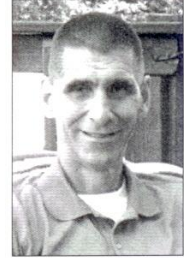


...by believing
you may have life
through His name.

John 20:31

CrossBridge Community Church
PO Box 1711
Fairport NY 14450-7711

December 2011



Joel Smith

*National Field Director
Eastern States Region
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Dear Friends,

Real Christmas!

Youth for Christ exists to bring the truth of Christ who was born on Christmas to lost kids! We have many activities, programs and plans....but the bottom line is evangelism. Here are some ways it happens:

I spent time in Northeast Maryland this week helping to start a brand new YFC Chapter. The local community realized that all the programs combined weren't changing behaviors. Only an internal change could do that. I had the opportunity to present the relational ministry that is YFC. They want it! In Elkton, Maryland, a community wants Christmas to happen in the hearts of kids.


In Delaware, a new Juvenile Justice ministry is operating. Kids who have already made some bad mistakes and ended up incarcerated now have someone coming to them on a weekly basis to present truth. It took a lot of time and persistence to gain access to a previously closed facility, but YFC came alongside the local chapter and together we made it happen. Kids in prison are now experiencing a real Christmas.

On Long Island, where three million people live, we are trying to find a way to reach lost kids. The staff there is utilizing a friend to friend strategy to reach 30 schools with the Christ of Christmas. They work with local youth leaders as well as student leaders and training them in evangelism. They give curriculum and tools to Christian kids and watch them reach their friends. Yes, kids on Long Island are also experiencing Christmas for the first time.

I could go on and on. Five kids in a youth ranch in Frederick, Maryland, heard for the first time that Jesus is real. Hundreds of kids in the Pittsburgh area weekly come out to hear truth. A beautiful new ministry facility has been built in the Capital Region of NY. It houses the best climbing facility in the Northeast... **ALL for the purpose to bring Christmas to lost kids.**

Please continue to help us in this work. Your special gift at this time makes a big difference as we plan our strategy for next year. With your gift YOU bring Christmas to kids all year long!!! Thank you!

Joel



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you may have life
through His name.**

John 20:31

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December 2011



Deborah Smith
National Camp Associate
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Dear CrossBridge Community Church,

Recently, I was meeting with a small group of high school student leaders. Luke 2 was all we needed to get the discussion going. We found ourselves wondering what it must have been like when the angels made themselves known to the shepherds that were out in the fields watching over their sheep. There were snickers at those famous words from the angel, "**Don't be afraid. I am here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everyone world wide.**" (Luke 2:10, *The Message*) Who wouldn't be a little on the terrified side when seeing such an amazing display of sound and light?

As we continued our discussion the question was asked, "Why would Jesus come in the manner that He came — taking on the form of a human/a helpless baby? Why wouldn't the King of Kings make a more majestic entrance? Why did the angels announce to the shepherds?" There were many rabbit trails from those few passages of Scripture. After all it is the living and active word of God! But one comment that I particularly appreciated: "I think Jesus took on the form of a human/baby because Luke 2:10 states the event was meant for **everyone worldwide.**"

Everyone worldwide! — Not just for those of a certain socioeconomic status, or for those who appear to be physically flawless. EVERYONE worldwide! The good news proclaimed 2000 years ago still remains GOOD NEWS today! He came to identify with the shepherd as much as the scholar. He came for the orphan, the abused, and the social outcast, as well as the loved, adored, and socially accepted. He took the form of a human to identify with us! The light of the world stepped down into our darkness for everyone worldwide. **What a beautiful reminder today that there is nothing we can do to earn His love. It is simply a gift given to everyone worldwide; it's up to us to receive it or leave it.**

I trust that this Christmas season will cause you to embrace the love of our Savior who gave so humbly and so unconditionally — a truly astounding gift that keeps on giving. Thank you for allowing me the awesome privilege of sharing that good news to teens throughout the year. Any end-of-the-year gifts are always appreciated and are investments that will reach far into eternity.

Everyone Worldwide!

In Him,

Deborah Smith