from



Denise Gindlesperger (Center) hanging out on the beach at Alive

I Am the Way the Truth and the Life: John 14:6



Middletown: Jason Fenicle We have begun a boy's small group. Amidst the wacky games and loud music, the Lord is moving. They tell me how they are growing in their walk with God and taking the opportunities to reach lost friends! The

Lord has opened an opportunity for me to speak at MHS. I attend events regularly to meet students on their turf. *Congratulations to our football and girls soccer teams on being state champions!*

Training and Orientation

I attended the "One Heart" retreat as well as the Eastern Regional Conference with leaders from all over the east coast, where I learned ways to begin a Campus Life club. I'm attending YFC Institute in Denver, CO this Jan. I can see God's hand at work. Pray that God lives in these boys, giving them perseverance, courage, and strength to follow hard after Him.

Crestwood that all came to Alive together. One was so focused, listening to the speaker. When they gave the alter call she went forward right away. Her best friend sitting next to her watched her go up, thought about it and she went forward too. The two friends that had been



Bekah receives a hug from a student who is touched by Christ

taking everything in kept thinking and a few minutes later they decided to go forward. It was amazing to watch the Spirit of God working in these students, prompting them to respond to invite Him in their lives.

The Presence of God

As students were coming up and praying, the worship continued and the presence of Christ was so strong and so thick in the convention center, that you knew God was claiming these kids for Himself. The night ended in tears, singing, praying and experiencing the love of Christ!

Campus Life is Touching Students by Example



Washington County Clubs: Luke Greffen

I can report that the ministry of Youth for Christ in Washington County was blessed this past year. We were blessed by volunteers and student leaders who worked with dedication to make student ministry happen. Our ministry support team has been insightful with ideas for reaching the lost. I'm blessed by the prayers and financial support of friends. Finally, I'm thankful for the students God sends our way. Each student comes into contact with YFC for a reason.

Looking Toward the Future:

One Center City student leader, who formerly led at her Middle School club, has stayed involved into her new high school. We look to 2012 with many goals in front of us. In January, we'll be launching a student coffee house that will be run by Barbara Ingram students. This as a great opportunity to reach Hagerstown's downtown, allowing students to use their talents for kingdom building.

Central Maryland

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Alive Draws 73 From CMYFC
This Edition: **The Great I Am**
Seen Through The Eyes of YFC

I Am the Living Bread (to the Deaf): Jesus by Bob Rhoads

Managing Expectations in

Ministry: I had been in college ministry for a long time before I started Deaf Teen Quest at Maryland School for the Deaf. I expected large numbers & successes, but instead, I've ministered to just a few. I have had students who walked away.

That alone brings frustration and discouragement. But there is something I did not fully expect.

Perseverance of Faith

Over the years, I would get email from students whom I have shared Christ with, or when they come for a visit, they would tell me how much they really ap-

preciate my time & investment in their lives. They often apologize or ask my forgiveness for their

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." John 6:51

behavior or attitude toward me. I wanted great results **before** they graduated. What they

have learned & gained at that time is the WORK OF THE FAITH **after** they graduated. Several now live for the Lord and some are in ministry in the deaf community.

The Bread Lasts Forever

I feel honored to pass on the *LIVING BREAD* at Gallaudet & MSD so that the DEAF shall

know GOD in the flesh. If Jesus didn't come as the Living Bread from heaven, we



Shannon, a Gallaudet student, helps with a toothpaste activity illustrating forgiveness

would have worked all of this for nothing. He is the Living Faith for every one of us today. Let's make that investment in this New Year!