

continued



met young people and so we needed to figure out new ways to meet teens and get them involved. We came up with a great summer plan that included a wrench and ride program (learning to repair bikes), auto detailing, community gardening, cooking classes, craft classes and several more

social group opportunities.

So far this summer, we have had an unbelievable response to these programs and adult leaders and teens are forming great relationships. Parents often hang around to watch and participate with their children. Our prayer is that these opportunities continue on into our Fall ministry season bringing kids to become involved in deepening relationships and a life-changing experience of knowing Jesus.

Thank you for helping make all these ministry opportunities possible with your prayers and support.



The professionals at Scrub-A-Dub Detailing taught teens how to detail a car and they detailed the Brunswick Police Department's vehicle.

**YOUTH  
FOR CHRIST**

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July 2021

**Making Up For Lost Time | Steve Pausch**

This Spring when the COVID protocols began to loosen, and we were given the OK by the Health Department to begin meeting with teens again at full capacity, we began to plan for a busy summer. Brunswick and Wadsworth both began to get ready for the rafting trip after a year off that you can read about when you turn the page.

The Brunswick staff team led by Stacey Stender began to brainstorm ways to be able to get many kids into the building this summer. I have been doing teen

ministry for a long time, and the past year has changed just about every way we do ministry. Teens are no longer hanging out in public where we used to meet them. We were not able to attend sporting events at schools where we used to meet many young people since tickets were only available for family. Staff used to attend band concerts, choir concerts, and school musicals all of which were effected by the pandemic. These challenges were going to greatly impede the way we



Continued on back



## Rafting 2021 | Matt Mountjoy and Laurie Beal

*"Satan prowls like a roaring lion, seeking whom he will devour. Yet I know that he keeps on trying, he's no match for Jesus power, baby" – Lost and Found*



Several years ago I talked with the students on the rafting trip about how when God was moving, the enemy doesn't like it. He will provide as many distractions as he can to keep God's word from staying in the forefront. Apparently that talk resonated with them, because when distractions and negative things started popping up on this year's trip the few students that were around for that talk those years back were quick to remind me: "It's just like you talked with us about that one time! God must be doing something good!"



Yet, here's the HIGH of the trip. In the midst of all that yuck, when the enemy was trying to squelch the good, we saw GOD continually move and show up in a waterfall of blessings sprinkled throughout our time there that came in the form of: happy tears, forgiveness, laughter, a gift of waterpark passes for everyone from Ace Adventures for the extra day we had to stay, extended checkout, more meaningful conversations, more GOD sharing moments, an impromptu Facebook fundraiser that brought in \$55 more than we needed to cover the unexpected expenses, more phone-free time with young people, and a charter bus driver that was entertaining and a Christ follower trying to make a difference in the world around him...and he lives in Canton and has been considering volunteering somewhere local! Hmmm?

How great it is to know that God WAS in fact moving on this trip. We brought with us 22 students between Brunswick and Wadsworth. I heard many conversations and had more conversations with students about spiritual growth and commitment and following Christ and making positive changes in their lives. Even more than that we had two students that made commitments to Christ for the first time! We've also been able to set up follow up appointments to continue to mentor them. God is good!



"Connection" was the high of the trip for me. And also, honestly, it was the bulk of frustration for me, personally. Just being honest. I've been "unpacking" that thought since we got back. And I've come up with this...

Being so present and connected for a generation that is used to being disconnected can be overwhelming to them and can bring out irritability and anxiety. All of that certainly, at least partially, contributed to interpersonal issues and anxiety and meltdowns that were a CONSTANT to deal with. It was tiring, yet also was full of more opportunities God was giving us to build relationships, cheer on kids, teach lessons on healthy communication and discuss a type of forgiveness that models how God forgives us. In addition to that ongoing vibe of disarray, there was a feeling that the enemy was trying to stop these connections being made in the mess. That feeling came along with a barrage of mishaps that were sprinkled all through each day that included (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) a sprained ankle, panic attacks, an overheating episode, many tears, hurt feelings, misunderstandings, an injury resulting in an ER trip (a leader and thankfully no permanent injuries), sunburns, a kiddo that was sick and had to be picked up by a parent, a fall into a firepit (a leader...and thankfully no burns,) ....and ultimately, a bus that wouldn't start or be able to take us home, resulting in an extra day to entertain and feed teens. We had to find phone service to find an alternative mode of transportation ....which was a charter bus in the tune of \$1800 which came with an arrival home time of 430am... the NEXT day. UGH, right!?!



Thank you for your prayers and your giving for this trip! We all made it back safe (thanks to an incredible late night save by a bus driver named Jeffrey) and I can say that without doubt, kids lives were impacted and changed! Praise God that He can work through the distractions that we can get caught up in.

