

Youth Pastor's Annual Report for 2009

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2: 42-47

This passage in Acts is such a beautiful picture of the church. In its initial stages the church was passionately in love with Jesus and with others. They were on fire for Jesus Christ. This fire was uncontrollable. It was burning hot, it was spreading fast and it was igniting BLAZES around the world. Why? They had fallen passionately in love with their Savior and this love overflowed into their relationships with others. They began seeing the world through the eyes of their Savior, Jesus Christ. This is my prayer for our student ministries here at Grove City Alliance Church - that our teenagers would passionately love Jesus and others. This love will burn, spread and ignite fires around our community and world.

This school year we have set our course with renewed vision. Our main goal is God's goal for our ministry: "To be passionately in love with Jesus and with others."

Here is our three-fold vision:

1. **Igniting** a passion for Jesus and others
 - Reach – Evangelism
 - Pray – Prayer
2. **Burning** with a passion for Jesus and others
 - Connect – Fellowship
 - Grow – Discipleship
 - Honor – Worship
3. **Spreading** a passion for Jesus and others
 - Serve – Ministry/ Missions
 - Lead – Leadership Development

It is such a blessing to have the opportunity to minister to teenage students. God has blessed our church with many young people. We are currently ministering to 135 students on a weekly basis between all of our student ministry programs.

Igniting a passion for Jesus and others

1. Reach

"Loving others and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with them."

It is our desire to challenge our students to pray for and reach their non-believing friends with the gospel of Christ. Our students have many opportunities to pray for their non-believing friends in small groups on a weekly basis. We also challenge students to invite their friends to our crowd programs and evangelistic outreach nights. It is through these events and others that non-believing students are able to hear the gospel spoken in words they are able to understand and are challenged to respond to Jesus' invitation.

We continued to pursue our goal of promoting bi-monthly outreach nights in our junior high IMPACT program. These nights have been successful in reaching new students, but we continue to pray that these new teens would respond to the Gospel message. We also held two evangelism training events this year and will continue to offer these training days in our efforts to prepare and train students in evangelism. This year we have had the privilege to see four

teenagers receive Christ as their Savior. Please pray that we would continue to reap a harvest as it is more difficult than ever to reach teenagers in this day and age.

2. Pray

“We are to be a house of prayer.”

We know that students will not fall passionately in love with Jesus until they spend time with Him. It is our desire to teach students to pray. We teach students the six prayer steps that Pastor Dick has laid out for the church body. Students are encouraged to be with God and develop a tighter relationship with Him.

This year we have provided several prayer days. Over 25 students participated in the last prayer day we held! What a blessing to see teenagers take a day out of their schedule and bask in God’s presence. We also held our very first Passion night this year. This night was a night dedicated to seeking God in worship and prayer. Brian Campbell led this time and we saw a powerful moving of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the students.

We continue to set aside Wednesdays as a day to focus our prayer for the youth of our church. We send out weekly emails to prayer warriors with updated request and praises. Parents are also gathering together for prayer. It is such a blessing to host parent prayer gatherings in our youth facility. What a blessing to come together in prayer for our children.

Burning with a Passion for Jesus and Others

3. Connect

“Creating and maintaining authentic relationships with other followers of Jesus.”

Small Groups – Small groups are a very important part of our ministry. It is the place where we try to connect believers with caring adults and other caring students. We have an excellent group of small group leaders! They dedicate countless hours on a weekly basis to shepherd students in their walk of faith. We currently have 6 senior high small groups ministering to more than 45 students on a weekly basis.

There are a number of other activities that have served to connect students with God and other students. We desire for students to grow and develop an authentic relationship with Jesus and others. Some of these events were: Guys Overnighter (Jr. High), Manly Man Night, The Game, Girls Sleepover (Jr. High), Girls Event, Breakaway, Girls Backpacking, Guys Camping Trip, Jolt, Toby Mac Concert and many more.

4. Grow

“Growing spiritually on their own: Learning more about God’s character, the world, and one’s self while personalizing and deepening their walk with Christ.”

We challenge our students to grow on their own outside of our programs and ministry. Our goal is to teach and promote H.A.B.I.T.S. (Hang time with God, Accountability with another believer, Bible memorization, Involvement with church, Tithing, Studying Scripture). Our H.A.B.I.T.S. shack provides tools for students to develop godly disciplines on their own. This year we continued to provide free monthly devotionals to teenagers who desire to grow in their quiet time with the Lord. We are also sending out verse text messages to students during the week to remind them of God’s promises.

