

REFLECTIONS

Fall 2021 Edition



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Dear Friend and Supporter of Youth Dynamics,

Michael had never been camping until this summer, never slept under the stars, and never heard of God's love for him through Jesus Christ. Through Youth Dynamics, this all changed. Michael attended a multi-day kayak trip, camped, slept under the stars, heard about God's love, and enjoyed some fantastic rapids on the beautiful Wenatchee River!

This summer was full of life-changing ministry to kids like Michael. Our adventures trips were in full swing! Kayaking, white-water rafting, mountaineering, rock climbing, horse camps, backpacking, paddleboarding, and so much more! In fact, it was one of our busiest summers ever. 175 adventure trips, to be exact! I thank God that we can report that to you.



A group of youth attend a Youth Dynamics Adventures trip on the Wenatchee River, WA.

As we look to the 2021-22 school year, we are excited about the opportunities to work with as many young people across the Northwest as possible. Relational. Adventure. Youth Ministry. This is Youth Dynamics. Our mission is to invite and challenge youth to a lifelong adventure with Christ and His church, and we cannot accomplish this mission without you.

I am so thankful for your support of our staff, special projects, and adventure scholarships to help youth like Michael have opportunities to discover a lifelong adventure with Christ. May God bless you this year!

Warmly in Christ,



Tom Davis
President
Youth Dynamics

P.S. Michael's generation is the most non-Christian generation in American history (Barna Research). The pandemic is adding more uncertainty and challenge for our youth than ever before. We need your prayers and financial support to engage with youth every day. Thank you so much for your partnership in ministry.

Ephesians 3:20-21

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

A Life Changed Forever

This past school year, Tina* started attending a weekly Youth Dynamics program in her town. She and her friends quickly became the first ones there each week. This provided an opportunity for the staff and volunteers to get to know them and learn their stories. As the year progressed, Tina became more and more involved and engaged.

In July, when inviting students on a Youth Dynamics Adventures trip, Tina eagerly was one of the first ones to sign up. On that trip, Tina's heart finally opened up and responded to the invitation to follow Jesus. Tina made the greatest decision of her life that night in July, to enter into a forever relationship with Jesus Christ.

Tina shared with staff more about her decision to follow Christ, and also what Youth Dynamics meant to her this past year:

What is one word you would use to describe your experiences at Youth Dynamics?

"I would say, fun...and happy. There is so much happiness and life at Youth Dynamics. It's really nice to have this type of place for my friends and me to be ourselves."

How has Youth Dynamics made an impact in your life in the past year?

"I've made new friends. Even in the midst of the pandemic and my school shutting down, Youth Dynamics gave me an opportunity to continue making new friends, and I am so thankful for that."

*Name changed for privacy



Tina and her friends enjoying a campfire during their Youth Dynamics Adventures trip this summer.

What is your favorite thing about Youth Dynamics?

"It gives me so much joy! I love Youth Dynamics because I experience Jesus like I never have before. There is something special about being here."

Tina is looking forward to a new school year with Youth Dynamics and inviting her friends.



Submitted by Chris Ward
Area Director
Anacortes Youth Dynamics

Prayer Request:

Please pray for Tina and other students as they grow deeper in relationship with God, staff, and volunteers.

Expanding Youth Dynamics!

For the past few years, many of us have had our phone alarms set for 10:02 AM every day (except Sunday) and 9:37 PM to pray in obedience to Christ's command found in Matt. 9:37 and Luke 10:02, **"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."**



Left: New staff training on the Wenatchee River, WA. Below: Staff and volunteers teambuilding in Oregon.



Our Heavenly Father is answering those prayers in amazing ways!

Youth Dynamics is expanding in both ministry locations and staffing. Since October 2020, community ministries in Rochester, WA, and Emmett and Horseshoe Bend, ID, have launched. In addition, five new staff have started in their ministry positions, and 12 more people are raising support to come on staff—with some of those staff starting new ministry locations!

Please pray for these new staff members! New ministries, new relationships, new homes, and new responsibilities are fertile soil for personal and ministry growth, but also prime opportunities for our enemy to poke his ugly face into relationships and such and "muck things up."

Also, would you join us in praying daily at 10:02 AM and 9:37 PM for new volunteers, part-time and full-time staff for Youth Dynamics? Charles Spurgeon stated, "Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscle of Omnipotence." Thanks for your partnership in prayer!



Submitted by Kelly Shattuck, Rev.
SW Idaho Regional Director of Communities Youth Dynamics

Prayer Request:

Please pray for more staff and volunteers to help reach students who need to hear the good news of Jesus!

