



Kalamazoo YFC Celebrates 75 Years of Ministry!

On October 23, 2019, Kalamazoo Youth For Christ will begin its 75th year of ministry.

Youth For Christ was a movement that started in the Midwest in 1944 with a mission to reach teenagers with the hope of Jesus Christ. It was a ministry that quickly exploded with YFC chapters starting in cities all over the country, and Kalamazoo was one of them. Large rallies, often led by a young evangelist named Billy Graham, resulted in thousands of teens coming to faith in Christ. Torrey Johnson, who initiated the ministry, was in an all-night prayer meeting when he proclaimed, **"O God, we want this kept on a miracle basis. We want everyone to know that God's hand is in this movement. We want folks to see that this is too big and too great for any man or group of men to accomplish by themselves. We want folks to say, "GOD DID IT!"**

Soon after that prayer meeting, the slogan for Youth For Christ was chosen. This would be a ministry that was to be **"Geared to the Times, Anchored to the Rock."** This slogan still lives today, and it has been true of YFC ministry through the decades. I am proud to serve in a ministry that remains anchored to Jesus and His Word as we declare the Gospel to teens every week. I am also excited that YFC has remained geared to the times. The methods of sharing the Gospel have changed through the years, but the message has never changed.

The life of a teen in Kalamazoo in 2019 is vastly different than the life of a teen in 1945; but, their need to know about the hope of Christ is as urgent as it has ever been! Students are dealing with issues such as depression, fatherlessness, teen pregnancy, self-harm, bullying, drug addiction, and emotional disorders caused by social media. Being a teen has been challenging for every generation, and it certainly is today. The great news is that, last year, Kalamazoo YFC had the chance to share about Jesus with approximately 1,500 teens at our 18 ministry sites. As our 14 staff and 75 volunteers built Christ-sharing relationships, **we saw 247 young people come to first-time faith in Jesus and many more commit themselves anew to following Christ!**

This life-changing ministry has been happening for 75 years in Kalamazoo, and we are planning a large celebration to give God the glory that is due His name! **I want to personally invite you to join us on Friday, November 1, 2019, at Centerpoint Church for this great event.** The details are included below. Tickets must be purchased in advance. I hope we will see you there!

- Scott McCloughan
Executive Director

HONORING OUR PAST

CELEBRATING THE PRESENT

BUILDING THE FUTURE



CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST • CENTERPOINT CHURCH

reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres 6:00-7:30pm • 75th celebration program 7:30-9:00pm

register @ <https://www.kalamazooyfc.org/event-links/75th-anniversary-celebration> • \$12

A Prayer from a Healed Heart

When we first met Nate, he was sad and hurting. After learning the good news of Jesus, he opened his heart to the Savior. Since then, we have seen him grow and transform into a new creation in Christ. The other day in Chapel, he wrote the following prayer request, that shows the growth and transformation in his life:

"I just want to thank God in prayer for everything He has done for me. He helped me through this phase of life; He helped me change for the better; He opened my mind to my parents, showed me the way to be honest. I thank you, Lord God, for teaching me. I asked for a sign in my most dark times, and you answered. You showed me that, no matter how hard times get, I can make it through with your help. I put my faith in you, and you helped me; and, you keep me moving in the right path. Thank you for keeping my parents alive and that I have two parents who love me. Please help all of my family get through the next month and help me to get home soon. Please help my peers get home to their families. Show everyone some way to you, Lord.

Please help me to love and to have your peace, happiness and freedom. I don't want to fall away from you; please pull me closer to you. Make me your messenger. Help me to help others. Help everyone heal mentally, socially, emotionally and in any other way they need to be healed. Bring me to be one with Jesus Christ, your Son. Show me the way to be with you as Moses was for his people. Help me share your freedom as Moses helped his people to be free. Help people to believe, to see that you are real; help them to open up to you. To all the people who are hurting, ease their suffering.

For all the people who are with you, bring them closer to you. Show everyone else through them that the things they don't think are possible are possible. Bring those distant to you, that they will all have a place with you, close to you. Help them to become your children.

