



**YOUTH
FOR SIOUXLAND
CHRIST®**

THE MESSAGE

siouxlandyfc.org

Spring 2014

From the Director...

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL AND PRAYER

I recently returned from an eight day missions trip to Caiman, Haiti. The purpose of the trip was to serve the missionaries of United Christian International and the local Haitian people. While in Caiman we assisted with construction support, and delivered food and clothing to the very poor. Night after night we heard testimonies from former witch doctors who had been converted from voodooism to Christianity. And in every testimony I realized that it was the power of the Gospel and prayer that had overcome the darkness of voodoo and broken the pacts these witch doctors had made with Satan.

As we went out walking the narrow dusty pathways each day, we met many people who were living in fear of the darkness and oppression of voodoo. And as we prayed for them, through the help of interpreters, many received Christ and others came down from the nearby hills to witness what was taking place. It was as if God was creating a revival for us to bear witness to the power of His name and His Gospel through prayer!

Although I am now back home, my mind continues to process what I witnessed in Haiti, and I keep asking myself "what is God speaking to me about our mission here at YFC?" I believe God has shown me...when we are faithful to pray and share the Gospel...GOD will be faithful to move the hearts of people to begin a relationship with His Son Jesus Christ. That power is greater than anything in this world!



Karl Van Cura
Executive Director

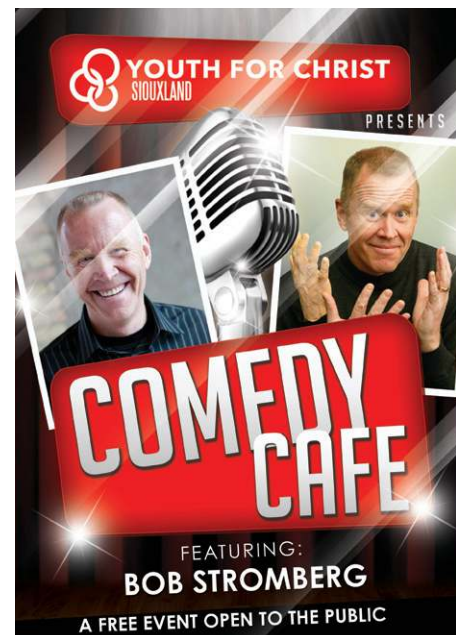
COMEDY FOR A CAUSE

Last year, Siouxland Youth for Christ introduced a new event called the Comedy Café. The vision: comedy for a cause. We wanted people to laugh and have a great time with family and friends, while supporting a worthy mission.

We are thrilled to have Bob Stromberg as our featured comedian this year. For over thirty years, Bob has been delighting audiences of all ages with his perfect blend of stand-up, story and shtick (a routine which focuses on a special interest or talent to gain a laugh). Always clean, his presentation is a disarming, healthy blend of knee-slapping comedy and wholesome encouragement. He is known by many for his appearances on the awarding winning TV comedy show Bananas and for his recent appearance on America's Got Talent.

“If you haven't attended a Comedy Café, you won't want to miss this one!”

The Comedy Café provides an environment where everyone can come and learn about the ministry and be inspired by life stories of teens. It also provides an opportunity for people to join a meaningful mission



that is changing lives right in their own back yard. The Comedy Café will feature desserts, great coffee and a chance to support the life-changing mission of Youth for Christ.

To learn more or reserve your seats for the event visit www.siouxlandyfc.org or call 712-255-9599 today! The event is free but reservations are required. Make plans now to join us for a night filled with inspiration and laughter!

NEW LOGO. SAME GREAT ORGANIZATION.

Youth for Christ has an updated image, a new look representing a unified and renewed commitment to serving youth in every community across the U.S. The three circles in the graphic mark represent God, youth and the YFC organization.

