

November 2011

CrossBridge Community Church  
PO Box 1711  
Fairport NY 14450-7711



**Deborah Smith**  
*National Camp Associate*

Dear CrossBridge Community Church,

With the change of season comes the falling leaves, colder temperatures, and thick frosted mornings! As much as I hate to think about what lies ahead for us here in Western New York, I am reminded of the importance of change. With the colder temperatures comes the need for us to begin to use our wood stove! There is nothing like the warmth that is generated by a wood stove. It makes our house so warm and cozy. I am smiling just thinking about what a happy place our home is when the stove is going. 😊 Now, if we were to have the wood stove going in the middle of summer this would not be such a happy place.



## *Change.*

Over the years in my personal life, as well as ministry life, change has entered the picture. I remember a poster that my mother gave me many years ago. It was a picture of a tree during the fall season. The caption was, "Without change there can't be growth..." Ouch! I can remember my mom sitting on the end of my bed discussing whatever issue I was having at the time, and it would often come back to that fact. "Things change, growth will occur, and you will be a better person for it. God always has a plan!" At the time I am not sure I saw the wisdom of her words, but she was so right! Thanks Mom!

So in this season of leaves-dropping and snowflakes beginning to fall I am thankful for the wood stove and the warmth that it brings. I am thankful that God continues to teach me and remind me that things will continue to change, and growth will come, but **HE REMAINS THE SAME** (Hebrews 13:8). He is trustworthy, constant, faithful, and His love endures forever.

I am thankful that with each new year of ministry God brings new kids and the atmosphere does change, but growth also occurs! I am excited about all the new kids and even new volunteers that God is bringing this year. I look forward with anticipation to see the work He will accomplish.

If this is a particularly difficult season in your life with lots of change and uncertainty, I trust and pray that you will allow the God who does not change to be your hope and strength. There are bountiful blessings even in the change!

His peace,

*Deborah Smith*



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Dear Friends,

## THE STORY OF ONE

Since you get so many letters and appeals for funds, let me bring the mission of YFC home to you through one student. A chapter in Pennsylvania relates the story of Betsy.

Bill, (the YFC director) parked himself in a chair at the youth center in case anyone wanted to chat. Betsy came by with a notebook. She sat down and asked if Bill would read what she had been writing. Of course he took the notebook. Betsy said, "These are personal thoughts that I am trying to put into poetry."

What he read from a thirteen-year-old girl's perspective was deep and poignant. Betsy wrote of the pain she felt for an unnamed person, who had been bullied, shamed, verbally abused and then eventually pushed to attempt suicide. She also spoke passionately of the anger she felt toward the perpetrators of this treatment toward another person. Pretty heavy stuff!

Bill finished and asked Betsy if this was a real person she was writing about. She wouldn't say. But then she went on to state that she had personally been bullied at school and had attempted suicide and ended up in many weeks of therapy.

Betsy has been attending a City Life program for the last three years and is a positive spark in the club. She is loud energetic, dramatic, sensitive, funny, boy-crazy, makes friends easily and still gets in trouble at school and at home.

But... she also has been responsible for inviting more kids to club than anyone else!

Bill will continue to work with Betsy: He will care and continue to present Jesus who sees the deep hurt just under the surface and is the Only One who can change that! Pray for Betsy and thousands like her!

In YFC we pursue lost kids!!! Thanks for helping us in our quest!

Joel Smith

NATIONAL FIELD DIRECTOR - EASTERN STATES REGION



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*For every kid... one at a time.*

7670 South Vaughn Court, Englewood, CO 80112

CALL 303.843.9000 FAX 303.843.9002 CLICK YFC.ORG

November 16, 2011

Dear CrossBridge Community Church,

***"I am going through some tough stuff right now... I'm starting to lose my hope in God, and I'm doing things I am really beginning to regret..."***

This was part of a message one of our YFC staff in Kansas recently received from a teen. A former self-proclaimed atheist, he has come from a pretty rough home life (and now Mom and Dad are on the verge of divorce).

This summer, he had a breakthrough intellectually, emotionally and spiritually as he gave his heart to God. It was a miracle moment – full of the happiness and joy that only Christ can bring.

And now, a few months later, he is struggling. The good news is that he's looking for help and our staff has committed to walk with him. He knows he wants something different for his life, and we do too. He just joined a new small group study led by our YFC director, and he has opened up to the others about what's really going on in his life.

Life transformation – that's the essence of the ministry of Youth for Christ in the lives of kids all across the country. There are thousands of these kinds of stories unfolding every week. **And your investment of prayer and financial support makes it possible.** From each of them... and me...thank you. Your partnership helps change lives – for God's glory.

Dan Wolgemuth, President  
Youth for Christ/USA



**GREATER ROCHESTER**

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*every young person one at a time*

P.O. Box 30069 · Rochester, New York 14603-3069

585.256.5050 OFFICE · 585.256.5051 FAX · [www.yfcrochester.org](http://www.yfcrochester.org)

November 15, 2011

**Pastor Brian Rathbun**  
**Cross Bridge Community Church**  
P.O. Box 1711  
Fairport, NY 14450

Dear friends:

The mission of Rochester Youth for Christ (YFC) is changing kids lives through relationships: life coaching, leadership development, and a living faith in Jesus Christ. We pray that One Favor Street will be a haven where Christ is lifted up and youth are encouraged.

Your generous gift is being used by God to move YFC toward making this desire a reality.

All-Star Summer Camp, led by youth from The Father's House (TFH), was a two-week period filled with games, crafts, Bible study, and sports of all kinds. A lot of kids accepted Christ and we at YFC look forward to being part of discipling them in their next steps.

TFH has a strong movement of students that are passionate about Jesus. Their leaders wanted to give those students the opportunity to reach out to the community where they worship, and saw that Rochester YFC's ministry was the perfect partner for summer urban ministry. We look forward to partnering again in the future.

We praise the Lord for your involvement with YFC and are grateful to count you among the caring individuals and churches that prayerfully and regularly fund the work in the city. Please continue to pray for this ministry to urban youth.

Geoffrey Smith  
Executive Director