

2008 was quite a year at YFC

Contributed by Peter Cpin
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As the new year begins, we reflect on the many lives that were impacted and changed at Youth for Christ and the Encounter during 2008.

It has been a privilege and a joy to witness the life-transformation first hand. Of course, that is our mission — to bring the life-changing message of Jesus Christ into the lives of young people. It is Youth for Christ's reason for existence, and it is a blessing to be a part of reaching every young person with the hope found only in Jesus.

We think about Matt, a young man who came to the Encounter a few years back as an avid user of the skate park. When he first began attending, faith was not an important part of his life. But through the relationships built with Encounter team leaders — Jason, Amy, Peter and Mark — Matt's life began to change. He came to a point of putting his faith in Christ and began a discipleship program to grow in his walk with Jesus. He now works alongside us as a skate park intern. It is an exciting blessing to see young people come full circle.

We celebrate over the new ministry at Arrowhead Juvenile Center.

Every other week, YFC staff member Kari Becken meets with girls who are incarcerated at a very young age. These girls are extremely open to talk about matters of faith and God's word. Kari has had the opportunity to share the truth and hope found in Christ with ladies from all religious and life backgrounds. For many of these young ladies, this will be their only opportunity to hear about Jesus. This is sure to be an exciting outreach for YFC in the future.

We remember Jesse Smith — a young man who had a dream to make it big in Hollywood. He went west and was close to making it professionally.

At the same time, his life was falling apart personally. He knew he needed to come home. Upon arrival, he instantly contacted us and began a discipleship program called Quest. Over the next year, he went through the painful, yet beneficial, process of submitting his hopes and dreams to God. He knew he needed to turn over his life completely to Christ. As he began to allow God's plans for his life to become his plans, God began to open doors to minister. In fact, Jesse was blessed with a new dance studio in the Encounter. He started a business that would provide him and his family with an income, as well as reaching young people for Christ. The story is still being written in Jesse's life, but God's faithfulness is evident.

There are many more stories and lives that we would love to share.

We remember Justin, Shane, Mike, Faith, Dustin and Ray. Each name represents a life and a story, an unfolding journey that we pray leads to the joy found only in Christ. As we continue to move forward in the work here, we would like to thank you for your encouragement, prayers and financial support as we seek to reach "Youth for Christ";

Blessings to you and your family in 2009. For more information on Youth For Christ, call (218) 722-9820 or check out the Web site at www.headofthelakesyfc.com.