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City Life Update



Comedy Café

Rescheduled for Saturday April 18th, with comedian Jeff Allen. Starting at 7:00 at Des Moines Christian School.

Peaches

We will be selling peaches again this summer. We are selling Georgia and Colorado peaches this summer.

Golf

We will be having our annual golf tournament in September this year. We are still working on the date.

Wicks family update

It is amazing how fast time goes. I hear every parent say it, but now we are living it. Andrew turned one on Valentines Day. I am beginning to realize how difficult it is going to be to celebrate both Andrew and Kristi on the same day. He is usually full of smiles and laughs, likes to wrestle and roughhouse with Caleb and I, and is beginning to truly enjoy the outdoors. He is close to walking and in no time him and Caleb will be running all over and tackling each other.

Caleb will be three in May. He is a great big brother and seems to know and remember things better than I do. He is starting to enjoy hiding things and watching Kristi and I scramble to try and find them – birthday cards for his brother and shoes amongst other things. He is

always looking for ways to help us out. We have been busy doing a number of house projects and he has wanted to be a part of them. I guess he knows as much as I do about tools and building things now. He has great fun at the pancake breakfast Sunday mornings. He gets to play with the older kids and doesn't have much fear – running around the middle of a football game the boys were playing.

We are looking forward to a five-year anniversary getaway trip to Chicago in May. It is hard for Kristi and I to find time to go on dates, let alone a number of days to be together without the kids. She has been doing a great job spending her days with the kids, and keeping our house in order and together. I can work some long weeks and a lot of not normal hours and



she does a great job keeping our family together.

We are glad that spring is here; the neighborhood seems to come alive with kids outside, people walking around, and people working on their houses. It is a nice kind of noise. We are thankful for a big yard for the kids to play in and for the chance to play with kids at various parks in the neighborhood. It is such a great time to build new relationships within our neighborhood.



Comedy Cafe

We were suppose to have our 5th Comedy Café fundraiser on Feb. 27th. I was taking a break from preparing for it when I got a call from our comedian's booking agent, and he said that Taylor was stuck in an ice storm in Dallas. We ended up postponing the event. The new date for the Comedy Café is April 18th, with comedian Jeff Allen. We are looking forward to a great event with lots of laughs, desserts, encouraging stories, and sharing where YFC is going in the coming years. We hope you can join us for the event.

High School Update

It has been an exciting start to 2015 with our high school kids. We have seen kids come to know the Lord and encouraging their friends to grow in their walks with the Lord.

Isaac is a junior at North High School; he has come to our Friday night soccer event, and has been a faithful attendee of an outreach that goes on at North right after school once a week. An area youth pastor has been faithful to build that relationship over the course of the school year with Isaac, and February 24, over tacos in the North High cafeteria Isaac gave his life to the Lord.

The next meeting that we were at

he gave some really insightful answers and seemed to be much more humble and teachable. He was typically pretty aggressive in his questions and putting up a front and this wasn't the case at all. He has read the Bible before and is good friends with Moise so please be praying for discipleship opportunities and that we would all be growing through this time.

Fantazia is a freshman at Roosevelt, and has been coming to club after her friend Gloriose invited her. She comes from a pretty broken family, and has found a home in our ministry. Mel, a volunteer, has become great friends with her and has been faithful to preach the Word to her and live it out in front of her.

Fantazia is really excited for camp and as her and Mel were doing the paperwork the gospel came up and she gave her life to the Lord.

Moise has developed a strategy to reading the Bible that he is encouraging his friends to do, and they are memorizing the book of Jude together. It is fun to watch on Tuesday nights the three of them checking in to talk about how things are going with the Lord and keeping each other accountable.





YFC Camp

We are excited for the chance to take kids to camp again this summer. For the first time we are going to high school camp in Colorado. We currently have eight kids who have turned paperwork in to go. Since this is our first time going we had no idea how many kids would be interested. Most of the kids that have signed up to go are non-Christian kids, which is even more exciting. Camp spoon-feeds the kids the gospel and the mission of Camp is to take away any of the barriers to kids hearing from God. We will be sending kids to Middle School camp, about 45 minutes from Des Moines. I don't know have a good feel for how many kids from City Life will be going, but I am sure we will have a good group. We are so blessed to have a number of leaders who have volunteered to take the time off of work to lead the students at camp.

Social Media

Each week Dayna and I send out a prayer list for the ministry. Each one includes a middle and high school student story and ways you can be praying for them. I will also send out two or three newsletters a year via email. If you haven't received them check your spam folder or send me a current email – jmw024@gmail.com. We are thankful for so many of you praying for our ministry and our students and seeing God do a mighty work in our neighborhood.

We are also reexamining how we use Facebook as a ministry. You can find our page to like by searching for Central Iowa YFC. We are just beginning to dive back into this realm so we would appreciate you growing with us as we figure out how to use social media for our ministry.

Pancakes

Pancakes is still going strong at the Wicks house, each Sunday we have been having around 20 kids for pancakes. A couple of weeks we have been scrambling to find seatbelts for all the kids. It is encouraging to see our kids invite their friends to come to pancakes and church with them. We have a number of volunteers that bring car loads of kids over and then a kid will ask them to go get their friend. Having outgrown our house at the end of the winter, spring couldn't have come at a better time. The boys are now able to go outside and have some intense two hand touch football games or soccer competitions. I am so thankful for so many volunteers who minister and love our kids so well. They invest so much time and money and energy into them, we couldn't do anywhere near the ministry we are without them.

Prayer requests

Moise get into Huntington

Wisdom for summer plans

Leadership development

Building finances and location

Building update

We are still searching out a building for our City Life ministry. After talking through it with a contractor/inspector, we decided that at the moment it is not going to be the place for us. It would be a place where we would put a lot of money into early on and it would serve the ministry for a year or three at current growth trajectory and then we would be stuck there. It is hard to be patient in the process as we are outgrowing our current locations but we are trusting God with the process and know he has something good planned for us. We are learning a lot through the process and glad we have a good team of people advising and guiding us through this process. There are two new options we are exploring. The first is a grocery store that recently went out of business; it is a huge lot with a 10,300 sq. ft. building on it. The potential of that building would be incredible. The other option is a house sitting on 2.5 lots, centrally located in the neighborhood. We would try and build a really huge garage or a new structure to meet our needs. We would also have a house on the lot that we could use for offices, small groups, kitchen, etc. They both have positives and negatives about them, and a lot of

work still needs to be done. We are excited that as doors have been closing the Lord has provided other doors being opened. It keeps me encouraged in the process to see buildings that would be usable are available.

Praises

Kids getting saved

Fun at St. Lukes Shrove Tuesday outreach

Growth in Middle School club

Camp interest

New staff hired

Comedy Café rescheduled

Indoor soccer went well