GROUNDING SUNDAY SCHOOL – Our desire is to teach and equip students in their faith. We offer electives for our senior high students in Grounding. They can choose from electives during each trimester of the school year. Some of the subjects taught: World Religions, Spiritual Disciplines, Generation Change by Ramsey, Contagious Christianity, Abrahamic Covenant,

Experiencing God, Being the Best You Can Be in Sports, and Prophecy. Our average attendance for Grounded has been 53 students.

Our small groups also spend time on a weekly basis going over a book or small topical study. This school year our senior high small groups have been working through the book "Forgotten God" by Francis Chan.

5. Honor

"Celebrating God's presence."

Our primary program for accomplishing this priority is in our crowd programs—"The Mix" (Senior High) and "Impact" (Junior High). Our desire through these programs is to express our love to God for who He is, what He has said, and in what He is doing.

THE MIX – We have such a diverse group of students coming out to our senior high program. These nights are filled with games, fellowship, powerful worship and relevant impacting messages. Our average attendance for "The Mix" was 47 students in 2009 with high nights reaching over 70 students.

IMPACT - We hold this program on Thursday evenings. It is designed to attract and reach the junior high student. This program has grown over the years. It is a blessing to see how well our children and youth ministry work together in transitioning students. Our average attendance for "Impact" was 44 students in 2009, with high nights reaching 56 students.

We also have a fully developed worship team. Dan Thumm is leading our senior high worship team with Amber Persinger's assistance. This worship team is filled with talent. They do a wonderful job leading students to the throne of God. We also have a starter band in our junior high ministry. The talent is starting at a very young age.

Spreading a Passion for Jesus and Others

6. Serve

"Meeting needs with love, serving others with our God-given gifts."

We desire to see students serving God with their hands and feet. We know that every student is God gifted to show Christ to the world.

Many of our teenagers are involved in serving other church ministries. We have many teenagers who are leading in AWANA, children's church, worship ministries and the nursery. We are so thankful that our students are being trained to serve in the various ministries of the church.

BROOKLYN TRIP - This summer our senior high students took a trip to Brooklyn, New York. This was a level 2 trip that required major relational ministry. These students witnessed on the streets, prayed for people at a prayer booth, prayer walked through streets, fed and prayed with the homeless and much more. It was a wonderful time of ministry and serving. We praise the Lord for the 32 students who attended this trip.

NIAGARA FALLS TRIP - We also had the opportunity to take our middle school students to Niagara Falls, NY for a trip with YouthWorks. These students served lunches in the soup kitchen, helped with city restoration, visited the elderly and much more. It is a blessing to be able to take younger students on a trip that teaches them to serve in the name of Jesus Christ. We praise the Lord for the 26 students who attended this trip.

We are also very passionate about missions. Jesus commanded us to go in to the world with the good news! Our students attended Global Impact in Pittsburgh. Global Impact is a one day event that exposes students to missions and motivates them to make an impact. Thirty eight students

attended this event. We also hosted YWAM Pittsburgh for a missions night in the fall. Our students were challenged to do their part in fulfilling the Great Commission. Many responded at the altar.

7. Lead

“Disciples who make disciples.”

We are in the stages of developing a group entitled EPIC. EPIC stands for “Empowering People in their Call.” It is our desire to assist students who sense a call to serve the Lord in full-time ministry. This group meets once a month for the purpose of encouragement, challenge and direction. Please pray for Pam Ulrich as she develops and guides this group in the future.

A Personal Thank You

It is such a joy to serve as a Youth Pastor at this church. God has called me to be here at this exact moment and in this exact place. It is a privilege to be called by God to do His work. I am humbled that He has chosen me and am thankful that this body of Christ has given me their time, resources and talent to assist me in this call. I would like to thank the church body for all your prayers and support in the past year. You have given sacrificially to our events and I know that many pray daily for our students and leaders. I would especially like to thank all my leaders for the many hours you give to the youth and the student ministries. It is through your sacrifice and surrender that Jesus is seen in you. Thank you for allowing the youth to see Jesus through your words and actions.

Praise be to God for this last year. I pray that God would continue to bless and reach the youth of our community with His unending grace.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Paul S. Renicks