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VCSTUDENT

Valley Creek Church | Sixth - Twelfth Grade
 [Wednesdays @ Oak-Land | **6:30pm** 6-8th | **7:15pm** 9-12th

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The Least of the These A Tale of Two Easts

By Matt Reed

Last year our Wednesday nights were devoted to looking at the life of Jesus. Working backwards from his ascension through his ancestors, we looked at how he lived his life and how we can imitate his. All year we explored the fundamentals of our faith.

As I began to consider what the 2011-12 school year would hold for VCSTUDENT, I kept coming back to the idea of making our faith our own and putting it into action. If 2010-11 was about faith foundations, 2011-12 would be about putting that faith in motion.

I believe there's an opportunity to put our faith in motion by meeting the needs of those facing war, famine, and disease in East Africa. The profit from very t-shirt sold this year will go toward meeting needs in East Africa. My hope is that making a difference in East Africa will motivate our teens to make a difference in the East Twin Cities through VCSTUDENT.

VCSTUDENT provides a platform for students to develop their gifts and share their faith. Our Wednesday nights are designed to be a ministry by teens, for teens. We always convey the message to teens that youth group is "By you, not for you".

We invite you to take advantage of what happens at events and Wednesday nights to spur discussion at home and to create or expand your spiritual leadership as parents in the life of your teen(s). Look for updates from us throughout the school year to keep you apprised of the latest happenings.

Our ultimate hope is to partner with you in helping teens build a strong and lasting faith from adolescence to graduation and into adulthood. We aim to provide a faith community committed to your child beyond graduation. You are the greatest influence in their lives. We want to help you make them the greatest positive influence in the lives of others.

The Five Our Annual Events

We're not social calendar planners and we understand that students and their parents have busy lives. That's one reason we have The Five, our major five events throughout the year.

Each event is unique in what they offer to the students, but with one goal in mind: We want students growing in their walk with Christ and in their unity with the friends around them.

Our first event of the student year is a group favorite that has become quite legendary. It's our Fall Retreat happening September 16-18 at Interstate Park in Taylors Falls. At only \$10, we want every teen at Valley Creek Church to come. It's visitor friendly and as far as the students are concerned, just hang out time and games. The games are fun strategic team-building games. It's a great chance for students to invite friends, and for us to get to know them all better.

The second event is MYC, Minnesota Youth Convention. It's in Rochester and is an amazing experience. We stay in a hotel and join 4,000 other students from across Minnesota in the convention center to hear amazing speakers and a great band. Teens are challenged in their walk with Christ as we attend services as a group. There are also great late-night events like a Thursday comedy event and Friday Dodge Ball tournament at the local athletic club! It happens over MEA weekend, so missing school is usually not an issue. The cost is \$125 and includes convention registration, hotel, games, and transportation. Their friends who don't attend any church pay a discounted price.

Event three is our newest event. It will be a break from the monotony of winter by getting away for a weekend of fun and games. It's another visitor friendly event that happens on President's Day weekend, so students will have Monday to catch

“We keep it simple. Five major events every year. Each with a unique and intentional approach to help students grow in their faith and see God move in their lives.”

up on sleep and homework. The location and cost are yet to be determined, but plan on it being less than \$50 and within an hour drive from the Twin Cities.

Our fourth event is summer camp. It's held from Monday through Friday in Alexandria, MN. The cost will be right around \$200. We attend both Junior and Senior Teen camps. Each week has speakers specifically chosen to be age-group specific in the messages they bring. The week is filled with games, music, services, and fun time hanging out at the lake. The students are challenged to give of themselves and to serve. Our youth leadership team works in different roles at camp, some on staff and some as counselors for the students. We are available for the students and enjoy getting to know them better.

We consider Valleyfair our final event. It's a fun end to a fun year. It marks the end of our annual cycle and the ushering in of Fall. Valleyfair is an event that is meant for students to simply come, bring friends, and have fun. The cost is \$30 which includes a ticket, lunch and transportation.

We'll also have a missions trip opportunity in June 2012 and will release more information once it's ready in November. We hope to offer a continental trip for under \$1300.

We're looking forward to these events with great anticipation. We're not sure who enjoys them more, the leadership team or the students!

THE FIVE

Fall Retreat

Sept 16-18... Taylors Falls
[\$10 Due Sept 14, 2011]

Convention

Oct 20-22... Rochester
[\$125 Due October 6, 2011]

Winter Retreat

Feb 17-19... Location TBD
[\$35-50 Due Feb 1, 2012]

Camp

July 9-13 Jr Hi
July 23-27 Sr Hi... Alexandria
[\$200 Due 4 weeks before]

Valleyfair

Aug 9 ... Shakopee
[\$30 Due the Same Day]