COMING FULL CIRCLE

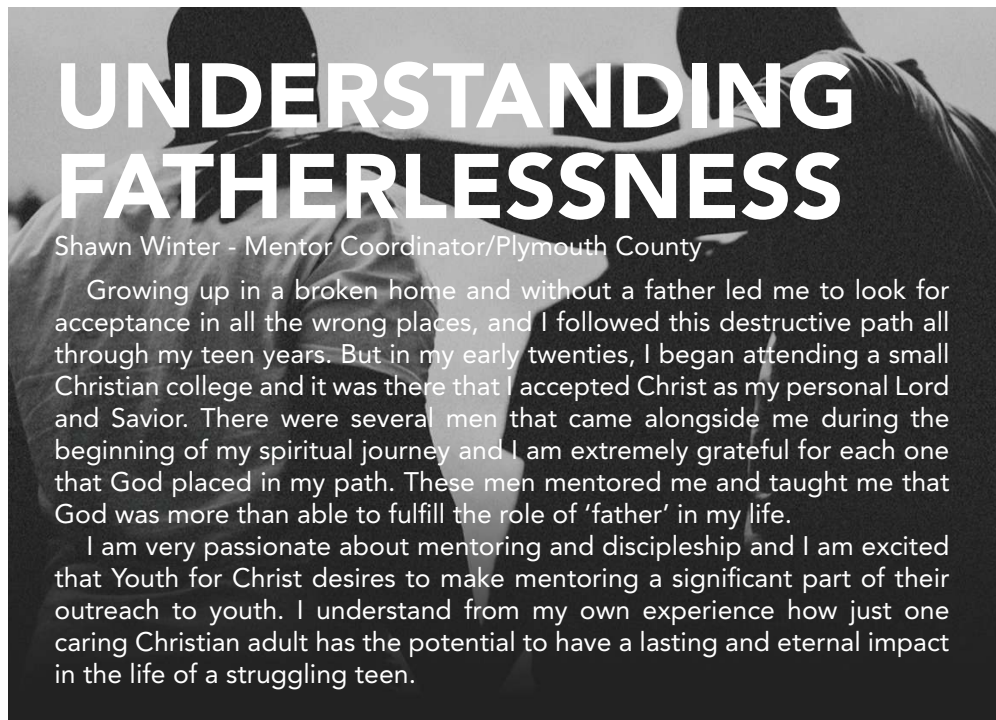
Erin Ryden - MS Campus Life Director/Tri-City

Hi my name is Erin. I began my journey with Youth for Christ at the age of 12, as a 7th grader attending North Middle School in Sioux City, Iowa. I was invited by a neighbor who was a volunteer at the teen center "The Underground" to come check out the activities they had going on. Enticed by the food, free entertainment and a place to hang out with my friends, I began going to The Underground multiple nights a week. At a small group there, a German intern named Andrea led me to Christ at the age of 12. Fast forward nine years and I am now working as a Campus Life Director at North Middle School. Since coming to Christ, the Lord has progressively given me a stronger desire to minister to teens that are desperately in need of encountering Him. And I'm happy to be a partner with Siouxland YFC in the ministry of leading lost young souls to Jesus.

DEEP DISH PIZZA

Jim Rahn - Plymouth County Area/Chapter Ministry Growth Director

After trying multiple deep dish pizzas in Chicago at our Midwinter Conference, the YFC staff came to the consensus that Giordano's was the best! Why is that important? Well...it really isn't...but I hope I caught your attention! What IS important is that our Midwinter conference was GREAT! YFC/USA did an excellent job of investing in their staff and board members nationwide and encouraging us to keep doing what we do! Not only were we given the directives and tools we need to do our ministries better, but we were reminded of the reason and importance of why we do what we do! We were able to get some rest and build on our relationships as a team...not to mention enjoy lots of delicious pizza!



UNDERSTANDING FATHERLESSNESS

Shawn Winter - Mentor Coordinator/Plymouth County

Growing up in a broken home and without a father led me to look for acceptance in all the wrong places, and I followed this destructive path all through my teen years. But in my early twenties, I began attending a small Christian college and it was there that I accepted Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. There were several men that came alongside me during the beginning of my spiritual journey and I am extremely grateful for each one that God placed in my path. These men mentored me and taught me that God was more than able to fulfill the role of 'father' in my life.

