



March 23, 2011

Dear Parents,

It's **VOLUME 2** of our monthly e-newsletter designed to **encourage** you as parents, **celebrate** what God is doing in our kids' lives, **share** helpful articles and resources, and **keep you up to date** with every thing that's happening at **Pleasant Street Student Ministries**. I'm hoping that these updates will spark conversations at home, and between us! Thanks for taking the time to stay connected.

Back on March 13<sup>th</sup>, parents, elders, youth workers and pastors gathered together for a **Partnership Dessert**. The purpose of the meeting was to take ownership of our God-giving calling to disciple our kids—and to do so in partnership—with parents, elders, pastors and youth workers working together. It was a fabulous meeting, with lots of constructive, generative conversation. **Some reflections and next steps are attached.**

### God-Sightings

This past Sunday, approximately 15 students from Urban Promise in Camden, NJ joined us for worship, our mission team luncheon, and ReaLife. It was an incredible time of hospitality, fellowship, sharing and encouraging one another. At ReaLife, Principal Demetrius challenged us, through activity, to think through how we communicate, and how we begin to build relationships with strangers (especially people who are different from ourselves). Then I challenged students to consider the possibility that everything we say and do has the potential to build a bridge or a barrier between you and other people. Students were then challenged to consider how Jesus approached and related to strangers, and those who lived "on the other side of the street" from Himself. The students really responded well to one another. I got a Facebook message from a student today who said, "I was really moved by the time we spent with our friends from Camden."

After the meeting, seven students from Massachusetts came forward expressing their desire to be part of our Camden Team.

Last month, a group of about 35 students and youth workers went to Camp Berea for our annual Deep Freeze Winter Retreat. It was an incredible weekend as God spoke to many students' hearts. On Saturday night, 8 students recommitted their lives to Christ and 5 students to received Jesus for the first time. Some excellent conversations followed, as students shared honestly about sins they need to turn from, relationships that need to be healed, and how they heard God speaking to them that weekend.

On the way home, a van load of kids began a concert of prayer for a friend back home who was struggling in their life. Since returning, Zack Jaskowiak shared his testimony with the congregation, and we're continuing to see spiritual fruit in kids' lives. **Praise God!**

**CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE**

## GREAT PARENT RESOURCES:

- [A New Book by Walt Mueller: 99 Thoughts for Parents of Teenagers.](#)
- [Article: Parents and Teen Alcohol Use.](#)
- [Article: Hidden Sexism and How it Shapes Our Girls](#)
- [Resource: HOMEWORD.](#) A great source for parents with outstanding articles, devotions, parent helps and media content.

## QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH:

**This Month:** Do your kids see that you are growing spiritually? Do Jesus' words in [John 15:1-2](#) become real to them as they watch your life closely?

**Last Month:** When was the last time you prayed with your kids outside of meal-time?

**SO...what exactly are we doing with your kids?** (see attached brochure)

**niteLife** (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays, 7-9pm – for kids in grades 7-8)

niteLife is safe place where kids of all spiritual backgrounds can come and experience the love of God in Christ with their friends. A growing number of kids from the community have become a part of niteLife this year. They are really curious to learn about Jesus, and really committed to each other. This year we've been following Jesus through the **Gospel of Mark** to see what difference it makes when we center our lives on the one who is fully God and fully man—and therefore—is weak enough to understand us and strong enough to save us. Right now we're in Mark 6.

**ReaLife** (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, 6-8pm – for kids in grades 9-12)

ReaLife is safe place where kids of all spiritual backgrounds can come and experience the love of God in Christ with their friends. God has been doing some great things at ReaLife this year as several students have answered the call to be mentored as Servant Leaders, and a community is being formed where all kinds of people are learning what it means to follow Jesus. This winter we did a series called "Stuff We Don't Talk about in Church" – where we've talked about bullying, forgiveness, hell, science, the scope of the universe and drugs and alcohol. In April, we'll be kicking off a series called "Good Sex."

**High School ROOTS** (Sundays, 9am)

The goal of ROOTS is develop students minds and hearts to face the challenges of the university and to be able to live out their faith in Christ in a thoughtful, winsome, loving and culturally-savvy way. This Winter we began a series on sharing your faith, and last Sunday (March 20) we began studying world religions.

**PARENT SEMINAR: Talking with your kids about Sex**

Sunday, May 22, 6pm, Fellowship Hall

Join other parents, along with Pastor Bill & Pastor Derek as we talk about some of the best ways to help kids develop a biblical, and counter-cultural, approach to sex and sexuality.

**Parents:** Let's keep the channels of communication open! Feel free to call, drop me a note, or set-up a time to talk—any time!

Have a great day!

Pastor Bill

Join our [Facebook Group](#) to connect with other Pleasant Street Parents, and to access great online resources, and encouragement from Pastor Bill!