Thank you, Lord, for listening to all your children. Thank you for Dave, Bill, Mike, Eugene, and every person spreading your word. In Jesus name, Amen." Nate.

What a change we have seen in Nate! When we first met him, he didn't know how to pray; now, he is a young man of prayer. He has experienced healing and transformation and wants others to know the Healer. Thanks for helping us reach Nate and many others like him.

- Bill Smith
Juvenile Justice Ministry Director

Ministry Updates

With summer upon us we are given more time with the teens teach life skills. This summer, along with club, we have cooking classes, outings and museum visits. We have been able to take kids to the store, help them find reasonably priced and healthy foods, and then we go back and learn how to cook! These programming events allow us to further build relationships with these teens, walking with them physically and spiritually through life.

- Tyler Gjeltema
Colonial Acres City Life Director



As 485 middle school students descended onto Camp Michindo's campus, the feeling in the air was electric. This camp is full of excitement because many of the students have never been to a YFC camp. Most don't have a relationship with Jesus. We had the opportunity to spend five days ministering to young people through large group games, cabin competitions, one-on-one, chapel (or "club"), and cabin time. YFC camp is one of the most intentional ministries I have ever experienced. Each day had a theme that ran throughout, and it all related to the message that would be shared in the evening. One of the days centered around our sin. The whole day was messy. We did something called "crud wars," which was hilarious but relevant. That night, Doug, the speaker, eloquently shared how messy our sin is and how we have rebelled against a holy God. The point of the day was for students to "sit" in their mess and reflect on their lives and their sin. Then, the next day, the Gospel was put on display. During the evening session, the Good News of Jesus was shared, and the students did something called "solo time." They were challenged to sit and be with God, to pray, and to write a letter to God that they could later share during cabin time if they chose. They were also challenged to respond to the Gospel message. Once the music started while they were in the field, if they felt led, they could shout at the top of their lungs one of three responses: "Yes," "Yes again," or "Not yet." It was absolutely amazing to hear students shouting their responses and responding to the Good News of Jesus. Many students responded in faith! Please pray for these teens as they go home and start their journey with Jesus. They say that YFC Camp is "where everything changes," and I can say that I witnessed this in person! Can't wait until next year!

- Joe Bragg
Ministry Director

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New Team Member



Kalamazoo YFC is excited to announce the most recent addition to our ministry team, Dani Spackman! She started serving as our new Comstock Campus Life Director in early September. Dani grew up in Plainwell, was married earlier this year to her husband, Josh, and is currently working on completing a degree in social work at WMU. Dani served as a volunteer ministry leader for a YFC Camp trip this past summer and had the privilege of seeing two of the girls in her cabin express faith in Jesus. She can't wait to see God do that same work in many other teens in the months ahead. Former Comstock Campus Life Director, Paul Jennings, is very excited to see God call Dani into this role. Jennings said, "I'm excited to know that the students in Comstock will have a leader who truly understands them and a big heart to meet them right where they are." Please pray for Dani as she builds a team of ministry leaders, learns a lot of new names and faces at Comstock and prepares to launch Campus Life as the new school year begins!



Come visit us at our **NEW LOCATION**
 2328 Winters Drive, in Portage,
 behind the McDonalds right
 across the street from the airport

MINISTRY TEAM

- Scott McCloughan, *Exec. Dir.*
- Amy Block
- Joe Bragg
- Chuck Connors
- Tyler Gjeltema
- Karen Hokenson
- Rachel Jennings
- Mindy Kiss
- Kylie McCloughan
- Steve Newland
- Scott Pease
- Alejandro Rodriguez
- Bill Smith
- Dani Spackman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Bob Goldston, *Chairman*
- Sam Ash
- Julie Brown
- Shelly Losey
- Patsy Moore
- Cliff Muller
- Greg Newsted
- Jerry Wright



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60+ VOLUNTEERS / 14 SITES / 14 STAFF / 1 YOU TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE