



**YOUTH  
FOR** METRO MARYLAND  
**CHRIST®**

**STORIES**

Fall 2014

## THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR CITY MINISTRY!

"I have always had a heart for the underdog."

Lorraine Jones shared this with me last night. Lorraine and I, along with her husband Marvin, met with an interested friend who wanted to hear more about the work being done in Baltimore City, through Youth for Christ.



For the next few hours, Marvin and Lorraine shared stories of the young people God has rescued since they've been working as part-time YFC staff, for the past 15 years.



Stories of 16 year-olds with several children.

Stories of gang members who laid down their guns and picked up the cross of Christ instead.

Stories of one Christmas Eve, when they took in a young heroin addict and let her sleep on their living room floor, as she went through withdrawal. The room had to be cleared of everything but the Christmas tree. Now, many years later, this same girl has graduated from college and is walking daily with Jesus.

So many stories! We laughed, our eyes were filled with tears, and mostly we were amazed at the power of God to change lives that seemed beyond hope.

Baltimore City has thousands of young people whose stories need a happy ending, one that only God can provide. We have a lot of work to do but with God's leading and your partnership, we are going forward. We want to bring life to their stories – one by one!

Marvin Jones is planning to leave his full-time job and join YFC staff full-time this January. In order to do this, Marvin and Lorraine need lots of support! We are busy looking and praying for caring individuals who want to invest in this incredible work in Baltimore City. Please pray that many will come alongside Marvin and Lorraine, as they spend their lives reaching kids with the love of Christ!

I can't wait to share with you more exciting stories! Hurting kids are the heartbeat of our City Ministry.

*Stephen H. Kaiss*

Stephen Kaiss  
Executive Director  
Metro Maryland YFC

**GIVE LIFE  
TO YOUR  
STORY™**

# LAURA CANTLER

## ONE STORY REWRITTEN

The following is an excerpt from a recent student testimony shared by Beca Wiseman in our Harford County ministry:

*I was asked to share about how YFC has impacted me over the years. In truth, I can't imagine high school without it. I can say with confidence I would be a totally different person if I wasn't part of this group. One of my favorite parts of Campus Life has been seeing many of my friends encounter God in a way they hadn't before.*



Laura and Beca

*I distinctly remember before the Impact Conference last year, feeling doubt I'd never really had before. I kept it to myself. Our speaker talked about throwing away the things that hold us back from being fully devoted and "all in" in our faith. He asked anyone who felt the need to pray or give those things up, to come down to the front.*

*My leader Laura came over to me while I was sobbing and hugged me, and after rambling about everything going wrong in my life, she told me I needed to let God take over, that I couldn't do it on my own. I remember thinking how could I have doubted this?*

*High school is hard and Campus Life provides a place for us to be kids, which is something social media, school and society, often don't allow us to do. As a result of being involved in Campus Life, many of us have started going to church and plan to continue growing in our faith.*

*All I ask is that you help keep this group going through volunteering, getting the word out or simply praying for our kids and leaders. Thank you for all you've done in the past to support us and please continue to support the teens in our Campus Life communities. Thank you.*

**OUR MISSION** YFC reaches young people everywhere, working together with the local church and other likeminded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their Godliness in lifestyle, devotion to the Word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ and commitment to social involvement.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MMYFC GO TO [WWW.MMYFC.ORG](http://WWW.MMYFC.ORG)

## A TIME TO PLAY!

MMYFC recently hosted a Volunteer Picnic and Pool Party in Reisterstown, MD, for over 100 staff and volunteers and their families. It was a beautiful day, located on a lovely property with lots of space to play games, walk trails, take canoes out on the lake and enjoy great food and fellowship.

MMYFC heavily depends upon generous volunteers, who give of themselves, their time and talent, to carry on its work with young people. They are indeed family! What a blessing to be able to share an afternoon together and let them know how much they're loved and appreciated! (A special thanks to Gregory Shade and Linda Russell for making it happen!)

P.S. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the YFC office. There are lots of ways you can use your gifts and talents. We are always in need of those who have a heart for God and young people!



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ALLISON BENSON

## A POWERFUL PRESENTATION

Catonsville High School contacted the Center for Pregnancy Concerns (for whom I work part-time), to come into the school and talk about pregnancy development. Kate, our nurse and I, went to the school and spoke to six Child Development classes. We addressed development from conception to birth.



Baby Straw at 20 weeks



Samuel at birth

I also work part-time with our Parent Life program at MMYFC. My co-worker Sara Straw, who was pregnant with her first child, offered to be a model for a sonogram (on the school stage)! The students had lots of questions.

Two weeks later, I get a call at the Center, from a young girl from Catonsville High School. She was in one of the classes we taught. She thought she could be pregnant and wanted to come in for a pregnancy test. She was in fact pregnant and is now attending the Center's "Earn While You Learn" post-natal class. This class teaches women how to care for their baby from birth to one year. Classes are held every other Saturday and is a wonderful opportunity to teach women how to take care of their babies, as well as share with them the love of God.

(Sara Straw and her husband Paul, gave birth - a few weeks early to a little firecracker - on July 4, 2014. Samuel Paul Straw was 5.1 lbs and 18.5 inches long. He said he was very glad to be part of such a great work! The Youth for Christ family celebrates with the Straw family, on this special gift they've received!!)



## A CALL TO LEADERSHIP

MMYFC is about to launch two new programs in the coming months. The first is YFC CORE. YFC's mission is to raise up young people who love Christ and want to share His message with their friends. YFC CORE is a curriculum for students who want to share Christ with their community, and perhaps even begin a ministry on their campus. We are very excited about the possibilities this will present for our students who want to take their Christian witness to another level.

The second program is LEADERSHIP ACADEMY. God has blessed MMYFC with outstanding college-age leaders who want to make a difference in the lives of middle and high school students. LEADERSHIP ACADEMY is a training program designed to develop these leaders by:

- Identifying their gifts and calling
- Equipping and empowering them to pursue God's calling on their lives as leaders
- Concentrating on sound biblical doctrine, direct ministry involvement, regular meetings and leadership training at conferences, retreats and camps over a two-year period

Again, we are so excited to have a venue for these young adults, to pursue their passion to lead and grow. We appreciate your prayers on their behalf!

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### ANNUAL YFC GOLF CHALLENGE

Compass Point - October 2014

### ALIVE 2014 MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Ocean City Maryland Convention Center - November 21-23, 2014



### AVALANCHE HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

Gettysburg, PA - January 2-4, 2015

### IMPACT 2015 HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Ocean City Maryland Convention Center - March 27-29, 2015