



GREAT LAKES BAY YOUTH FOR CHRIST

February 1, 2014

Dear Friends & Family,

I have the privilege of dropping students off at their houses almost every Monday evening after we go to Wendy's, which is our after Campus Life hangout spot. It was already late and I had one more student to drop off. On our way to his house he said, "Intelligence is not appreciated at my school, by students or teachers." Of course I had to hear more about this, which turned into an hour long conversation in the students driveway. I basically got his "story" in that hour. I listened to his story and immediately set up a time where he could come over and hang out with my family. I wanted to weep the entire ride home as I thought about this student eating potatoes and bologna for supper as that was all they had to eat, as his dad drank up the grocery money. I wanted to weep as I thought about what he said, "My dad gave me a ride to school ONCE, it was so great and made my entire day better, I wish he would do that again sometime." The following week this student came over to our house to hang out with my family for the evening and he played guitar with Jonathan who is in the process of learning the guitar. My wife was able to get a lot of his story as we hung out. I was very impressed that Heather held back the tears while he was there. I am going to share a little bit of our dinner time conversation with the 16 year old that sat across from me. This is what he said, "You guys are doing a good job as parents. Just sitting down together as a family and having dinner is so awesome. Being there at night for your kids is great. When they wake up in the middle of the night and need something they can walk down the hall and get you. I didn't have that when I was little. Your kids don't appreciate this now but they will when they get older." He hung out for about 4 to 5 hours at our house, and then I dropped him off at home. He was INCREDIBLY grateful for the meal and the time we spent with him. He was VERY polite and APPRECIATED everything about the evening. Heather and I talked for the next two days about this student and how he fit into God's word. The verse God gave us was Matthew 5:45, "For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike."



Statistically this student will drop out of school and join a gang. His dad is a drinker and regularly has his buddies over late into the night when the student just wants to sleep to be rested for school the next day, as he seems to be the only one who recognizes that he NEEDS an education. This is what the student said to me about his education, "You have to do what you need to do, in order to do what you want to do." His older brothers are involved in drugs and alcohol and gang activity. This student loves his family and recognizes that he cannot live like they do if he wants to succeed in the areas that he is gifted. Yes I said gifted, he is gifted in music, dance, and the arts. My wife said, "God is protecting this boy for His purpose, the student just doesn't know where the grace and protection is coming from. We should have him over every week or a couple of times a week." My wife works on the weekends, home schools our children during the week, volunteers at church, makes meals for people in need, and loves and respects me. I felt as if I could see Jesus through the eyes of my wife when she said, "We should have him over every week or a couple of times a week." WHY? Why would she say that? Why would she want to add MORE to her already full plate? JESUS is the answer to those questions. Why would I sit and listen to a student's story late at night, when my warm bed is calling my name? JESUS. Why would YOU work all week and get out your checkbook and send a check to US or to Great Lakes Bay YFC? JESUS. If more people like you would have a greater sense of URGENCY to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, through the good news and hope of salvation, I believe that many more people would be saved!

This last week a senior at Heritage High School died of cancer. I regret to say that I did not know the student, when I saw his picture on many of his friends Facebook feeds I recognized him from the lunchroom, where I spend every Monday afternoon. 1,800 students in one school, there are two of us from GLBYFC that go to the school, it's not enough people to reach out to every student there, that is just one school! I went to Camp Barakel for a father and son retreat recently. While we were there one of the men attending the retreat with his teenage boys died, just age 47. 1 in 3 homosexuals will attempt or commit suicide. I can think of at least 5 or 6 students who identify themselves as homosexual and the statistics are 1 in 3 homosexuals will attempt or commit suicide. A LARGE share of my female students are "cutters," they intentionally cut themselves with knives or razors in order to feel something. I share that with you so you can see why there needs to be an URGENCY to get the Gospel of Jesus to the LOST! Hebrews 13:14 says, "For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come." For us that have a relationship with Jesus, this is as close to hell as we will get. For the unbeliever, the atheist, the agnostic, and those that have not heard the gospel, this world is as close to Heaven as they will get!

Our work is not yet done. This month and the month to follow are HISTORICALLY financially dry for Great Lakes Bay YFC. Will you change history with me? \$20 a month or \$4.62 a week or \$240 a year is about what it costs to get the gospel to ONE LOST STUDENT. My question to you is this, "Are THEY worth it?" Jesus died because they are WORTH IT! Thank you for loving kids like Jesus through your financial and prayer support for Heather and I at Great Lakes Bay YFC.

God Bless,

Jon

We experienced some difficulty with our post office box at the beginning of this year but it has been rectified. If anyone received their donation back in the mail we would appreciate if you sent it with this month's donation. We are sorry for the mix up but truly grateful for all you do!