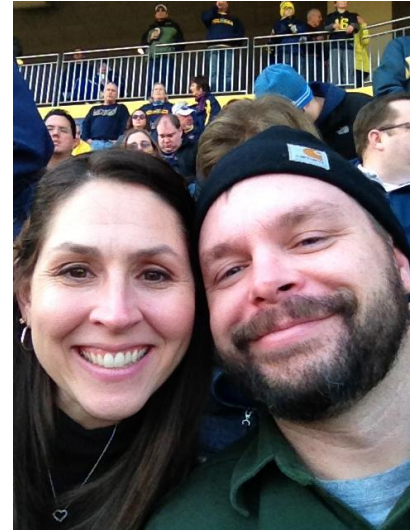


2/1/2013

Dear Friends and Family,

Right now I am typing this letter to you pretty much one handed. I broke my right wrist, cage fighting black bears. Yes, cage fighting bears! That is my side job when I am not hanging out with high school students. Actually I tripped and fell in the driveway and broke a small bone in my wrist that I will not even try and pronounce. Needless to say I am not 18 anymore and cement hurts when it rushes up like that! No surgery or cast, so I'll just be in an annoying brace for a few weeks. Tripping and falling makes me think of some of my past life experience and also what many of my students are going through as well.



Just like I didn't purposefully choose to hit the pavement, "April" didn't start off making bad choices in life. It might have started when mom and dad split up and she couldn't focus right in school. So she started cutting class. Phone calls came from school and as a result the decent relationship with her parents started to crumble because they were too focused on their failing marriage. Now she is fighting with her dad. Her mom isn't in the home and doesn't want anything to do with the family anymore. She started spending more time hanging out with boys who will give her attention, even if it isn't the right attention. She has been in several bad relationships by the young age of 16. Enough boys have hurt her that her attractions have turned to girls. She has been kicked out of school for poor attendance as well as poor grades. She is attending the local adult alternative high school. I have spent a great deal of time with "April" helping her sort things out, often she makes me feel VERY unqualified to do this job. Fortunately for us we have a HUGE God. He's not surprised with what is going on in "April's" life. Psalm 91:4 says, *"He will cover you with His feathers; you will take refuge under His wings. His faithfulness will be a protective shield."* I would love to say that I only spend time with one "April," but that isn't the case.



Fortunately for us God doesn't want to leave us in our own stink and filth forever. He is using us to reach "April's" everywhere. They come from almost every school in the Saginaw area. I have students from five different high schools. It's amazing to see so many kids that are just searching. Thank you for being a part of this team. Kids will not be loved without you on the team. Thank you for being faithful in your giving, especially as many Christmas "bills" come due around now! Heather and I are incredibly grateful for your generosity, support, prayers and love.

Please be praying for some of our upcoming YFC events and trips. We have a Florida spring break for students coming up soon and our annual Wild Game Dinner fundraiser as well. Heather is back on track for the most part health wise, back to work and steadily teaching our children at home. Thank you for being a part of Youth for Christ. Your giving, prayers and love keep us going and we wouldn't be where we are without you!