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YD Youth Dynamics **REFLECTIONS**

Fall 2018

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Dear Ministry Partners of Youth Dynamics,

In this edition of Reflections, we reflect on the lives of Brian and Jody, students whom have overcome devastating loss and pain only to find healing and joy through the ministry of Youth Dynamics. God has been working in their lives through a key question that guides us day by day, "What does it mean to be involved in YD?"

- To be loved
- To be cared for
- To adventure
- To have fun
- To be challenged in what you believe
- To be challenged to step out of your comfort zone
- To be presented with leadership opportunities
- To be connected to community and caring adults who invest in and advocate for you
- To be invited into a relationship with Christ
- To know your life has purpose – here and for eternity!

Over 5,500 young people were involved in Youth Dynamics during last school year, each one with a unique story, just like Brian and Jody. All of us have a sense of the difficult challenges facing our youth today – peer pressure, social media, drugs, pornography, video game obsession, broken homes, and a population of adults who are leaving the church. This is fertile ground for the evil one for sure.

Yet, there is hope! The Lord doesn't want any of these precious students to perish – not one – and neither do we! (2 Peter 3:9) That's why we are praying for God to bring us even more youth this year, and because of this we are praying He brings us more ministry partners, more donors, and more prayer partners. We are in this with kids. We are this with you. Thank you so much for partnering in the ministry of Youth Dynamics.

It truly is a gift of God's grace to be a part of His work together.



2018 Youth Dynamics staff photo with special guest, Paul Evans (center), founder of Youth Dynamics in 1970.



By Tom Davis

President
Youth Dynamics

*"Youth Ministry is a gift of
God's Grace."*

— Bruce "Bronco" Huge, YD's
longest tenured staff

Wait for it...

It was the beginning of a YD Adventure Rock and Roll trip and Brian was the last student to arrive at Stonewater Ranch. As he and his mom pulled up, and as soon as he could, Brian jumped out of the car, ran towards Katelynn, one of his YD youth leaders, with arms stretched wide and gave her a big hug.

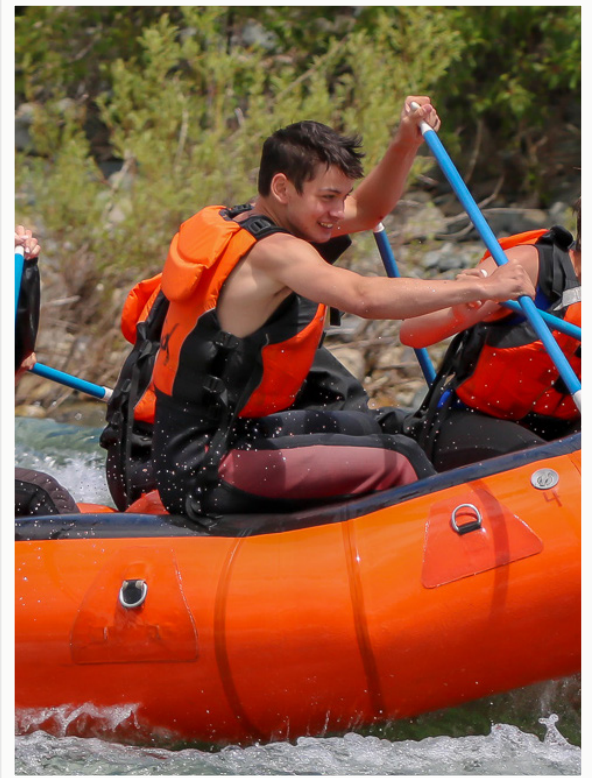
When Brian started attending a YD Communities drop-in group last fall, it was obvious by his energy level that he was a 'typical' junior-higher. However, what wasn't so obvious was the pain he was holding inside. While getting to know him over the next few months, Brian began to share how he was trying to navigate the emotions of his father's suicide, moving to a new (and smaller) community, and making new friends at school – all on his own.

It was hard to see him struggle and experience so much pain. Brian is starving for love, attention, and affirmation – which are all things that he is not receiving at home as his mom is dealing with grief in her own way.

But there is hope... Brian is finding acceptance, love, and community at Youth Dynamics.

