



July 2026

Time Really Does Fly... and Every Moment Is So Important | Steve Pausch

Our baby just graduated from high school. We were blessed to have our first child in 1992 and afterwards, a doctor told us we probably wouldn't have any more. Well, our youngest of 6 has just graduated and is heading off to Ohio State in the fall to study architecture. Where has the time gone? As we reflect and get pictures ready for the graduation party, we are reminded how blessed we are and how quickly things change. For nearly 35 years we have had at least one child in our home each morning and each night.

We started married life and full time ministry with YFC in 1989 and through all those years, not only did we have our own children in our home, but there were also many other children around all the time. Hundreds of young people sharing their hopes and fears with us over ice cream, or a snack, and many times dinner. We've had thousands of conversations through all kinds of activities. All of them had a common denominator: spending time together.

This ministry could actually be described in one word... TIME. That is what we do. We go where kids are, —schools, events, hang out places—all with the purpose of spending time with them in an effort to tell them about Jesus and His love for them. This world is often a cruel place, and we provide a refuge from some of that. That is only possible if we are available to meet teens on their time and when they are ready.

This summer, we are doing several types of activities with teens in an effort to be in their world. Summer is different, and without the commonality of school days, it is hard to get kids together. In Brunswick we are trying an evening summer activity time. Day 1 we made birdhouses from wood and Day 2 we did baking of cakes, cupcakes, and brownies. With Day 3 approaching we had a request: "Can we sit and talk next time?" So we did and I wasn't sure what to expect. How many kids do you need at a meeting to make it worth it? Turns out 4 is a pretty good. We had 4 young people show up and one of them was new, brought by a friend. We had some snacks and did a discussion starter activity that quickly turned into a great talk. Two of the four did not believe there was a God. One was trying to explain God to the others and one, a young man, was overwhelmed with the loud, hyper girls at the table who had had too much caffeine it seemed. The discussion was like a ping pong match for 60 minutes as we

went back and forth with our discussions about God, evolution, heaven, creation, and the like. The evening ended with a comment, "Thank you, that made me really think. Do you think I could have a Bible? I've never had one?" I handed her a Bible, and she promised to come back as they ran to the parking lot to leave.

That night on my way home I confessed my frustration when only 4 teens showed up. I thought of all the things I could have been doing at home, I was HUMBLLED. I was so glad I got to spend time with those young people. Only 4 teens at a time, worth it? Yes, PRICELESS!

Thank you for making this possible. Without your generous gifts, we would not be able to be involved so deeply in the lives of teens. Late night phone calls, rides home, and even middle school band concerts are what put us in the lives of kids frequently, and you make that possible.

Impact on the Community | Matt Mountjoy

Often, this is the time of the year when I write an article about the end-of-the-year water fight. Fear not, Water Wars lived on this year and it was a great time, but I want to focus on something a little bit different. The other day I was having a conversation with someone and discussing the challenge of raising funds for the ministry. They asked me a pretty simple question, and the answer is what I want to share with all of you.

The Question: *"What is the impact that The Garage has had on the community this year?"*

The answer:

First and foremost, we have been able to share the life changing story of Christ and His love directly with over 70 individual kids throughout the year. Many of these students had never heard The Gospel before. Additionally, we had the ability to give them a safe and positive place where they could have fun, build relationships with each other, and with adults who care about them. On several occasions, we were able to work with students who had been struggling in school with behavior issues, conflicts with others, feelings like they didn't belong, etc. One of the most rewarding things about doing ministry is being able to provide individual support with kids who need it.

One of my favorite things about this year was the work we did with many students who wanted to grow in their faith and make changes in their lives as they prepared to go out into the world after graduating. We got to see real life change and growth in many of them as they grew closer to the Lord.

We've also had opportunities to establish relationships throughout the community in other ways. Our partnership with the YMCA provided fruitfulness in areas even outside the direct interaction with the students in our ministry. Many students go and hang out at the Y directly after school and while the Y loves having them there, crowd control can be a challenge. So once a week for a few hours, they had some additional adult help that was there able to take some of the weight off of that. Some specific ways that this played out were being able to work with kids who were in conflict, diffusing situations that were occurring with some students, etc. One of the coolest things was being able to have mutually beneficial conversations with the YMCA staff. They were able to share with us things that had been going on with some students and areas the students needed help in, and we were able to share advice with certain staff members who were struggling with ways to interact with some of the students.

