



From the Director... PRAYING, WAITING AND GOING.

"Jesus himself did not try to convert the two thieves on the cross; he waited until one of them turned to him." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Reaching out to troubled, abused and hopeless kids, as YFC so often does, is not a comfortable ministry. The space between our comfortable lives and the real world disappears. God calls us out of safety and into the realm of faith.

He gives us an ache for lost kids in our community...like Julian who walks the halls of our local schools in a fog of confusion, loneliness and self-destruction...like Jose who walks around in an orange jumpsuit in a local detention center...like Josiah who walks the streets at night because no one at home cares.

When safety gives way to courage and the Gospel becomes our only weapon, everything changes. Imitating Christ we go into the world of teens sharing the transforming message of hope, waiting until one of them turns towards us, turns towards the reflected image of Christ.

In this newsletter, there is a message of YFC praying, waiting and going to the lost kids of Siouxland, sharing a message that the words of Jesus are still relevant today.

Called out of safety and into the realm of faith, we become agents of mercy. We believe God redeems and restores and that He uses His people and His Church to deliver and embrace.

It is on this foundation and with this vision that we invite you to step out of the predictable and comfortable, and step into the realm of faith, where God moves to give life to your story and theirs, through the life of His story!



Karl Van Cura -
Executive Director

A LIFE THAT MATTERS. STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION FROM THE COMEDY CAFE.

We recently had our annual Comedy Café in Sioux City. If you were not there I will tell you that my favorite part wasn't the comedy, the

delicious food or time with family and friends... My favorite part was sharing the transformation stories of Siouxland kids. "Meth addict at 13; today 160 days sober..." or "My parents got a divorce, but I've been reconciled to Christ..." and one of the biggest realities that our ministry faces, "Hearing the Gospel every week, but I still have questions..." As the kids walked across the stage sharing their stories of transformation, I was overwhelmed!

I also experienced a very personal transformation story that evening as well. I reconnected with a guy who had come to The Underground around the same time I had, over 10 years ago. Our lives had taken very different paths back then. I had come to Christ as a teen and he had taken the path of drug addiction and jail time. Imagine my joy a decade later when I got the text saying that he had come to Christ and is now 2 months sober, I was overjoyed!

Ten years ago this month I gave my life to Christ and it has been forever changed! To think it all started with a faithful German intern who befriended me and faithfully shared the Gospel with me.

It would be worth our time, money and daily devotion even if just one person would faithfully share the Gospel; but I am reminded that we are not one, we are an army of many. God used Youth for Christ to transform my life 10 years ago, and He continues to use Youth for Christ to pursue lost kids to transform theirs...with his perfect love and redemption.



By: Erin Ryden
MS Campus Life Director / Sioux City

PROCEEDS FROM OUR SALES WILL SUPPORT LOCAL SIOUXLAND YFC MINISTRY PROGRAMS



COLORADO PEACHES ARE COMING!

Not on our ordering list? Send your name and address to Sandy@siouxlandyfc.org to be added!

Tom Cook to Join YFC Staff in Hawarden / Sioux County

By Tom Cook / Sioux County Area Director

I am super excited to become part of the YFC family! I retired from the Air Force after serving 19 years and I have been given the opportunity to come aboard with Youth for Christ as the Sioux County Area Director in Hawarden. Also as I expectantly wait to start on July 1st, I am just completing my youth pastor degree.

This dream of working with youth has been a long passion of mine. It is my prayer that the youth in Hawarden will come to the full knowledge and understanding of the relationship they can have in Jesus Christ.

Our vision at YFC is to pursue every lost kid with the message of hope found only in Jesus. Our mission is to share our life experience of transformation through a Christ-sharing relationship and connect these kids with the church.

Sioux County has over 2000 teenagers and in Hawarden alone there are nine churches without a single youth pastor on staff. This is huge responsibility for YFC to collaborate with the local church to reach these lost students and share the message of hope in Jesus Christ. This mission field is ready for the harvest!

My wife Roxanne and I are praying that there will be open doors in partnership and resources with like-minded people to help us go into the community to pursue this lost generation of kids - one relationship at a time.

Plymouth County Opens New City Life Center!

By Roxie Rahn / Le Mars City Life Director

Jim and I worked at The Asylum (the old teen center location) the last night it was open on purpose. We wanted to close it out, so to speak. We had so many kids come in that hadn't been there in quite some time and reactions were mixed. Some were asking all kinds of questions about the new place and volunteering their services. Others were almost mourning all of the hours they spent at The Asylum. They said they came to say good-bye.

After the kids and volunteers were gone, Jim and I spent some pretty emotional time thanking God for all of the lives touched within those walls and the work He had done in and through us. We thanked Him for the blessing of the new building and all that He was going to do in those walls.

The new City Life Center opened in February and attendance has been 25% higher than it was at the old location. A few comments from kids include: Andrew said he likes the new center better than the old one and will be there a lot more... Hazel said family mealtime was welcoming even though she didn't know everyone, it really did feel like family...Jordan said FINALLY! I missed you being open and couldn't wait to come back to do puzzles with volunteers...and one boy whose father passed away unexpectedly came and said he just needed to come hang with people who loved him and not think about his dad.

The new City Life Center is such a blessing and so nice to have, but I don't ever want to forget that ministry is about going out like Jesus did into the world of kids. We are to meet them where they are...and love them just as they are...even in their mess. May we never get complacent and wait.

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