

snapshot.

a glimpse of Life!



January 2008

One Week in Ohio

Mission – to present youth with school prevention programs--and the gospel of Christ—before they turn 18.

We recently spent a few days at events in Ohio and saw God work in so many ways! Here are a few stories:



Bob Lenz

YOUTH GATHERING IN CLEVELAND

The theme of this particular conference was “RIOT—Reaching In and Out Together,” and about 600 kids attended. I gave four keynote presentations and facilitated two workshops with “question and answer” sessions. A lot of students caught the theme and reached out that weekend for hope and healing. Here are just a few I spoke with...

- *Alex, whose dad committed suicide a year ago.* This conference helped him take the next step in his grieving process.
- *Krista, who shared her regret over being sexually active.* Now she’s struggling to know how to approach her boyfriend about the new direction in her life, with the knowledge that he told her he’d kill himself if she ever broke up with him.
- *Whitney, who opened up about her marijuana addiction.* She made a commitment to follow Jesus and promised to get help with her drug problem.

SCHOOL PREVENTION PROGRAMS

These programs often form the backbone of our travels—what a fantastic opportunity to get in front of youth from every imaginable background! This week I spoke at six schools, four public and two Catholic parochial, to more than 2,800 students. We had received a grant from the Drug and Alcohol Council to focus on the issues of prevention, self image, peer pressure, and bullying.

For this series we teamed up with a rock band named Shudder and the liaison officer from the school districts, and the combination proved effective. Kids thought it was cool to have a rock band in school—a group of edgy-looking guys who showed through their music and actions how fun and smart it is to be drug free. One principal said it was the best assembly he had seen in his 30 years of education.

NIGHTTIME RALLIES *Only problem... too many kids!*

One of our evening programs was scheduled opposite a junior high all-school dance and a high school basketball game. Not good! We thought our numbers would be very low and held the rally at a little Methodist church.

One highlight of this trip was working with that small congregation’s volunteers—they averaged about 60 years’ old and worked circles around us! It was so awesome seeing these seniors caring about youth in such a tangible way. They placed 150 chairs, hoping most of them would be used. But 300 youth poured through the doors, and they scrambled to set up every last chair they had. It wasn’t enough! That night about 120 people responded to the gospel and trusted Christ as their savior.

Often we follow a rally with a pizza party. Local organizers donate time and pizza, and the youth hang out and talk to our team and the band. This night the guys in Shudder stayed for more than an hour and a half talking with kids. We finally had to tell everyone to go home, and it made me smile at our “problems” that night. When was the last time a church had too many young people—and had to shoo them out of the building!

The next day we had two more schools and an evening rally. We had been in the same community six years ago, and 300 kids had attended the night rally. We expected about the same and ordered pizza for that number. 700 people showed up, ready to listen and hungry afterwards. We ordered more pizza and still ran out—but many kids with a deeper need were satisfied in a much better way. About 250 attendees trusted Christ!

Is one of our speakers coming to a school or event near you? Visit www.lifespaking.com for our calendar.

BUILDING SUPPORT

On our trip we were also able to meet with several individuals interested in learning more about Life! Promotions and possibly partnering with us financially. Our purpose is to build relationships with like-minded people, pray together, and explore ways of working together to instill hope in the lives of youth. These times are always a great opportunity to sharpen our vision and allow God to remind us of His call on this ministry.

One evening we had a powerful conversation with a man who tragically lost his 25 year old daughter recently to a drug overdose. My oldest daughter is in college, just a few years younger, and I ached for him as he told his story. As we shared with him about our mission of helping youth find meaning and purpose, and encouraging them to live a life of no regret, his heart was touched. He wants to partner with us to make sure other kids don't go down the same path as his daughter.

Interested in hosting a small gathering of people who want to learn more about Life! Promotions? Call 800-955-5433 and speak with Dave.

Would you like to support Life Promotions financially? Link to www.lifepromotions.com to donate securely online.

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY

Life! Promotions' number one mission and target is America's youth. We help them address the toughest issues right in their own schools: addiction, peer pressure, bullying, sexual risk. And at our rallies, we give them an opportunity to know Jesus on a personal level.

Part of that personal relationship with Christ is recognizing the needs of others. We believe that one of the best ways to help America's youth live out their faith is by challenging them to think globally, and to act on their convictions. During our week in Ohio, 40 kids were sponsored through our partnership with Compassion International (www.compassion.com), a Christian advocacy group for children in need around the world. The commitment of those young people sponsoring children is long-term; they will support these children monthly and build a relationship with them.

INNER CITY CHURCH OUTREACH

One night we teamed up with a Lutheran church in a poverty-stricken part of Cleveland. Twice a week they open up their gym, and youth come from blocks around to play basketball in a safe environment. The night we were there, leaders told kids there would be pizza and a surprise, fearing that if they mentioned a youth speaker, few would come. But once they showed up, they stayed, and we ended up with a crowd of 125. And 50 of those young people responded to the gospel!

A TYPICAL WEEK

These short reports are all from just one typical week out on the road—and they energize our team to get back out there and go wherever God calls us. Despite speaking to thousands of youth each year, I'm reminded with every story that each student is unique and has a longing deep inside to know that they matter and that they are infinitely loved by their Creator. Thank you for your prayers and support of our mission. Our hope is that you would continue standing with us in prayer and consider giving, to help us reach countless more youth in need.



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