

Please Pray for:

- + Stacey, Jen, Josh, Chris and Dan - Cedar Point \$75 each
- + Student Cedar Point Scholarships - \$99 each
- + Profitable time this summer with students
- + Maintaining balance in my life with students and my family
- + That summer giving and support to GLBYFC increases in a way that surprises us in an amazing way!

July 1, 2013

How many graduation parties have YOU been to this summer? When my children were really little and we could stick them all in a bathtub at the same time. When we took them out of the tub they would often wiggle past us running through the house with great excitement over their freedom from the clothes that they used to have on. I've talked to other parents and this is apparently normal for children to do after a bath. That is what graduated seniors remind me of in the month of June. Not that they are naked, but they are slippery and hard to catch! Fortunately they quickly run out of energy and when I do catch them they are ready to talk, hang out and share about their plans for the future.



Jr and Hunter helping @ WAYUMI work project

June is often a month of preparation with an element of recovery and rest mingled in there as we quickly move into a busy July. During the school year my boss TELLS me to take a "personal retreat day" once a month. The first time he told me to do this I actually said, "SERIOUSLY?" You want me to use one of my workdays during the month and turn off my phone, and computer and iPad and NOT communicate with students? You want me to go somewhere with my Bible and notebook and pen and just spend the day with God? His answer was, "It's NOT optional." He writes the day down that I pick and holds me accountable to taking a day of rest with God. You might be thinking, "I wish MY boss would tell me to do that." Quickly I realized just how HARD it was to actually KEEP and MAINTAIN those retreat days. My schedule with students and family time fills VERY quickly. I have a job doing full time ministry, what do I need rest from? I will just reschedule my retreat day, I have LOTS of energy and

a free day to fill full of ministry today! Look at ME go! I can get it done ALL on my own! My boss speaks from years of ministry experience and years of walking with Jesus. He knows that today I don't need the rest day with Jesus, but tomorrow I will need it and will wish I could go back and take that time.

Listen to what Jesus tells us, "*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*" Matthew 11:28 (ESV) Jesus also tells us, "*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*" John 15:5 (ESV) God rested after He created EVERYTHING.

Jesus frequently "withdrew" from the crowds to talk to His Heavenly Father. I have yet to regret a single retreat day that I have followed through with. Prayer, reading and meditating on God's very own words is what God wants us to be doing. I am recharged and ready to do what HE wants me to do, even if it is hard. When you get this letter my family and I will just be returning from a week of rest and relaxation in sunny South Carolina. I love the time that I get to spend with my family. I love cooking for my wife for a week. I love catching up on many of the books that I don't get the time to read. I love the extra bible time and podcasted sermons I get to listen to on our 17-hour drive. I love most of all what this time away does for Heather. She is refreshed and rejuvenated after a week of beach time and pool time with her family. I often wonder if God looks at us the same way when we have just spent a whole day resting in God? This vacation ALWAYS comes at the perfect time. When we get back summer activities will start in full force.



Ashley one of our new CL kids



Last school lunch with Alex and Christina

This July we will have weekly Campus Life outdoor gatherings. This includes: bonfires, s'mores, ultimate Frisbee, Disc Golf, volleyball, kick ball, beach days, outdoor movies and much more. We will take a group of students to an overnight Cedar Point trip. All of this sounds fun and most all of it is fun. What I love is meeting the new kids that students bring. Sitting by the fire and hearing students share their hearts, their fears and concerns. Pray that Jesus will be in EVERY conversation with the students.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will give me the words to say when I have none to offer. Will you consider sponsoring a VOLUNTEER STAFF for Cedar Point? Our volunteers sacrifice their time every week to spend with kids, they NEVER ask for any money to do this. They love Jesus and students and most of them cannot afford to go to Cedar Point. I desperately need their help on this trip and they desperately need to use this time to REALLY get to know students. Great Lakes Bay YFC does not have the funds to pay the \$75.00 for our volunteers. Which means volunteers not only need to come up with the money but

they often have to take days off from work to go on the trip, which means no income for those two days. I am trusting that God will use YOU to make this happen. We also need sponsors to send students to Cedar Point. \$99 will send one student, where they will make relationships with staff and hear the gospel clearly presented all while having a great time! Thank you for being on our team. We cannot do this without YOU!

Jon and Heather Hartwick