



**YOUTH DYNAMICS**

Let's adventure together!

# REFLECTIONS

A Newsletter of Youth Dynamics

Spring 2025

## Meet Tyler

Every Wednesday without fail, Tyler\* bursts through the doors of Youth Dynamics like a whirlwind—loud, unpredictable, always testing the limits. He sizes people up, watches reactions, and pushes boundaries, trying to figure out who's really in charge. Trust doesn't come easy for him. In fact, it feels as rare as rain in the desert.

When Tyler first showed up, he wasn't searching for Jesus. He came because he heard there'd be food—and maybe a few girls. The first time faith came up in conversation, he panicked and bolted before the night was over.

But he came back. Again and again.

Our journey with Tyler has been anything but simple. He's rough around the edges, and some days it feels like we're barely making a dent. But every now and then, something shifts. When he's met with respect—even in the middle of his chaos—you can see it: his eyes soften, and for a fleeting moment, there's a flicker of hope. It's like something deep inside him whispers, "Maybe this Jesus is worth trusting."

For Tyler, Youth Dynamics has given him his first real encounter with Christ. Through consistent relationships and local adventures, he's slowly beginning to open up to the truth of the Gospel.

*\*Name changed for privacy.*

We may not know exactly what God is doing in his heart—but we believe He is working, gently breaking down walls.

Now, imagine this: Tyler out in God's creation on a seven-day immersive adventure. No distractions. Just him, a few trusted leaders, and the steady, loving presence of God. We believe this kind of experience could be a turning point—an invitation to a lifelong adventure with Christ and His church.

Would you please pray for Tyler, and for the many students like him, standing on the edge of transformation? We're so grateful for your partnership with Youth Dynamics that enables students like Tyler to experience the love of God.



Ryan Bentley  
Base Director  
Horseshoe Bend, Idaho

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## Please pray with us for:

- **Young hearts to encounter Jesus**—that many would discover the deep love, hope, and freedom found in a relationship with Him.
- **A smooth transition into summer**—as our ministry teams shift from the rhythms of the school year to a packed season of relationship-building and life-changing adventures.
- **Provision for our staff**—that each team member would experience God’s faithfulness and generosity in their support raising.
- **Protection and safety**—for the thousands who are participating in adventures this summer.

## Please praise God for:

- **Our incredible staff**—passionate, mission-driven leaders who devote their lives to walking alongside youth and sharing the Gospel.
- **A phenomenal volunteer community**—hundreds of people who love Jesus and young people, contributing over 20,000 volunteer hours each year!
- **An exciting summer ahead**—with 214 Adventures and Retreats already planned across our regions!
- **You!** Your partnership, prayers, and generosity are helping make an eternal difference.

*“Youth Dynamics is about students and their relationships with Jesus. It’s not complicated. God is the center. Jesus paid it all.”*

— Connie Evans, Cofounder

## Letter From the President

*“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday  
and today and forever.”*

— Hebrews 13:8

In a world that feels like it’s shifting by the second—where smartphones, social media, and artificial intelligence redefine daily life—today’s teens are navigating constant change. With 95% of 13–17 year-olds now owning smartphones and AI evolving at breakneck speed, it’s no wonder so many young people feel lost in a sea of overwhelming information.

That’s why the unchanging truth of the Gospel is more important than ever. Trends will fade. Platforms will shift. But Jesus Christ remains the same—steadfast, present, and full of love. And we are committed to meeting young people right where they are, forming authentic relationships, and pointing them to the rock-solid hope of Christ.

By God’s grace—and through your faithful support—we’re creating spaces where teens can ask hard questions, share their struggles, and encounter the steady, life-transforming presence of Jesus.

Your prayers, your giving, your time—it all matters. Every act of generosity fuels this mission and helps anchor young lives in the truth of Hebrews 13:8.

Thank you for standing with us. Because of you, students across the Northwest are discovering a hope that doesn’t change with the headlines. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in this work that echoes into eternity.