On this YD Adventure trip, Brian deepened relationships with his new friends and youth leaders while rafting, rock climbing, and navigating through a challenge course. Brian experienced Jesus on this adventure. Although this is just the beginning of his journey, Brian has found a safe place to learn what a personal relationship with his Creator looks like.

Katelynn feels blessed and honored to be someone that Brian is excited to see every week and she is looking forward to many more parking lot hugs and honest conversations with him.



Brian is stepping outside his comfort zone to build new friendships and is experiencing Jesus along the way.

Prayer Request:

Please pray for more young people like Brian to be reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the Northwest: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.



Submitted by Katelynn Kazen

Associate River Manager & Leadership Pursuits Coordinator
YD Adventures at Stonewater Ranch, WA

12-Day Leadership Pursuit

"...Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God." — Luke 6:12

There is something powerful about being out in the wilderness that allows one to connect with God. The Leadership Pursuit program is an intensive learning environment that immerse youth in God and his Word, the outdoors, and a team-building atmosphere.

This twelve-day trip is designed for 16-19 year olds transitioning into adulthood who are highly motivated and who are looking to develop more leadership skills.



This summer, 9 students from all across Washington, Idaho, and Sweden participated in this leadership development opportunity – dynamic relationships and challenging experiences.

The program offers:

- **Personal Discovery and Development:** Participants learn to work as a team, examine their gifts and personality traits, serve others, step into various leadership positions, and press further into who God has created them to be.
- **Bible and Ministry Training:** Participants dig more deeply into God's Word, take time to be still and hear God's voice, look closely at their personal experience with Jesus as their savior, and build a deeper foundation of faith.
- **Challenges:** Participants participate in and learn to lead a variety of activities, such as challenge course activities, white water inflatable kayaking, rock climbing, mountain travel, horsemanship, and service work. The activities involved are physically, emotionally, and mentally challenging – requiring a good attitude and lots of perseverance.

Prayer Request:

Please pray for more students who can attend the Leadership Pursuit program in an effort to gain a greater sense of who God is and who they are in Him.

Please pray for scholarship funds as the cost per student is \$750.

The ultimate goal for their time with in the program is that they gain a greater sense of who God is and who they are in Him as they move into a new stage of life.

"Overall this was the best summer of my life. I was able to be completely open and bold in my faith... being on the Leadership Pursuit trip and pushing myself further than what I was used to or comfortable with was a happy reminder that I still have room to improve and grow." - April, 2018 Participant

To learn more about this program, contact Katelynn Kazen: kkazen@yd.org

How do I have a relationship with Jesus?

That question was asked by Jody, one of the students who came back from a YD Adventure trip earlier this year where the gospel was shared and the speaker invited students into a lifelong relationship with Jesus.

She had been attending a YD Communities drop-in center for a while and had heard about Jesus before, but for some reason this time she felt something different inside. Confusion. Conflict. A sense of being overwhelmed. She felt alone in the world after the death of both her parents. Living with an uncle and two cousins, she did not feel fully part of a family – honestly, she missed her ‘real’ family.

After the event, Jody asked the question, more to herself than to Danny, the YD youth leader, “how do I have a relationship with Jesus? I just can’t run away from a relationship with Jesus anymore.”

That was the start of her new journey. Jody began to attend more drop-in times and asked lots of questions. Danny encouraged her to consider a YD Student Leadership internship experience over the summer to help learn about Christ away from her struggles at home.

It was a powerful experience and it deepened her foundation of faith. During the summer, Jody learned that Jesus loves her... that she is enough. Gleaning from leadership skills she developed, she is now learning how to be a student leader to her peers. Jody is actively seeking out what it means to be a Christian and follow Jesus.



YD Adventure trips help deepen relationships already formed throughout the year through YD Communities.



Submitted by Daniel Weston

YD Communities Staff
Skagit Valley, WA

Prayer Request:

Please pray for Jody and other students who are invited into - and accept - a lifelong relationship with Jesus.

Update: In the spring 2018 addition of Reflections you were introduced to April. She shared a little about her journey as a new believer, the impact her professed faith had on her relationship with her family, and the opportunity she had to do a summer internship at Stonewater Ranch (YD’s 158 acre ranch just outside of Leavenworth, Washington).

April learned so much from her summer experience. She learned how to trust new relationships, she learned she does not like backpacking, and she gained new friendships that are good and healthy. April said her biggest take-away this summer and something she is leaving behind as she comes back from this experience is she no longer believes in the lie that she is worthless – she saw her worth in God’s eye. At the end of summer, April was baptized surrounded by what she calls her “God family.”