I am very passionate about mentoring and discipleship and I am excited that Youth for Christ desires to make mentoring a significant part of their outreach to youth. I understand from my own experience how just one caring Christian adult has the potential to have a lasting and eternal impact in the life of a struggling teen.



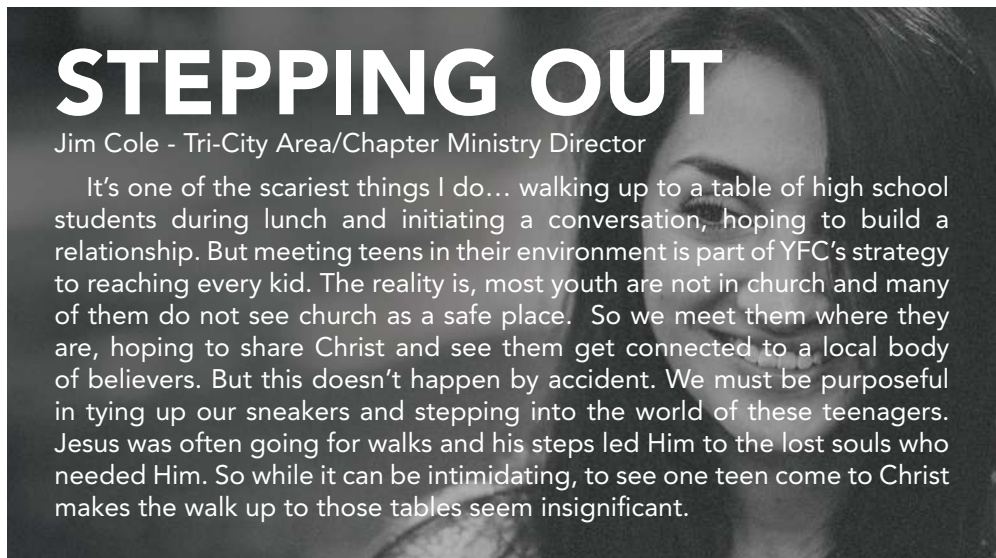
YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF STORIES. 2014 PLYMOUTH COUNTY SPRING BANQUET

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

- 6:00 - DOORS OPEN
- 6:25 - MEAL & PROGRAM BEGINS
- 8:15 - END OF PROGRAM

WILLOW CREEK GOLF COURSE
935 PARK LANE • LE MARS, IOWA 51031

PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY, MARCH 24 TO ROXIE@SIOUXLANDYFC.ORG OR 712-546-8883



STEPPING OUT

Jim Cole - Tri-City Area/Chapter Ministry Director

It's one of the scariest things I do... walking up to a table of high school students during lunch and initiating a conversation, hoping to build a relationship. But meeting teens in their environment is part of YFC's strategy to reaching every kid. The reality is, most youth are not in church and many of them do not see church as a safe place. So we meet them where they are, hoping to share Christ and see them get connected to a local body of believers. But this doesn't happen by accident. We must be purposeful in tying up our sneakers and stepping into the world of these teenagers. Jesus was often going for walks and his steps led Him to the lost souls who needed Him. So while it can be intimidating, to see one teen come to Christ makes the walk up to those tables seem insignificant.

GET INVOLVED... CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Because that's what happens. Whether you volunteer with ministering to teens, drive the van, host an intern, cook a meal, serve on a ministry support team, pray for the staff and students, or support YFC financially, your involvement changes YOU! And in turn, it changes others. So get involved this year...and help us reach a generation of kids that desperately need to know Jesus! Contact YFC for specific ways to help or volunteer at siouxlandyfc.org or 712-255-9599.