+Missions Trip

Cost & Destination TBD



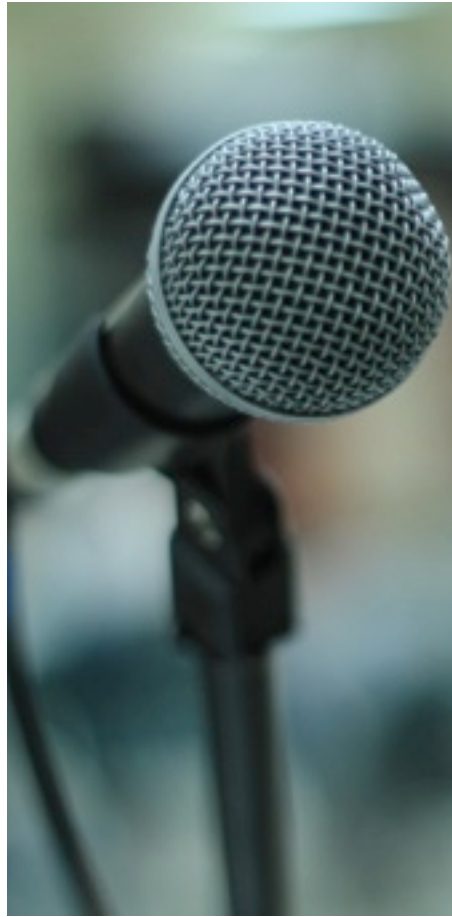
The Series Wednesday Nights

Wednesday nights are the core of the VCSTUDENT experience. They are small group driven and the topics we cover in each series is intentionally planned to meet our goal for the 2011-12 school year.... making our faith our own and putting it in action.

The series we have lined up for the will cover a wide range of topics. Each series will be unique, focusing on everything from motivating students to deepen their faith, overcoming the struggles and trials of life, and understanding some of the basic principles of our faith.

We're implementing a new idea this year by having one Wednesday night each series that is a combined worship experience for 6th-12th grade. We're excited to bring in guests speakers for an evening resembling a camp or convention service experience.

Our Wednesday nights start at 6:30pm for 6th-8th graders in the cafeteria at Oak-Land Jr High. It's 45 minutes of small groups, teaching, and games specifically for their age group. The 9th-12th graders join us at 7:15pm for a combined audio/visual worship experience with a live band. The younger crowd is dismissed at 7:45pm and the older students have the next 45 minutes geared just for them. We encourage regular attendance as our series and small groups build off of the previous week's service. It's a journey we



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Sep 7 - Oct 12

"The Least of These"- Matt 25:31-46...
Our relationship with God and others

Oct 19 - Nov 16

"Live Dead"- Galatians 2:20... Faith in action; 30 day devotional challenge

Nov 30 - Dec 21

"Babies"-Luke 2; Hebrews 5:12...
Growing up; The Birth of Jesus;

Jan 4 - Feb 1

"How to Survive a Zombie Attack"-
Revelation... Living w/ the end in mind

Feb 8 - Mar 7

"Soundtrack of My Life"- Living for Jesus and making your faith your own
Mar 21 - Apr 4

"Paparazzi"- John 18-20... How to live your life in public following Jesus

Apr 11 - May 2

"In the Beginning"- Gen 1; John 1...
Exploring creation and God's Word

May 9 - Jun 6

"Faith Defined"- Defining five faith words like 'salvation' & 'baptism'

Jun 13 - Aug 29

"Tribal Warfare"- Summer games and groups; Not meeting at Oak-Land

all take together and each week is an important piece of each student's spiritual growth. If your family has teens in both age groups, feel free to drop off everyone at 6:30pm and pick them up at 8:30pm. We have leaders ready to hang out with students in the halls during both the Jr High and Sr High times.

With the summer and closing of school comes the challenge of a new

location for Wednesday nights. That led us in part to have outdoor competitions throughout the summer. We don't underestimate the spiritual value of seemingly non-spiritual activities. Relationships and trust are built over these 12 weeks and it allows regular attenders to invite more friends.

We're looking forward to this year and excited to see what God will do!



VCSTUDENT LEAD TEAM

Matt & Jill - Pastors

Charles & Shannon - Worship/6-8th

Lonni - Youth Assistant/9-12th

Josiah & Emily - 9-12th

The Team Committed Volunteers

VCSTUDENT is driven by a team of volunteers who make a yearlong commitment to your students serving every single week of the year including events. They make that commitment because they are passionate about affecting change in the lives of teens.

Many of our leaders were actually teens when Jill and I first youth pastored in Stillwater over 10 years ago. They believe whole-heartedly in the vision of student ministry because they were able to experience it first-hand and realize the

importance of a solid foundation of faith in the teenage years.

There are three main roles of responsibility for our volunteers: Group Leaders, Worship Team, and Event Support. All of our VCSTUDENT volunteers have been personally invited into leadership by Jill and I and they also have completed the necessary background checks to work with teens.

This team is committed to spiritual growth, both in the lives of individual students and in our own lives. All of us maintain a high standard of Christian living and accountability to be examples to the teens we minister to.



“FREEK” SHIRTS

The profit from every shirt sold this year will go to meet the needs of people in East Africa. We release a shirt every year that highlights the overall theme for the year. This year’s shirt is an ode to

the two easts... East Africa and the East Twin Cities. The design on the front is a lion outlined in the shape of East Africa. The back features a rising sun and has all of our Wednesday night series and event dates to double as a calendar. The cost is \$15 and there will be more than one color option.

EXTRA INFO

VCSTUDENT will NOT be meeting on November 23 or December 28

Our permission slip can cover more than one event. Please take time to read it thoroughly.

The location for Wednesday nights in the summer will be released in May

Scholarship Money for events may be available upon request

We have 2-3 fun “Creek’s Edge” events for 5th graders so they can meet our team before they join VCSTUDENT June 6, 2012.