There are so many other ways The Garage makes a great impact in the community, like providing formal dresses to countless numbers of students who can't afford those kind of things. We provide a number of teen mothers in the community with support both emotionally and with resources and so much more!

Hopefully, hearing some of the exciting ways we have been able to impact the community this year has been encouraging to you! Please pray for the ministry and for the funding in order to provide this impact!

To God Be The Glory | Laurie Beal

When you work at a ministry or you are involved with ministering to others, there are always stories of God working in super cool ways. And, If you are living a life, which anyone reading this article is, there are also cool stories of how God is weaving your story. The difference, to me, is telling the of the story.

As I start to write, I'm discovering that the idea I want to try to convey is harder than I thought. So, please bear with my attempt.

I'll use an example. Let's say I'm struggling with an addiction or depression or my self image/worth and God helps me up; I want to tell that story to encourage others. I want people that see the transformation to know it's a possibility for THEM also to rise above anything that they are struggling with. I want them to know God and the Hope that only He can offer.

So, simply, the story is me struggling and God lifting me out of the muck and mire. (Psalm 40!) That is easy to get across and it is easy for people to see the Glory is all God. Because they know me and my sinful nature and they probably saw the decline, so it's an easy "sell" that GOD did that and that I couldn't have done it on my own.

Then we have the "ministry story." It's not just God and me anymore. There are now OTHER people struggling. And since I'm doing ministry work and because I absolutely love people...I'm going to help them. And then a cool story ensues. So then, I want to tell that story, too.

Right away with that sentence alone, there can be controversy. The big question... WHY? Why tell it? If our right hand isn't supposed to know what our left is doing(Matthew 6:3) then how can we even know the story to tell it? Well, there's also Psalm 66: 1-2, "Shout for joy to God, all the earth. Sing the glory of His name; make his praise glorious." So, we must tell the story of what GOD has done and praise him!

So, I get to telling the story of the struggles and deep pits those I am helping were in. I tell of how they finally reached up and how I was finally able to reach their hand and help them out. I tell of the relief and freedom the person was able to experience once they were out and the cool stuff that has been able to happen since I pulled them out.

I CRINGE even writing the above paragraph. Do the capital I's stick out to you as much as they do me? The capital I can really get in the way of a really cool God story. They can get in the way of people seeing the true hero in the story. They can get in the way of the Glory that God deserves. They could

even get in the way of me staying humble.

I have solved this slap fight in my mind when I write Facebook posts. i use a lowercase “i” when I’m telling cool stories that God ALLOWS me to be part of. No one probably notices. But i do. Our fleshly nature wants glory. We like recognition. It feels good to be praised that first second. Then it feels yucky to be taking credit for something that we didn’t do. So as i write, i purposely correct every letter “i” into a lowercase. It’s not as easy as it looks because autocorrect doesn’t like a lowercase “i”, and it’s more humbling than it sounds because my flesh doesn’t like the reminder that i’m not as amazing as i can sometimes think i am and that the enemy wants me to think i am.

Then, i end the story with, “All glory to God”. Because, HE is the one that i/ we need to shout praise to. He allows us to be in the right place at the right time. He allows us to share our pain with others so they know they aren’t alone. He gives us the resources, often through others, when it comes to ministry. He allows us to be a vessel for His strength and His wisdom and His hope to flow through. He is the one who gives us that calling to help. i am humbly grateful for all that God allows me to be part of. i am grateful for the strength he gives me each day and i do not take the privilege of being able to share His Hope with others lightly.

We just had an open house at The Garage to let people see our cool spaces and to tell these stories that we are blessed to be part of. We had a great turnout. As the stories unfolded, there were a couple different people in one of the sessions who told stories about young people that i, thanks to God, have shared life with. Both said the same humbling sentence to me. "You saved their life." Both stories caused tears. i remember the pain and struggle both of these young people were in. i remember the victory when they were pulled out of the pit. And most importantly, i remember WHO. And it wasn't i.

GOD pulled them out. GOD allowed me to be a small part of the story. HE allowed me to love people and show HIS love. HE gave me the resources and the wisdom and the discernment. It's ALL Glory to GOD!!!! But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (ESV)

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