Uniquely Reaching Youth

Wilderness and Adventure based youth ministry is one of the most unique ways to reach teenagers in 2018. “Digital” and “in doors” and “comfortable” easily describes a majority of youth today. They are also “hurting” and “needing love”.

Taking youth out into outdoors and being stretched physically, emotionally, and spiritually is a unique way to experience God’s great love, while being surrounded by a community of staff that show genuine care.

Paul, one of the youth from a trip, noticed this genuine care and said, *“I see the love you have for one another, and the faith you have... it’s appealing. You talk about a God who loves me more than I can possibly imagine. And I want that too. But I just can’t rationalize it all.”*

We are reminded of John 13:34-35 *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* Us loving is the world knowing. Paul was given a unique opportunity to hear about a God that loves him. He didn’t decide to live for God in that moment, but he was in a position to see people that love God and love each other... and that impacted him greatly.

Thank you for being part of us living a unique life. We are so thankful for your part in our journey and story. Thank you for partnering with us so youth like Paul can have unique opportunities to know that they too can be a peculiar person, belonging to God. We could not do it without you!



Submitted by Shane Land

Staffing and River Manager

YD Adventures at Stonewater Ranch, WA

Prayer Request:

Please pray for Paul and other youth who are noticing and experiencing Jesus love through the staff and volunteers at Youth Dynamics..

Creative Giving Opportunities:

Shop and benefit Youth Dynamics - it doesn’t cost you anything!

1. **Fred Meyer Community Rewards**

Sign up at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards
Search for Youth Dynamics or DM237

2. **Amazon Smiles**

Sign up at: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0858312>
Shop Amazon and Youth Dynamics will receive by donation 0.05% of your purchase.

3. **IRA Charitable Roll-over**

Save on taxes and support a good cause! If you are at least 70 1/2 years old, you can roll-over up to \$100,000 of your IRA to a qualified charity. Youth Dynamics is qualified! The charitable distributions count towards your minimum distribution requirements and you won’t be taxed on the transfer. Contact us and your IRA administrator to learn more. 360-757-1337



Building our Staff Team:

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9:37-38

Please pray with the Youth Dynamics staff and YD Board for more YD staff to join the team to fill roles with the ministry. Ministry needs in YD Communities, YD Adventures, Communications, student leaders, volunteers, advisory committee members, and new YD Board members. Also, please pray for the potential of a YD startup in Western Montana and for God to raise up staff to pioneer ministry there.

Sending a team to Urbana 2018

This year, Youth Dynamics is sending a team to recruit staff at Urbana—a global missions conference held every three years in St. Louis, Missouri. Please join us in prayer for the team: Paul Spence, Katelynn Kazen, Sarah Strickland, and James Chidister.

For more positions, detailed job descriptions, or to apply, visit: www.yd.org/jobs

2018 Golf Marathon Update:

On August 28, 2018 Youth Dynamics hosted its 27th annual Golf Marathon. With 19 golfers from all over the state playing 100 holes of golf—some reaching as many as 157 holes—this event raised over \$98,000 all in an effort to reach today's youth through dynamic relationships and challenging experiences!

We want to say a special thanks to Silver sponsor **Blade Chevrolet** and Bronze sponsors **DA Davidson**, **RIS Insurance**, **Strauss Jewelers**, and **New Creations Building Company**. Additional thanks to: Fidalgo Bay Roasting, Moncrieff Construction, Rice Insurance, Semrau Engineering & Surveying, Northwest Adolescent Counseling, National Color Graphics, Bayside Specialties, Smokey Point Concrete/Skagit Readymix, JD's Laundry and Cleaners, Les Schwab Tire, Apple Tree Resort, Max Dales's Steak & Chop House, Outback Steakhouse, Olive Garden, Thrive Community Fitness, Mountain Springs Lodge, Avalon Golf Links, Cash & Carry, Safeway, and YD Adventures at Stonewater Ranch.

All proceeds went to benefit teens all across the Northwest!





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**Youth Dynamics
Mission Statement**

*To invite and challenge youth to
a lifelong journey in relationship
with Christ and His church.*



Give us a ring!
360-757-1337



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