

PARENT NEWS



**Discipling
Students To Love And
Serve God Passionately
and To Impact Their
World For Christ**

LEARNING ABOUT THE END OF DAYS

YOUTH ALIVE STUDY LOOKS AT WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE EVENTS GOING ON AROUND US

"The whole place is on fire!"

That is one description of the events going on now in the Middle East, with unrest and revolution in the air in several Arab countries. With wars, famines, earthquakes, diseases, economic and social turmoil happening in seemingly increasing frequency, people are looking at these events as perhaps a sign that the world is coming to an end. And teens have always had a fascination with the future - what does it hold?

On Wednesday nights at Youth Alive, we have been studying these things from a biblical perspective. While the Bible doesn't give a set date and time for the end of this created world, it does make it plain that this world will have an end. Jesus said "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Matt. 24:36)

While no one knows the exact time, the Bible does give us things to look for -

including the wars, natural and economic disasters, and persecution that we see around us.

As we look at what the Bible says, we see that God has a plan for creation and man, and that plan has always included our need to be reconciled to Him through His Son, Jesus. It says that God made these things known to prophets whose job it was to tell God's messages to others. This includes not only Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection, but His coming again to dispense justice and God's wrath on sin. The Bible tells us there will be a day when we all must give account for our lives and our sins, but the good news of the gospel is that Jesus has come to take that sin from us if we respond to the call of God.

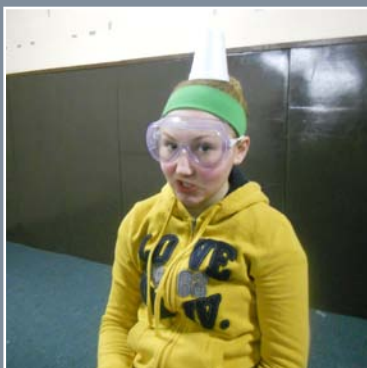
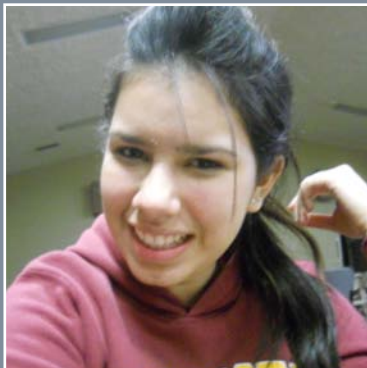
While studying the end times can be cool and kinda scary, we hope to enable students with the hope of Jesus - a perfect love that casts out all fear - and help them live in that hope.



BIG HITTERS

HERE THEY ARE! THE CHAMPIONS OF THE FIRST FAIRMONT AREA YOUTH MINISTRIES' DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT. THE YOUTH ALIVE TEAM CAME BACK FROM THE LOSERS BRACKET TO WIN THE BEST-OF-3 CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND. THE TEAM WAS KOLE & KONNOR KRISTENSON, DUSTIN & JOSH JOHANSON, JAKE HUNTER, AND OUR GRACIOUS BETHEL TEAMMATES DANICA JOHNSON, JULIE FLEMMING, AND MIKKALA PEARSON

YOUR 'TREASURE', OUR GREAT JOY



WE LOVE OUR YA STUDENTS!

Bible Instruction Camp

Who is God? What are the basics of the Christian faith? What does the story of the whole Bible say? How does God expect me to live when I am given new life in Jesus? How did the church start, and what does it do in the world?

These are questions that come up often in the minds of teenagers (and adults). In order to give our students good answers to these questions from a biblical perspective, the Free Church has developed a curriculum called Bible Instruction Class. It provides answers to these questions and more, and helps students build a foundation of truth to build upon in the years to come.

Coming up this summer, we are offering the Bible Instruction Class in an exciting new format - a Bible Instruction Camp. The camp will run Monday through Friday, the first two

weeks after school gets out. The whole 2-year curriculum will be covered in the two weeks, plus we will be doing several activities to put the things we are learning into practice. We will have fun times and a variety of teachers, including pastors, deacons, and other leaders from our congregation.



The camp will be open to students from 7th-12th grade who have not completed the BIC class before. We may adjust the schedule, if conflicts arise, in order to accommodate as many as possible to complete the course.

More information will be coming out in the coming weeks, but please set aside those dates for your teen to learn with us.



District Blitz '11

April 1-3

Each spring we have a great time getting together with about 3000 students from all over the state. This year's conference looks to be one of the best yet. It's one of our favorite times of the year, because we love to get away for prolonged time with each other. This is the one event all year we want everyone to attend, because of the impact and bonding that comes out of it.