MORE THAN ENOUGH

Heidi Boehme - MS Campus Life Director/Plymouth County

In September of 2013, we began holding a Campus Life Middle School Club in the Le Mars Middle School. Previously, we'd been holding the club at the teen center, but decided to bring CLM straight to the students. The impact was huge! Our attendance went from 15 kids per week to 80 kids per week! As exciting as this was, we quickly realized that MORE kids meant that we needed MORE volunteers to connect with more students and MORE funds to provide more food and cover the expenses of MORE activities. But we also realized that God had given us an opportunity to share MORE of His love with the students, to build MORE connections with the kids and their families, and to make MORE of an impact for Him. It's easy to get overwhelmed with the need for MORE...however; in the midst of all our needs, God reminded us that He is MORE than capable and MORE than enough. He is all we need!

STAFF UPDATES

Milestones in years of service – Karl, Shawn, Erin, Sandy (less than 1 year each), Raymona (1), Heidi (2), Roxie (5), Judy (8), Emma (8), Luke (10), Jim Rahn (14) and Jim Cole (16). We thank you for your dedication and combined 65 years of ministry service and experience!

Congratulations to Roxanne Rahn - City Life Director/Plymouth County and Heidi Boehme - MS Campus Life Director/Plymouth County on being credentialed by YFC/USA! This process includes an intense two week training program that focuses on spiritual and professional formation, including logging hours in ministry experience and writing a reflective paper on seven core beliefs of the Bible. The overall process takes 18-24 months. We are proud of their accomplishment and excited for the ministry impact we know they will make!



Roxanne Rahn

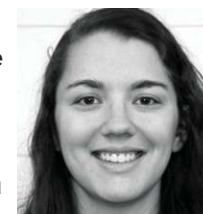


Heidi Boehme

Shawn Winter - Mentor Coordinator/Plymouth County and Erin Ryden - MS Campus Life Director/Tri-City. Welcome to Shawn, our new Mentor Coordinator (Oct) and Erin, our Campus Life Middle School Director at North Middle in Sioux City (Dec). So glad to have you on board!



Shawn Winter



Erin Ryden

Raymona McClain - Parent Life Coordinator/Tri-City. Congratulations to the new parents of Brayden (born

Jan 31) and Lyndon (born Feb 12)! Your continued prayers for these young parents, these children and for this ministry are very much appreciated!



Raymona McClain

Luke Cargin - HS Campus Life Director/Plymouth County. We started 2014 off with a pizza party and we're excited to see several new students attend! Hoping this year brings even more students as well as new volunteers for this much needed ministry.



Luke Cargin

Sandy Mentzel - Communications & Event Coordinator. Sandy joins YFC as our new Communications/Event Planner (Jan). She will manage all social media for the chapter and organize all events! She is eager to see God work and glad to be part of our team.



Sandy Mentzel

We welcome Carina Bergen and Rebecca Raiser as our new German interns at YFC. Carina has been a Christian since she was a young child and states "sometimes God changes whatever you are doing and sends you on a new adventure. That's why I'm here." Rebecca comes from a very small village in Germany and says "It was God's plan, not mine, to do such an internship. Now I'm here and very excited to spend the next six months here."



Carina Bergen



Rebecca Raiser

GET "THE MESSAGE" VIA E-MAIL We can send future versions of this newsletter via e-mail. Just give us your e-mail address by sending it to Sandy Mentzel at sandy@siouxlandyfc.org.



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FOR CHRIST**
SIOUXLAND

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Sioux City, IA 51102

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YFC Staff

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Karl Van Cura

Tri-City Area/Chapter Ministry Director

Jim Cole

Plymouth Area/Chapter Ministry Growth Director

Jim Rahn

City Life Director/Plymouth County

Roxie Rahn

HS Campus Life Director/Plymouth County

Luke Cargin

MS Campus Life Director/Plymouth County

Heidi Boehme

Mentor Coordinator/Plymouth County

Shawn Winter

Parent Life Coordinator/Tri-City

Raymona McClain

MS Campus Life Director/Tri-City

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Judy VandeZandschulp



*** 2014 ***
YOUTH FOR CHRIST
CHARITY GOLF
CLASSIC

SAVE THE DATE!
- JUNE 30, 2014 -

Invite your friends for the opportunity to play in a four-person scramble at one of Siouxland's premier golf courses.

Whispering Creek Golf Club

SPONSORED BY