

## View From the Executive Directors Desk

By Karl Van Cura

The summer heat is waning and the cooler evenings are a reminder fall is around the corner. YFC is in its final preparations to launch fall ministry programs next month. Changing seasons always remind me that God is in control of weather and our ministry. Even late newsletters like this one!

I am always amazed of God's continued faithfulness to his church. He orchestrates the moves of the church in our communities to partner with ministries - like YFC. The collaborations he develops between the church, like-minded individuals and service providers with YFC shows his faithfulness in placing us on the front lines of ministry together. Because of this greater amounts of lost kids are being found and matured into faith, as we faithfully partner to build Christ-sharing relationships with lost kids.

**"Now to Him who is able to do infinitely more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us..." Ephesians 3:20**, we step out into the community in faith with God before us, opening doors to reach lost kids in tough places... kids who are living in difficult, neglected, or abusive home situations.

Looking forward I see God doing, "infinitely more than all we ask or imagine," through this ministry. The articles included, illustrate God reaching lost kids through staff and their ministry teams. Would you pray about how you could remain faithful in stewarding your talent, time and resources with YFC? There is much more God wants to do in this community with lost kids of this generation.

## JJM - Ripe For The Harvest

By Jim Cole

I really enjoy the opportunities that God gives us to serve the incarcerated young men and ladies that we minister to each week through the YFC Juvenile Justice Ministries (JJM). This field is very "ripe for the harvest". They are seeking for something that would give their life story meaning. They have tried the drugs, tried the money, and tried the sex and have realized that these things do not really bring meaning to life. It is an awesome privilege to be able to introduce them to the one who gives real life and can give their life real meaning and satisfaction.

Today JJM ministry serves with students in the alternative schools, at Woodbury Juvenile Detention and Woodbury and Plymouth County Choices Diversion programs. We are in small groups 4 to 5 times per week. The most exciting part of this ministry is not our current activities, but rather the doors God is opening to us for the future.

We have recently entered into an agreement with the Iowa Juvenile Courts to initiate and facilitate an aftercare program for youth coming out of court ordered facilities in the state of Iowa. We are also stepping into a role to help court ordered youth in the facilities to visualize their future through a planning system called YTDM (Youth Transitional Decision-making). In the next few months we will enter into the development stages of these two new opportunities.

YFC is stepping forward in faith reflecting on **2 Corinthians 5:17**. We believe this program will be a means to a relationship that creates a new life transformed. The old has gone, and new has come.

The vision for JJM the next couple of years is to be positioned to help court ordered youth in 14 NW Iowa counties build support systems, plan for their future and transition from locked facilities to a new transformed life in their neighborhoods. We have hired 1 new staff, but this will obviously require more staff and many more volunteers willing to coach and mentor. Please pray to the God of the harvest to send workers and resources.



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# Reaching Broken and Isolated Youth in Hawarden

By Tom Cook

When we arrived in Hawarden (Sioux County) one year ago programs were nonexistent. Today we have the City Life Center open one night per week averaging 20 students. During the school year we hold monthly Snack Giveaways and Early Out activities in the West Sioux Middle and High School. All with the intention of building relationships and trust with the students, school administration and community.

We have met one student who comes to the City Life Center nearly every week. He bounces between living at mom's and dad's, and he has numerous siblings. We don't fully know all of his story, but each interaction is an investment into his life story. As we listen to his story, we see he doesn't have any boundaries, which sends him to the principal's office often. Recently his mom called the police on him for mistreating his sister. He can be found alone along the local river banks or roaming the streets on his bike. He is broken and isolated.

Our deepest desire is to invest into him to understand that he is loved just because he is alive and that out of love, Jesus died for him. None of us deserve God's love, but this boy doesn't understand what love is. He lives his life putting walls up so no one really knows him. Please pray that God's love penetrates his heart. Pray for the walls around his heart to be knocked down as we speak life and truth into him.

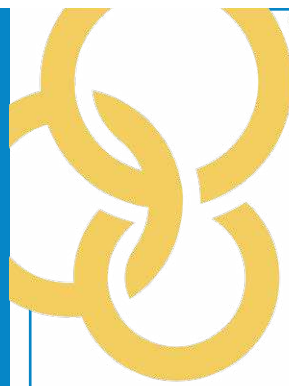
We are excited about new programs starting up this fall and winter like: a Campus Life Middle Club, a tutoring program, a family meal time program and arts and craft program. It is amazing to see what God is doing through partnerships in the community and people around the world that support the YFC ministry in Sioux County.

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TO YOUR  
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is one of those boys that has a lot of mess in his life. His mom is a meth addict and he was removed from her home, because she wasn't taking care of him. Then he was placed with his dad, who has anger issues. As I sat there and prayed for these kids, the music started and I started to hear, YES, from all around me! As we stood up and gathered our groups, student after student came up to me and told me they had said YES to Jesus! Then Matt walked up to me and excitedly exclaimed, "I'm a Christ follower now!" Did Matt's mess go away when he got home? No, but now Matt has someone that he can lean on when times get tough!

Of the 26 Siouxland youth that attended camp this year, 13 kids made first time commitments to Christ, and four said yes again to God's gift of salvation! Thank you to those that made this possible, and to the seven ministry staff and volunteers from Sioux City and Le Mars who took time to build relationships with these kids and by loving on them!



# Summer Fun Yields New Believers in Jesus Christ

By Jim Rahn

What a summer it has been! From Family Meal Time, a pond party, YFC Camp and Parent Life, God has been doing mighty works through our ministries! Roxie and I attended YFC Camp at Quaker Ridge, CO and served a rewarding week on the leadership team. We were stretched spiritually, physically and mentally, but it all payed off the night we heard... Yes Jesus! echoed from the mouths of HS students!

The City Life Center is experiencing growth in student attendance! Opportunities abound to teach Biblical truth and share the Gospel during Family Meal Time and Bible Study groups. Art Ministry and Basketball groups are going strong also. Roxie and volunteers are strengthening relationships daily by investing in kids.

Our Campus Life Ministry partnered with local Le Mars churches to throw a pond party. 100 kids showed up to swim, eat and hear a new youth pastor's spiritual journey. Multiple kids responded by saying... Yes Jesus! We are working to add responsibility to Maria Goodman to oversee both MS and HS Campus Life as Maria took 19 local leaders and students to YFC MS Camp. All week leaders listened to the heart breaking stories of difficult home situations these kids come from. But well worth the reward of kids surrendering to Jesus.

Parent Life is off and running! Recently we had an open house connecting with new teen moms. We are working with Laurie Peters to start on staff part-time this fall to invest in growing the ministry and increasing our presence for these young moms.

## Story of Life Change at YFC Camp

By Maria Goodman

We recently took 32 Siouxland kids to two YFC Camps in late July and early August - Sunstream MS Camp in Odgen, IA and Quaker Ridge HS Camp in Woodland Park, CO. What a beautiful setting to unplug from normal life and be able to hear God speak! This year we talked about giving God our mess and saying YES to him! YES JESUS! is what I heard over and over again on a cool evening as hundreds of students wrote letters to God about their mess and contemplated giving their lives to him.

I had the privilege to sit by a group of boys from Le Mars. Matt