

continued

my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

We are blessed to know that God chooses to use this ministry in His plan to see young people and even older people become followers of Jesus. Thank you for your support in so many ways that make it possible for people to choose Jesus .

Summer Plans at That Place For Teens | Steve Pausch

Activity abounds in Brunswick at That Place for Teens, our teen center located across the street from the Brunswick Middle School. We have seen more teens attending our many weekly programs as the COVID-19 restrictions have let up a bit. We are making great inroads into the community as we look toward summer. This summer we have many different activities planned for local teens:

- Community Gardening Food Prep and Cooking lessons Crafts
- Lego Robotics Team Car Detailing Workshop Bicycle Repair
- Outdoor Social Activities Healthy Self Image program

Thank you for your support as we look to get kids in the door so we can share the love of Christ with them. We are seeing a lot more interest in our programming currently and in the future.

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More Than a Number | Steve Pausch

This past year we have all been inundated daily with the numbers associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, maybe so much so that we have stopped looking at numbers the way we used to.

Numbers seem to be important to God also because the Bible is full of detailed numbers throughout its pages. Every business keeps track of their numbers to understand their profitability and risk of doing business. We keep track of lots of numbers at YFC also. We are responsible to report to donors and the government the resources that are donated to us, but we also keep track of all the young people we come in contact with. All these numbers are more than just a number. Every donation comes from a person whom God has moved in their heart to give a gift and every teen is a very complex creation of God, purposefully brought to us by Him, and not just a number.

We log attendance at each meeting or get-together with young people. We know at the end of each school year what kind of impact we had on a community based on the numbers. We are pretty diligent in tracking young people who attend our events and how many different ones they attend in a year. We regularly give them the opportunity to respond to the Gospel message and present it in many unique ways. The most important number we keep track of is those who commit to follow Jesus. And we have a follow up process in place to help get them rooted and grounded in their faith.

Recently, we have been seeing and hearing about a new number, one that doesn't show up on our reports but a number that is definitely Kingdom important.... past students who are now committed followers of Jesus and involved in church. It has been so exciting to hear about and often talk to these followers of Jesus who were not ready to choose Christ while in school.

Isaiah 55:8-11 tells us that God is always working even when we may be done counting. ""For

Relationship Building | Laurie Beal

Recently, my husband and kids were all at work and I was spending a Friday evening, solo, sorting and organizing and cleaning at The Garage. There is ALWAYS lots to do so I take advantage of those alone moments when I can! I realized I hadn't eaten and I put a post on FB asking if there were any of our Garage teens, past or present, in the area who wanted to join me for dinner in 15 minutes, my treat. One of the moms of a garage teen posted that her teen and a friend had been playing basketball but were on their way! The three of us had great conversation and laughs and yummy food...and a discount from the owner that graciously does so when she sees me bring teens in. As we stood up to head our separate ways after eating, the teens asked what I was doing back at the Garage and if they could help in any way! I explained that I was going through baby clothes and prom dresses. They got permission from their moms and willingly spent part of their Friday night hanging prom dresses and sorting baby clothes! What a blessing!

So what do we mean when we talk about relationship building and doing life with teens? Stuff like This!!

This is what I tell prospective volunteers about when I give tours. It is what we encourage each other as mentors to jump in and do. Nothing fancy. Simple things like getting an ice cream cone, going together on a run, praying with a teen, teaching a teen how to drive (and, yes, even stick shift) kayaking, hanging after teen parents group to talk about struggles they are having, going to their graduation parties or hosting them, etc., etc.! Basically, we are just being FAMILY!

And at a recent Thursday night I was listening to a girl welcoming another teen that was there for the first time and she ended her welcome and description with, "basically, we are just one big family here!"

What a JOY that our teens feel the same way and get it! We are so thankful to all of our supporters that contribute to FAMILY happening, alongside Truth and Hope and Jesus being shared!

Rafting is Back | Matt Mountjoy

We are so excited to announce that after last year's cancellation due to COVID-19, we are planning on returning to our normal annual big trip of taking kids to West Virginia for a few days of rafting, swimming, and sharing The Word! Over the last several years, this has become one of the pivotal weeks in our ministry. We have the opportunity to really dig in with students we have built relationships with in a place free of distractions and getting to experience God's beautiful creation and an adventure that they otherwise would probably never get to take part in. June 16-June 19 we will be rafting on The New River through Ace Adventure Resort.

Because a major part of our ministry is working with at-risk and fringe kids, we really work to remove the financial burden from students and their families. The overall cost for a student to go is \$250 dollars. They are required to take part in car wash fundraisers that we do for the trip. We ask families to participate financially, but in some cases, \$50 dollars is still too much to ask, so we also work with those families in finding a way for a student to earn that money by helping out around our teen centers. In general, the car washes tend to yield a few hundred dollars, and we estimate the needed fundraising for this trip to be a total of \$3000 .

This trip is a life-changing experience for these kids. Each year, we have witnessed kids taking big steps towards God and some choosing to make a declaration of faith! This is where you come in! We are not able to do this trip without the prayer support and financial support from our whole family and ministry team. Please be praying for the preparation, for the fundraising, and please pray during the actual trip, June 16-19. And for those of you who would like to help make this trip a reality for a student, any amount of donation is helpful. if you would like to completely sponsor a student's trip it is \$250 a student. Please make a note in the memo that your donation is for rafting. Thank you all so much for your prayer and support!