Our speaker for the conference is D.A. Horton, (a.k.a Azriel). He is the founding pastor of Truth Bible Fellowship, an inner-city church plant strategically positioned in Kansas City. D.A. loves unashamedly proclaiming Jesus Christ in an urban context and equipping his congregation to do the same. We got to hear D.A. at Challenge '10 last year and he was the favorite of all of our speakers. He teaches the Word of God like it is and relates it well to a hip-hop generation.

Our music leaders will be a group with roots right here in Minnesota. Front man Austin Tofte, with the production genius of Adam Young (Owl City), manages to create a sound with their music that is surprisingly warm and upbeat. One can't listen to his music without smiling from ear to ear. (side note: we're told that this is basically Owl City - a group that is having phenomenal success in the pop charts now - with the guys switching positions.)

We will be staying at The Suites on the Waterfront next to the convention center in Duluth. We will leave Friday morning at 8:45am and return Sunday night about 7pm

This is one event your teen will love, and more importantly, could change their life forever. We would love your prayers before and during the event.

If you have questions, please email Pastor Tim (PT) at pt@eastchain.com. You can also text or call him at 507.399.1130. This will be the emergency number for the weekend, as well.



by **Walt Mueller**
 Center for Parent/Youth Understanding
www.cpyu.org

HOW TO HELP TEENS MAKE GOOD DECISIONS

It was when my own children were toddling around our house that a father of a teenage boy asked me a question I'll never forget: "How can I expect my son to hear the still small voice of God with all those other voices screaming in his ears?" I never fully understood the seriousness of his question until my children entered their teenage years. Like their peers in the generation labeled "Millennial Kids", my children are facing an unprecedented array of attitude and behavioral choices while growing up in a postmodern culture that says the final court of appeal is how "I feel" at any given moment in time.

The "voices" are getting louder. While there are lots of kids making good choices, teenage behavior indicates far too many are traveling through adolescence and into adulthood without making good decisions.

There are the "will I or won't I" decisions all kids face. Usually related to moral and ethical dilemmas, the negative fruit of their decisions can be seen in some of the current statistics on teen behavior. By the time they reach their senior year in high school, over 65% will have had sexual intercourse. Almost 55% will have used some illicit drug. Over 70% of high school students and 54% of middle school students admit to cheating during the prior 12 months.

In addition, they all face the "what should I do?" decisions. While not always related to issues of right and wrong, these choices are nonetheless extremely important. The adolescent years are filled with questions about what music to listen to and what media to watch. Teens make choices on how to spend their time and money. What about choices related to vocation and how I will spend my life? They make daily decisions on friends and issues related to peer pressure. They make important choices on how to handle and resolve interpersonal conflict. Will I marry? Who will I marry? What role will faith play in my life? The list goes on and on.

What role do you as a parent play in helping your teen wade through these choices and onto the point of healthy decision making? Whether you know it or not, you do play a powerful role. In fact, even though it may seem like all those other influences may drown you out, you still play the most significant role of anyone in their young lives.

Deuteronomy 6 and the rest of the Scriptures clearly teach us that God has established parents as the primary spiritual guides and nurturers in their children's lives. One of the most important tasks we face as parents of teens is our God-given responsibility to help them make good decisions in this confusing world. What are some of the steps we can take to guide our teens into making healthy decisions? Here a few timely and helpful suggestions:

First, understand that they are extremely vulnerable to making wrong choices. When I find myself expecting my kids to respond to a

situation by making the same choice I would make, I'm not being fair. I forget that my decision-making ability has grown out of years of accumulated wisdom and experience that I've gained over 45 years of making mistakes! My kids don't have that same experience. Add to that the fact that they are going through the most change and question-filled period of life, and it's easier to see that it's tough for them to go it alone. I often describe teens as "walking question marks trying to find their way through the earthquake of adolescence." But even though they are vulnerable to making bad choices, teenagers are just as able to make good choices. The key? They need us to walk alongside as guides while we take the time to answer their questions and guide them through the earthquake of adolescence. God has given them the gift of parents.


Second, we must realize that the best way for us to train them to make good decisions is through example. "Because I said so!" isn't a reason we can give them as we make their decisions for them. Instead, we've got to go beyond words to tap into the incredible power of example. Before we tell them how and what to decide, we've got to show them how and what to decide through consistent example. Invite them into your decision-making process by allowing them to watch you struggle with, process, and come to some resolution on the difficult decisions you need to make. Be sure that your life is shaped and guided by God's Word and that you aggressively seek to integrate your faith into all areas of your life. This generation of millennial kids is prone to learn relationally rather than propositionally. "Show and tell" is the way they learn best. For better or for worse, parents are still the most powerful role models in a young person's life.

Third, teaching teens to make good decisions can't happen without giving them the gift of our time. The power of example and positive guidance increases as we act on the resolve to spend time with our kids. Lack of time is interpreted by them as rejection. Rejection can quickly grow into resentment. Resentment is the seed bed of rebellion. Teenage rebellion is often a deliberate effort to do the exact opposite of a parent's desire and can be at the root of many unhealthy decisions.

Fourth, be proactive, looking for any and every opportunity to guide them into good decision making. One of the keys to parenting teens is knowing how to seize and make the most of those "teachable moments" that come several times a day. When they face a point of decision, create an atmosphere for openness so that they will seek your advice. That atmosphere of openness is best created by being a good listener. Once they know they've been respectfully heard, your job is to gracefully shoot straight, letting them know where you stand on the issue and why.

Fifth, teach them to use Scripture as a decision-making guide. We live in a day and age where personal feelings and preference have become the guides for living and deciding. Perhaps the loudest lesson spoken by our words and example must be that there is an unchanging standard of right and wrong that lies outside ourselves and that true freedom can only be found by living according to that standard. The light of God's Word illumines all of life and each choice we make. The Scriptures are clear that blessing comes from following the guidance of God's Word (Psalm 1; II Timothy 3:16). We must train them to search the Scriptures for guidance and direction. God has something to say about matters of honesty, integrity, character, work ethic, sexual behavior, substance abuse, vocation, athletics, time, dating, etc. Making a decision based solely on how something "feels" is a dangerous way to live.

Read more great parenting articles at cpyu.org

COMING UP AT YOUTH ALIVE	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE/JULY
	<p>16 BREAK NIGHT Youth Alive takes a night off from lessons to just unwind and be ready for the rest of spring</p>	<p>1-3 District Blitz Duluth, MN Leave Friday 8:45am Return Sunday around 7pm</p>	<p>6-7 MARKED MEN Paintball Tournament with churches from the Cities and local warriors</p>	<p>Bible Instruction Camp June 6-17 DATES TBD MYSTERY MISSIONS TRIP See the back page for more information</p>

MYSTERY MISSION '11

SUMMER 2011

WHENEVER, WHEREVER, READY TO SERVE

Every other year, we have Challenge Conference for the Free Church, but in the off years and at various times, we desire to live out our call to impact our world for Jesus. Because of this call, we are once again planning a Mystery Missions Trip for summer 2011.

What's A Mystery Missions Trip?

A mystery missions trip has the goal of serving whenever, wherever, to equip adults to be like Jesus. When Jesus walked the earth, He had definite plans from His Father, but also served as he went along the way. That is our desire for the trip - that students and adults come home ready to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit to serve wherever and whenever He calls them.

The other part of the mystery is that students will arrive packed and ready but will not know where they are going. Each day will bring a mystery of its own, and most events will be planned but unavailable to the students until they happen. Parents and others in the congregation will be able to follow our trip online and see what we do so they can pray for us effectively.

What's A Mystery Missions Trip?

Right now we are trying to figure out dates of the trip, so if your teen is interested in going, can you please let us know if there are any dates we should avoid? Thank you!



THE DETAILS

- When:** Late June - Mid July
Where: Mystery
Who: All students grades 7-12
Cost: TBD - Approx. \$400
includes all transportation, meals, experiences, tools and lodging (spending \$ extra)
- Registration:** \$100 deposit due April 1st
remainder due later

WEEKLY PLACES TO CONNECT:

Sund2ay

- 9:00am Rolls and donuts (ECEFC)
- 9:30 Sunday Bible Study (ECEFC)
- 10:30 Morning Worship (ECEFC)
- 6:30pm AfterLife (various places)

Monday

- 6:30pm Teen CBS (Christian Church Fairmont)

Tuesday

- 7:40am Campus Life (GHEC F.A.C.S. Room)
(Through March)

Wednesday

- 6:00pm YA Supper
- 6:45pm Youth Alive

Thursday

- 7:40am Campus Life (Fairmont F.A.C.S)



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TO THE PARENTS OF: