

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**PROJECT SERVE MISSIONS TRIP**  
 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
 JUNE 19-27

**THE VOICE HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT**  
 CAPE HENLOPEN, DE  
 JUNE 20-25

**HEATWAVE HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT**  
 WILDWOOD, NJ  
 JUNE 25-29

**PROJECT SERVE – DAYS OF SERVICE**  
 BALTIMORE CITY  
 JULY 1-8

**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)

**NORTHBAY MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP**  
 NORTHEAST, MD  
 JULY 16-20

**CROSSROADS MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP**  
 CAPE HENLOPEN, DE  
 AUGUST 18-23

**GOLF CHALLENGE**  
 COMPASS POINTE  
 OCTOBER 3



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**YOUTH FOR CHRIST** METRO MARYLAND **STORIES**

Spring 2017

**BRIDGING THE DIVIDE, TOGETHER**

by Stephen Kaiss



What a great evening we had at the Annual Fundraising Dinner on May 9! The theme was "Bridge the Divide" and I sensed that by the end of the program, everyone was united that we must stand together to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the young people of Metropolitan Baltimore!

Back by popular demand, vocal artist Wintley Phipp created a beautiful setting for our program, with his amazing talent and spirit.



Our special guests Eric Metaxas, Megan Alexander and Kirsten Powers did a fantastic job sharing their faith and how important it is, wherever God has put us, to be a light in the darkness. They also strongly agreed that our youth are the future of this country and we need to make reaching them a priority.

The highlight of the evening though, was listening to the moving stories of the teenagers who shared how God rescued them from their tragic situations, through their involvement in Youth for Christ. Their words and painful honesty brought many to tears. How brave they were in sharing their stories.

We are still assessing how successful the dinner was financially but we are convinced that the YFC family grew that night with over 1,400 in attendance, many there for the first time! That means more people praying for the work and that makes all the difference!

Thank you again for standing with us! We look forward with you, to see all that God is going to do in this next year!



**GIVE LIFE TO YOUR STORY™**

# FEED MY SHEEP

by Stuart Sweitzer

This school year marks the fourth year we have partnered with Patterson High School in East Baltimore, as a follow up to our Point Break assembly held there. The purpose of Point Break is to improve the behaviors, values and attitudes of high school students on their campuses and in their communities, intervening before acts of bullying, hatred or violence occur. As a result, better learning environments are created, relationships are forged and reconciliation begins.

The administration asked what other types of programs YFC had to offer, and when they heard about our work with pregnant and parenting teens, they asked if we could come back to meet with some of their students – and that was the beginning of Patterson Parent Life! Judy Phillips and I started out meeting with young moms every other week during their lunch period. The following year we realized that weekly meetings were needed, and we have continued to meet weekly ever since.

I had no idea what to expect, but by the end of the first day, I was blown away by the students. Girls who seemed so hardened and tough at the beginning of the day were amazingly open and honest and raw about many very difficult circumstances they faced on a daily basis and in their relatively short lifetimes. One young lady, an obvious “leader”, summed it up beautifully at the end of the day, asking for the microphone to tell the others that she never realized so many others were dealing with so many of the same issues as she was. She went on to say, “We need to stop fighting each other and have each others backs.”



Patterson High has a huge immigrant population, with students representing over 30 countries and more than 20 languages. We have had students who were born and raised in Baltimore, as well as students from El Salvadore, Guatamala, Mexico, Nepal and more. The language barrier has been an issue for us at times, but we have found ways to work through it.

“Feed them and they will come” is so true! Our group looks forward to coming together for lunch and good conversation. They know that we honestly care about them and that we will listen. As we share lunch together, we hear about how the past week has been, questions and concerns the moms and

dads may have, and we share about different parenting topics and resources as well. One of our goals is to build relationships with these young parents, and then to meet with and mentor them off campus so that we have the opportunity to feed them spiritually as well.

We have a fantastic teacher sponsor. She has helped us to coordinate summer picnics, a pool party, senior pictures and so much more. She even managed to get us our own room in the school. We have wonderful, loving and committed volunteers who speak into the lives of these young people beautifully...and they help us to bring a healthy lunch each week as well! And our students! I am so proud and amazed by them all the time! They are loving, committed parents and very hard workers. Being a parent, remaining in high school and holding down a job is often overwhelming and stressful for them.

We are so proud of our students, and so thankful that we have the opportunity to be a light in their school and in their lives. We started the Parent Life class to bless the students and the school, but we have been incredibly blessed ourselves by them countless times.

While Parent Life has been meeting for four years, there’s a second group that began last year after our Point Break assembly. We were asked to meet with a ‘high risk’ group of freshman girls for another ‘lunch group’, so we have! We hope to feed them lunch and their souls, as we get to know them.

The need is so great! So many in the school are worn out and hopeless...in need of God’s touch. I think of Matthew 11:28, when Jesus says “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”



# CO-LABORERS FOR 20 YEARS!

by Mark Miller

This past April, an MMYFC PROJECT SERVE Team of 13, joined Pastor Radhames, his family, church and school in Pimentel, Dominican Republic. This being the 20th year partnering with them, our goal was and has always been “To do God’s work in God’s way”. Every time we enter the town of Pimentel, we say “Jesu Christo Es El Senor De Pimentel” (Jesus Christ is the Lord of Pimentel).



Our teams have partnered with Pastor Radhames, to build a beautiful community “MIVA” (Children’s Ministry Love Alive), which has become a safe haven where people can worship, attend Bible studies, church services, outreach activities, carpentry and life skills classes, drama and music activities. The CERINFA School currently has over 200 K-9th grade students attending. Several adults who now work there, attended as children themselves.

We had an opportunity to share music, testimonies and God’s Word, as we gathered in town several nights. Another night we had a men’s meeting where we encouraged the men to grow deeper in their relationship with God and to consider finding an accountability partner.

We had a special Princess’s meeting where our ladies shared with 50 local young girls, how special it is to be a child of God. The men held a similar meeting for the boys (Princes).

We were able to host the first ever community party at the Cheese House, which we helped Pastor Radhames build over the past 10 years. Recently, Pastor rescued a guy off the street who was starving to death, gave him a job and he is now the best ice cream and yogurt maker in town! During the time there, we gathered kids off the streets and shared a song and God’s Word, and then served 67 kids with a cup of ice cream!

Many other services and outreaches took place, as well as celebrating Easter Sunday, waking to roosters and music playing in the streets, sensing God’s presence in all that took place that day. As our two cultures joined together in praising God, we were reminded of the song we learned in Spanish – “This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it”.

One of the highlights for me this year, was to share this experience with my wife Joyce, as it had been 14 years since our last time serving together in the D.R. We especially appreciated worshipping with our good friend Pastor Radhames in daily devotions, and hearing him sing and play “How Great Thou Art” on his accordion, as it was the song that was sung at both Joyce’s and my dad’s funerals.



# CELEBRATING OUR OWN

by Claudia Harris

Friends and family of our own resident artist - Connell Patrick Byrne – recently hosted a night of celebration, in honor of Connell’s life and passion for glorifying God through his artwork. Connell’s work was beautifully showcased and prints made available for those who wanted to walk away with a treasure to remember. Music and refreshments made for an all around awesome time together!

Connell was involved in YFC as a high school student in the late 70’s and went on to volunteer his time and talent over the years, in many different capacities. Whether as a Campus Life volunteer staff person or Director of our annual Alive and Impact Conferences’ “Encounter Room”, held in Ocean City, MD, his passion was always to help others experience God through the arts.



Connell would later marry Carol Patzold, whom he met through YFC, and Carol has since worked in the YFC office for over 30 years! Together they have faithfully served God and impacted hundreds, if not thousands of lives as a result.

Over the past several years, Connell (and Carol by his side), has endured multiple surgeries and procedures, in an attempt to correct congenital heart defects. Connell recently designed a t-shirt for the Congenital Heart Walk, sponsored by the University of Maryland’s Heart and Vascular Center. He has so impressed his doctors, including his cardiologist Dr. Stacy Fischer, with his courage, faith and resiliency.

After surviving all of those, they discovered this past January that they would now have to face a diagnosis of cancer. Needless to say, it has been a very difficult road for them, as they seek to trust God fully in all things.

Please keep Connell and Carol in prayer, as we walk with them in the days ahead. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to lift up and celebrate one of our own! Thank you Connell and Carol, for your lifelong service to God and to YFC.