*Tom Davis*

Tom Davis, President

## A Year of Milestones

This year is a monumental one in the life of Youth Dynamics. **We're turning 55!**

In 1970, Paul and Connie Evans launched Youth Dynamics in Anacortes, Washington, with a simple but powerful vision: to reach young people with the hope of Jesus. **This year, we celebrate 55 years of that ongoing mission.**

Paul went home to be with the Lord in 2019, but Connie remains actively involved in the ministry's legacy. Reflecting on this milestone, Connie shared: "Youth Dynamics is a gap to these young people. You never know what you will say or do that makes an impact. YD is about students and their relationships with Jesus. It's not complicated. God is the center. Jesus paid it all." We invite you to scan the QR code below to watch a short video honoring this legacy.



**We're also celebrating 40 years of Youth Dynamics in Oregon!**

What began in 1981 as Quest Ministries in Canby, OR—founded by Curt Dunlop—merged with Youth Dynamics in 1985 to expand its reach. Since then, we've been working with local churches across Oregon and pointing young people to Jesus amidst the beauty of God's creation.

And finally, **we mark 20 years of ministry in Idaho!**

In 2005, Paul Spence and his family moved to Horseshoe Bend to launch Youth Dynamics Adventures Idaho. Using the nearby Payette River and the surrounding mountains for rafting, climbing, and skiing, the team built something truly special. It's been amazing to see God grow Youth Dynamics Idaho into a thriving ministry—complete with dedicated property for staff housing, offices, and a youth center.



## What is Sweet Spot Ministry?

Over the years, we've discovered something powerful: significant spiritual growth in young people happens when two key elements come together—a meaningful relationship with a trusted leader and the life-shaping experience of adventure. We call this Sweet Spot Ministry.

It's the moment when a young person steps into the challenge and beauty of adventure and begins to build a genuine relationship with a leader who listens to their story, shares God's story, and walks with them through their own journey of faith.

And the impact? It's undeniable. On our multi-day adventure experiences, nearly one-third of students make a decision to follow Christ. That's the power of relationship, trust, and the presence of God in these sacred spaces.





# Help Send a Teen on an Adventure!

At Youth Dynamics, we believe in the power of relational adventure youth ministry to impact young lives for Jesus Christ. Our Adventure Scholarship Fund Campaign directly supports this mission by providing much-needed financial assistance for students to participate in our adventure trips.

These adventures aren't just fun; they are transformative experiences where young people step outside their comfort zones, build meaningful relationships with our leaders, and encounter God in powerful ways.



By contributing to the Adventure Scholarship Fund, you directly enable more students to access these opportunities regardless of their financial circumstances. Each summer, hundreds of youth need financial help, and every gift to the Adventure Scholarship Fund helps us invite and challenge more students to a lifelong adventure with Christ and His church. Thank you for partnering with us to make these life-changing experiences possible!

*"You never know what you will say or do that makes an impact."*

— Connie Evans, Cofounder

## WHAT'S NEW

On-line donor portal log-in. Visit [yd.org/give](https://yd.org/give) to access the portal.

Send students on the adventure of a lifetime! Visit [yd.org/asf](https://yd.org/asf) or scan the QR code.



## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- 1 **Give** to the general fund. [yd.org/give](https://yd.org/give)
- 2 **Volunteer** with a community or base. [yd.org/join/volunteer](https://yd.org/join/volunteer)
- 3 **Leave a Legacy.** Consider including Youth Dynamics in your planned giving or estate plans. [yd.org/give/legacy](https://yd.org/give/legacy)
- 4 **Adventure Scholarship Fund.** Make a special gift to help youth attend adventure trips and leadership programs. [yd.org/asf](https://yd.org/asf)
- 5 **Intern** with Youth Dynamics. Visit [yd.org/join/intern](https://yd.org/join/intern) for more information.

