



From the Heart of Youth Ministry

Volume 4, Issue 2

January 31, 2010

Uth Beat

Snow Outside, Sun Shine Inside at WINGS!

With the January snow and temperatures in the teens, you would have had no doubt this Tuesday that it is winter in Ohio...*If you were outside*, that is.

But if you had ventured *inside* of Orrville Mennonite Church during WINGS, you might have started to get the feeling that you had been transported to summer—in Hawaii! That's because this Tuesday was our annual Beach Party, a night to leave the January dreariness behind, and warm up Aloha-style! Leis and hula skirts, sand and beach towels, fish and flamingos, lounge chairs and Beach Boys surfer songs all helped set the mood for an evening of sunshine and fun times!



Above, a colorful beach ball bounces back and forth over our Beach-towel volleyball net.

At left, Limbo champion Adriane shows off her skills, while Chris tries out his own method.



Kayla and Lorynn practice their swing in the Hula contest, while Bonita and Nic take some time to relax on the "beach" and enjoy their shaved ice slushies made by Donna and Deb Horst.

At Sharla's beach-art face-painting station, Liz decides to have a flip-flop painted on her leg instead.



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Upcoming Youth Ministry Birthdays

Send a card, write a note, and thank God for their lives!

- February 2 — Anthony Immel, Joshua Squirrel, Audrey Smith

Last issue we asked you to pray for upcoming spiritual growth opportunities for our youth...Here is an update on how your prayers were answered!

Jr. Highers Learn Life Lessons about Loving Others at Camp Luz

BreakAway took 10 kids to the Camp Luz retreat...here's what some of them had to say...

"The retreat was awesome! We did a lot of things including playing nuke'em, mini-golf, and listening to the guest speaker, Dr. Don Bartlette. He taught me a valuable lesson about treating everyone equal." ~Thomas M.



The girls pose with Don, excited to get to share their table and chat with him for a meal.

"One thing I liked about the speaker was his story was touching and really meant something to me." ~Josh F.

"The weekend when we went to Camp Luz I enjoyed doing activities such as snow sculptures, outside games, and free time...and most of all I enjoyed hearing Don (the speaker) telling his life story. It really impressed me that whenever people would make fun of him or abuse him he would never fight back. I wish I had peace like that!" ~Emily G.

"What I learned at the retreat is that you shouldn't judge people just because they have differences." ~Riley C.

"We played games and ate meals that were all very good... We saw a man named Don Bartlette and his stories were soo sad that me and Brooke and Emily started to cry a little." ~Alyssa J.



A favorite activity—giant snowballs!

"The food was cool because we got to eat a lot. We also made a giant snowball....We had winter Olympics and they were fun. Our speaker was awesome because he was a Native American that was abused as a child. I loved

the band because we danced and sang to it. That was what my camp experience was like." ~Kendal K. (1st time at Luz)

Footprints Youth Receive Message of The Cross at Inspiration Hills

Footprints has had some incredible learning opportunities in the past 2 weeks. Ken Wengerd interacted with and taught our youth over Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - our annual Winter Retreat time. Ken talked about the wounds Jesus suffered on the Cross - abandonment, betrayal, rejection, false witness (gossip, misrepresentation), rejection, abuse, humiliation, sarcastic labeling. Ken asked the kids (13 were present) if they had situations in their lives that included any of these wounds. He then spoke of and invited those listening to join in with the invitations of the Cross—salvation, forgiveness of sin, freedom, healing, blessings, and life.

Youth during some free time for card games, with guests from Longenecker Mennonite.



A spiritual object lesson to illustrate Ken's point...or just fun to watch teens trying to catch flying objects in their mouths...