Investing in Grace

Eighteen-year-old Grace signed up to attend the Life and Leadership Training program this past summer (a 6-week internship Youth Dynamics offers high school students). Of the \$2,100 needed for the program, she had raised all but \$965 and applied for a scholarship to help her cover the gap. She said:

"Getting this scholarship would help me focus on my Life and Leadership Training program and gain the experience I need to further my relationship with Christ. I want to be fully present during the program to learn what it means to be a leader and a servant of God."

Not growing up in the church and learning who Jesus is through Youth Dynamics has been such a blessing, but I don't have many contacts or people in my life outside of Youth Dynamics that see my walk with Christ as valid."

When her program concluded, Grace shared what impact this experience had on her life and what she learned about her faith journey.

"As someone who loves the outdoors, I didn't face anything that I thought I would not be able to do. However, part of the leadership program involved assisting with other adventure trips, which meant I had to engage socially with other participants as a leader. I found myself most hesitant in those situations."

Before I left, I had a diagnosis for seizures and experienced an episode early in training. What impacted me the most through that experience was the staff who reassured me and made sure my needs were met. Their kindness shifted my willingness to



Grace on one of many adventures this summer!

trust people, as well as my internal perspective on how worthy I am to be cared for. After that experience, I realized I was less anxious about making meaningful connections with students. I put more intentionality into making the students feel as seen and cared for as I did when facing something scary."

Thank you for helping me be fully present during the Life and Leadership Training and providing the opportunity to get the hands-on involvement I needed to grow in my walk with Christ. I am excited by this experience and will put this training towards my youth ministry involvement in the future."

Grace is one of the hundreds of students who had a life-changing experience this summer because of people like you who support the ministry of Youth Dynamics. Thank you!

Ready... Set... Go!!!

Working with youth through Youth Dynamics this year has been a whirlwind experience. I am repeatedly affirmed that God has placed my family and me in the right place in this time to reach young people for Him—I can't tell you enough what an honor it is!

I began my ministry position back in March, and it's been exciting to see the Lord attracting so many students who are ready to hear the good news of Jesus! As evidence, this summer has provided many opportunities for the gospel to be presented, for students to respond, and for relationships to be deepened.

This summer, our Youth Dynamics Adventures trip was a combo experience (rock climbing and rafting) and was a great tool to get students (and leaders like me) out of their comfort zone. The views on the trip were stunning, and God's creation was on full display!

After each round of rapids, we took some time to ask the students questions to get them to open up. It blows my mind how it was so natural for students to open up—as if being in creation opens up vulnerability for these students. Several conversations took place at our campsite following our rock-climbing experience as well, for which



Students from Moses Lake on an Youth Dynamics Adventures trip this summer!

two students made new decisions for Christ! Another student caught me after our devotional and shared he had contemplated suicide several times in 2020. This seventh-grader looked me in the eye and said, "Sean, what you shared from the Bible tonight resonated with me, and I want to rededicate my life to Christ!"

It is incredible to see how God is working throughout the ministry of Youth Dynamics to reach these kids who are ready to receive Him. I am so very humbled and grateful to be serving as a missionary in the Pacific Northwest!

Praises: This year marks the 25th anniversary of student ministry in Moses Lake. Praise be to God!



Submitted by Sean Sallis
Area Director
Moses Lake

30th Annual Golf Marathon

A huge thank you to everyone who donated and participated in the annual golf marathon. The event raised nearly \$117,000 for Northwest teens!

A very special thanks to our awesome 2021 sponsors:

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Kyle Fisher playing in the golf marathon in support of the ministry in Moses Lake.



Save the date for next year!
August 22, 2022

Giving Opportunities:

- 1 Support Youth Dynamics**
Give to the general fund to provide a solid foundation to reach more students.
- 2 Giving Tuesday Gift**
Consider making a special gift by December 1, 2021 and help kick-off the year-end giving campaign.
- 3 Year-end Giving**
Consider making a year-end contribution before December 31, 2021.
- 4 Donate Stock**
- 5 IRA Charitable Roll-over**
You can roll-over up to \$100,000 of your IRA to a qualified charity. Youth Dynamics is a qualified charity, and there is no tax on the transfer.
- 6 Adventure Scholarship Fund**
Make a special gift to help youth attend leadership programs and adventure trips.
- 7 Fred Meyer Community Rewards**
Sign up at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. Search for DM237.
- 8 Amazon Smiles**
Amazon will donate 0.05% of your purchase to Youth Dynamics. Sign up at: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0858312>.

Ways to give:

Phone: 360-757-1337
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Thank you!



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