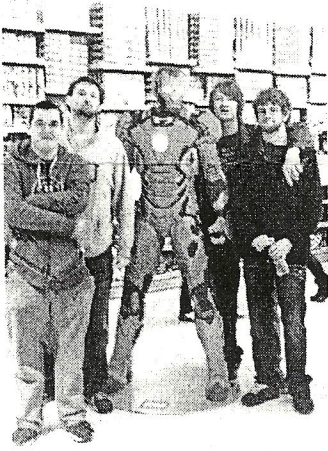




May 1, 2014



Dan with some students in Chicago
at the Lego store

I mentioned that Great Lakes Bay YFC was invited back to do Challenge Day. I learned why this last week as we have been participating in three long days with emotional students. There are Christians working in different positions at the school. They see YFC as something of value to have at the school. How awesome is that you ask? It's super awesome! I am grateful to know that when our crew is not at the school, there are other Christians investing in the lives of students. We had several of our ministry leaders participate and the Executive Director Todd Cramer from Bluewater Thumb even came out for a day to participate. We as a team were able to really connect with more students in three days than we have the entire year. It's neat to see the students caring for one another and dropping guards and barriers. It's neat to see people in the community come out to support this three day event. There were police officers, pastors, youth pastors, nurses, engineers and everything in between, all there to help out students. Personally I have left with a heavy heart each day and each day is incredibly emotionally draining. I have not been drained from working a full day with students in a high energy environment. I have been drained because this program will fail.

Challenge day type events will continue to come back to our public schools. Challenge Day will return to Heritage in Saginaw as soon as the budget will cover the expense again. There is one problem that Challenge Day will never address and it is a spiritual problem. NO JESUS EQUALS NO REAL CHANGE. Challenge Day brings quotes from Gandhi and other leaders throughout history. Jesus is not mentioned, and to be fair neither is any other religion. They encourage the power of self. You have the power to change your self. I can personally attest to that NOT working on a spiritual level. While our team has been utterly exhausted for three straight days we will continue to love students. Challenge Day and their team of people will be gone after Wednesday. We will be there each week.

You continue to help make that possible. Your faithful giving each month allows us to be in the schools in the area. Your gifts directly help students hear about the one person that will bring real change in their life, Jesus. Your gift allows us to sit down with a student at McDonald's and hear about how their parents are going through a divorce. Your gift allows us to talk to a student who WAS seriously considering suicide. We were able to be there for that student when she felt there was NOBODY in a school of 1800 to talk to. She is currently getting the help that she needs because you continue to give.

Take just a second and dream with me for a minute. We are currently in two schools and we are excited to be there. I drive by a dozen other schools every week where we are not there. I see kids coming and going and I drive right by. You can help us get someone in every one of the schools that we pass. Who do you know that might be interested in volunteering? Who do you know that might consider joining our giving team? Maybe you have thought about giving more and just haven't taken that next step. We cherish your prayers, and your financial support, but most of all we cherish YOU. Thank you for being a part of this team.

Jon & Heather