



April 2014

Saginaw update:

Jon recently took three of our ministry leaders to a Ministry Leaders Conference hosted by the Chicago area YFC team. While the drive was absolutely brutal due to the snow and poor road conditions the conference was very empowering. He regularly spends time with our leaders training and teaching them how to better engage kids, but hearing it from someone up on a stage really made the information stick! They learned that authentic Christ sharing relationships with students can transform their lives and start them in a relationship with Jesus. Another interesting lesson was that our ministry leaders should be trying to work their director (Jon) out of a job. While that might sound a little scary in the corporate world, in the ministry world that means they take over for him, which frees Jon up to move to another school!

One ministry leader really stepped it up when they got back from this trip. When we returned, Dan Gregory scheduled a game day at McDonald's with students all on his own! He had a great turnout, around 15 kids showed up, ready and eager to play. Dan has no driver's license so he walked in the freezing cold weather to spend time with students and it is a bit of a hike for him! Jesus has truly worked in Dan's heart, causing him to truly love students like Jesus does. Dan also did his first "Wrap Up" at Campus Life Club this last Monday. The wrap up is where we pull the whole evening to a close and share something from God's word with the students and how they might apply that in their lives. Dan did a great job as did every other ministry leader we have. Jon's goal is to *not* be on the stage for the rest of the school year, moving this team closer to working me out of a job with Heritage High School Campus Life!

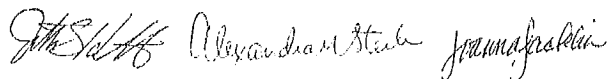
Bay City update:

Last Friday, Campus Life Moving Co. (seems like we always have a truck to load) helped move two of our favorite people, Brad and Vanessa Fotopoulos into their new house! These two have always opened their little apartment to us for staff and student gatherings and have such a heart for serving YFC through Bay City Campus Life. At the beginning of this school year, they announced that this may be their last year with us as they were considering the option of moving to the Grand Rapids area when Brad finished his degree at SVSU. The purchase of this house was definitely an answer to prayer! We are blessed to be keeping them in Bay City, and as students loaded boxes into their new living room, they excitedly showed us their new living space, back yard and basement, the 'perfect space for CL events.' Please lift praise to the Lord for this couple and their hearts for lost students, as well as the ministry opportunities provided by the provision of this new space.

"Your most difficult student will always have perfect attendance." So true! So, his name is Jacob. He is 18, and has already lost his license because of too many violations, he wears wristbands with vulgar words and support marijuana and the school security always has an eye on him. He is a trouble maker! The kid is never in class, but he is so ridiculously smart you would never know it. The hall security at the high school thinks Allie is nuts because no matter what, every Monday without fail, Jacob stops by to see her. And every Monday without fail, Jacob is at Campus Life. Allie is not sure she will ever get through to him or that under my care he will ever come to Jesus, but something in her just says 'love him anyway.'

Please pray for our team the first week of April as well, in just a few days Allie and Jon along with a parent and another ministry leader take a group of students to Chicago for spring break. Pray for traveling safely and student safety as we traverse downtown Chicago. Trips like this allow us to really develop authentic Christ sharing relationships. Pray that as we listen to the hearts of students that we will be bold in sharing the love of Christ. Thank YOU for partnering with Great Lakes Bay Youth for Christ. We rely on your faithful financial support to take the love of Christ to young people one at a time.

Blessings,



Jon, Allie & Joanna