

February 1, 2014



CAMPUS



**GREAT LAKES BAY  
YOUTH FOR CHRIST**

Dear GLBYFC Supporters,

This past month brought about life-changing occasions. For Allie it was attending YFC conference in Colorado. For Jon it was connecting with a student. They were such powerful testaments to the work we strive to do for Jesus that their words speak for themselves.

Allie:

The central theme for the conference was how to be a 'Healthy Missionary.' If I were to choose a verse to sum up the week it would be John 15.4, 'Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.' This was not necessarily just a conference to teach me about Youth for Christ and how to be a better Campus Life Director. That week in Denver taught me that if I think I can do this on my own, I not only cheat my ministry, but myself. Apart from God, I can do NOTHING.

I learned what it is to be a part of Youth for Christ, a ministry with a rich history that stems back to the 1940's. I learned that my family of coworkers is extensive, loving, and limitless. I learned I am running a race with many before me, handing me the baton. I learned that Mr. Billy Graham once held that baton. I learned that you, my friend, as you read this letter, are also holding that baton. And I learned, that apart from you, Great Lakes Bay Youth for Christ can do NOTHING. Thank you.

Jon:

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!

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 Great Lakes Bay YFC.

God Bless,

*Jon Hartwick* *Allie Steele* *Joanna Jacklin*

Jon Hartwick, Allie Steele & Joanna Jacklin

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!