



From the Heart of Youth Ministry

Volume 1, Issue 1
October 28 2007

Uth Beat

Inside this issue:

BreakAway Café' 2
serves up another
success!

Choose your Cause! 2

Two Youth Make 2
Decisions to Be
Baptized

From a Youth Pastor's Heart: Keeping Connected

"Jan, I had an idea yesterday."

I plop down in the extra desk chair across from Jan, and she smiles at me and waits expectantly. She's used to being the initial springboard for any crazy ideas I come up with.

"Well, I was thinking about all the articles I'd like to write to tell the church about the exciting things that have been happening in youth ministry lately. But if I wrote all those ideas for the *In Touch*, I'd feel like I was taking over! So then I thought, what if we put out a youth ministry newsletter opposite of the *In Touch*, and then I could put a lot

more articles in it, and other special interest columns, and pictures, and profiles of kids...What do you think?"

Well, you can guess she was supportive and encouraging, because that's just Jan! (Although I did get an e-mail later after she gave it some thought, with concern that there might not be anything left for the *In Touch* if I stop writing youth ministry things in it, and I assured her that my regular columns would stay. But that's a challenge to all of you who are involved in other ministries of the church to contribute updates on what you are doing to share with the rest of the church, too!)

So today (Friday) my wonderful husband showed me a few things on Microsoft Publisher, and I'm venturing to create my first newsletter.

My hope is that this format can reach more of you than the e-mail updates, and you might be more likely to read it! It also opens the door for more of the youth and children to contribute in their own ways as well. So, enjoy! (And don't judge my amateur attempts at layout and graphic design too harshly!)

~Tara Michelle Steiner

Upcoming Youth Ministry Birthdays

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

- October 31st—
Diane Hostetler, Staff
- November 1—
Simeon Geiser, OMC
- November 6—
Tara Steiner, Staff
- November 10—
Kate Fleming, Footprints
Kelli Fleming, Footprints

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E-mail from a Mom's Heart

When you work in ministry day in and day out, sometimes it gets hard to see past all the details and routine stresses and remember the big picture of what is being accomplished. Or sometimes you think you see something, but can't trust yourself to make the claim because it might be wishful thinking. And then, every once in a while, you get an affirmation from someone else, and it reassures you that everything has been worth your effort.

Here is one such e-mail I received this past week about WINGS:

Hi Tara, its Marie- Jaida's mom. I wanted to tell you how wonderful I think your program has been for Jaida. She has learned so much and has become closer to God through all the hard work you all do. Keep up the good work. You're making great spiritual growth in our children.

BreakAway Café Serves up another success!

What do you get when you mix junior high kids, lots of yummy sweet baked goods, coffee, loud music, and a good cause? The BreakAway Café!

Last month, the kids of BreakAway were busy making plans to host a café fundraiser. The first time BreakAway held a café, the staff organized the event for the youth. This time, we decided to put the project in their hands.

So on the Thursday before the café, BreakAway youth spent their evening designing posters

and flyers to hang on their lockers and pass out at school, and everyone got to be involved in baking some of the tasty treats they would be selling at the café, including chocolate chip bars, cherry chunk cake, and Jan's famous Rice Krispie treats.

On the night of the café, the fellowship hall was transformed. Tables of various sizes and shapes were scattered around the room. Couches and comfy chairs surrounded a stage area

for the band, which was made up of 4 Central Christian seniors—Ryan Steiner as lead singer, Logan Miller on electric guitar, Isaac Bartholomew on bass, and John David Eades on drums. They played a variety of upbeat praise and worship songs, some that they were trying out together for the first time.

If you went up to the kitchen counter, you could be served up a mocha by

coffee connoisseur Ben Myers, or a creamy milkshake by Diane Hostetler and 7th grader Stephanie Bryant,

the blender queens. LeRoy Reed, a 7th grader, would be eager to take your money and give you the correct change. Other kids relaxed on the couches listening to the music, played carpetpool, or sat around tables playing games with the BreakAway leaders.

So was the café a success? Says 6th grader Nathan Otto, "The milkshakes were good, and the music too."

7th grader Courtney Pauley adds, "We had snacks, the snacks were cheap, it was for a good cause, and the band was cool." Sounds like a success to me!

We were able to donate \$20 to MCC, \$10 to Compassion, and \$20 to Heifer International.

Choose your cause!

So what was the "good cause" for holding a fundraiser café? "To raise money for people" explained Nathan Otto.

BreakAway Café patrons actually had 3 options for where their money could go when they bought their snack. The first was an MCC project to build dams in Vietnam to bring clean water to people, the second was to contribute to Compassion International's fund to help support children who don't yet have their own sponsor, and the third was the buy a share in a llama to be given to a family in South America through Heifer International.

Each project had it's own jar, and the kids could choose to divide their money between them as they felt led. But how does one decide who faced with so many good causes to support? Said 9th grader Rebecca Snyder who came to show her support to the BreakAway kids, "You can't go wrong with llamas!" Nathan was a little more divided in his interests: "I put a dollar in each."

In the end, all causes won. We were able to donate \$20 to MCC, \$10 to Compassion, and \$20 to Heifer International.



Two Youth Make Decisions to be Baptized

"Tara, I want to tell you some exciting news. Last night I got baptized." There are few phone calls that can be as thrilling as that, when you've been shepherding a child to grow in God's love, and she takes that next step for herself! That's the phone call I received from BreakAway 7th grader Courtney Pauley two weeks ago. When asked what led her to make that decision, she said, "Well, it's just something I've wanted to do for a long time." Courtney had begun expressing interest in baptism two summers ago when she saw Greg and Derek's immersion baptisms at the Camp Luz service. The opportunity finally opened to her when she was at a church event with a friend, and they gave an open invitation to anyone who would like to make that commitment.

The next Tuesday at WINGS, we got another exciting surprise. Zachary Weese, WINGS 5th grader, shared that he had recently been to Washington DC, and had made the decision to be baptized. He was proud to report that his dad baptized him on the steps of the Capitol Building! "We thought about doing it in the reflection pool, but decided that might not be a good idea." Probably not, but the steps of the capitol building is still a pretty cool place to claim as your spiritual birthplace! I asked what getting baptized means to him: "That I accept Jesus as my Savior and Lord and all that stuff." Well said, Zach!

Congratulations to both Courtney and Zach in taking this new step with Jesus. We appreciate your prayers for them as they learn more about being faithful followers through any of the unknown "stuff" that God might have for their lives as they grow!



Heifer International allows people to receive a gift that keeps on giving—livestock they can raise.