

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Greetings from the youth sector. It's been exciting time down in the Garage. Here's the scoop:

Roots is growing! When **Tim** headed off to Massachusetts, we were left with no male counselor for the **Roots** group besides myself. I'm happy to announce that we've found someone to join us. **Danny Schweitzer** joined our Jr. High staff in April. In growing up with him, it's evident he has a passion for teaching and guiding young people. He brings a great deal of energy, knowledge, and laughs to the group. Now poor **Kristi Holstein** has to deal with 2, count em, 2 counselors that act like they're 12!! ☺ Up until now, Dan's work schedule didn't leave him with evenings free, however that's now changed. **Praise God. Thanks to him for stepping up into such a vital role, and to his wife Laura for her support of his passion! Welcome Dan!**



Now that it's getting nice outside, **Roots** has been out and about in the neighborhood. A few weeks back, we headed down to Rolling Green for some games and during that time, a kid name **Sean** showed up and asked if he could join the game. In no time he melted in to the group and has joined us each Wednesday since and also was at the bonfire we had on April 19th. (more on that later) **Paul Montoya** who lives near church also brought a friend of his recently. His name is **Kory**. Paul joined us last fall and is now an active member of our group. Please be praying for all our kids that God may move in their lives in a very deliberate way.

We've been using **Rob Bell's video series** recently which has sparked good discussions and down-to-earth take-home stuff that the kids can use today as they grow in life. **Praise God!** I don't have the space to elaborate on the lessons, but they've dealt with **identity, struggles in life, God's presence in daily life, anger, silence, and so many more.** One was about breathing. It talked about how Lord, in Hebrew, is pronounced Yod, heh, vah, heh which is where we get **Yahweh.** Rob suggested that in many traditions it's not even pronounced because it's so sacred. Ancient rabbis believed that these letters functioned kind of as vowels and were essentially breathing sounds. **Rob's question: is the name of God the sound of breathing??** Life begins and ends with breath. God breathed life into man. The Hebrew word "Ruah" means both breath and spirit. **I think that's so awesome.** The kids latched onto the main point and left that night with a new, deeper understanding of breathing, and that it's so much more than just filling lungs with air.

April 19th was a bonfire blast out in western Rockford. Both **Roots** and **Overhaul** combined for this event, which was great. It was touch and go there for a while as the rain kept swooping in, but in the end, it cleared up and we were good to go. We all met out at **Christi's grandparent's house out near Winnebago.** The kids made use of the playground, soccer goals, ultimate Frisbee field, and even a soggy, marshy area that provided hours of adventures not to mention wet shoes and pants!! Around dusk, with the help of lighter fluid and pine tree branches, our bonfire came to life. It didn't light the first time and I think the kids were questioning my ability (maybe they were right), but in the end, it worked out great. Hot dogs, chips, mustard, relish, pop, water, smores, and ketchup completed the **cookout menu.** Thanks to **MaryBeth** for getting all the food! Also to **Kristi Holstein and Dan Schweitzer** for helping out. It was a great time had by all and I'm sure we'll do it again some other time!!

OVERHAUL
Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Now, on to **Overhaul.** **Overhaul** is busy. Our Mexico missions trip is coming up quick! We've got a great group of kids going along with **Annette Retzlaff, MaryBeth Adams, Matt Link, and myself.** Make sure you make plans to join us this **Saturday, May 3rd, for our Swedish Pancake Breakfast.** It's happening from 8 – 11AM and **Anders**

Gredenius is going to be firing up the skillets. Don't miss it. The free-will offering will benefit those going on the Mexico trip this summer. Please be praying for each of us that the logistics would fall into place and that the money needed would be received. Moreover, please be praying for those in **Mexico** we will be serving alongside.

Praise God!! Overhaul has also been maneuvering through Rob Bell's video series for their talktime. The discussions are great and the lessons, like Roots, provide them lifestuff to use today. **Please be praying for these kids as they continue to seek God. Be praying for summer jobs to come together for those that are looking. Praise God for new faces in our group:** Jared and Chelsea. I pray they continue to meet their God here at Broadway. **On a sad note, we lost Justin Holmertz, who defined selflessness and left to serve our country in the Army. Justin – please know that you are missed. The impact you've had on us will go with us into the future. God bless you!!**

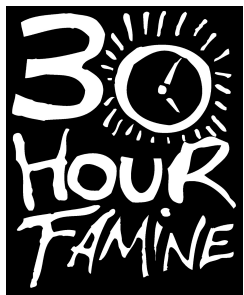
Cell groups are fantastic!! Mike Yaconelli's book, Messy Spirituality, is coming to a close, but it's been great! Kids are remembering the themes from the book. They're remembering the stories and the meaning behind them. **They're learning how to be Christ for those they meet.** They're learning how to be themselves and to seek their God with all their heart. They've poured themselves into this group. **They've made it their own.** Several had schedule changes and aren't able to be there for the whole thing each week, but still show up with only 15 minutes left. **They do it because they want to. God is good!** Please be praying for us and we decide when to meet during the summer and what to study. May God show us the way!

Many kids have volunteered their time to help with Skills Camp coming up in June – the 16th – 20th to be exact. Praise God for their willingness to help. Also to Cheryl Ecklund and Michelle Gustafson for their incredible skill and dedication to making this event life-changing for so many. Also to so many more who give their time, resources, passion, and abilities to help our kids choose the narrow path. Thank you all!!

A huge **Congratulations goes out to Skyler Retzlaff!!** Moody Bible Institute awaits! Skyler is looking to pursue the ministry in some form after college, and he decided that Moody would be his first choice for **College.** It's a very difficult school to get into as **they only take 70 incoming freshman (I believe).** I understand from Skyler that his first year is going to be spent at the campus in Spokane, Washington. Be praying for Skyler as he and his family prepare for this adventure.

World Vision's 30 Hour Famine

It's hard to imagine the cruel reality of hunger. Extreme hunger. Hunger that kills. Around our world there are millions that don't get to eat. Most of us have never experienced hunger. Most of us, myself included, take for granted the provision that we have. The sad reality is that hunger is real. **29,000 children under 5 years old die every day from hunger and related illnesses. 15,000 will die today from simply not having food to eat.** And tomorrow. And the day after that. That's one death every 6 seconds. It breaks my heart.



But here is the good news. Both Overhaul and Roots are choosing to make a difference by combining to participate in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. These kids will raise money by not eating for 30 hours to help make sure that kids around the world have enough to eat. Our **event will begin on Friday, May 9th at noon and end with a meal together at 6PM on Saturday night.** This experience will **challenge your kids,** as most are accustomed to eating every few hours, but I guarantee that it is possible. During our fast there will be **numerous activities for the kids to partake in.** There will be times for **games and such, times for famine-related projects, prayer time and devotional time, service projects, praise and worship times, and also sleep time (we will need it)!** Each student will get a

sponsor sheet where people can pledge their financial support. If each student can secure 12 people to sponsor 1 dollar per hour they will feed one child for an entire year!! **Be praying for our kids as they empty themselves and give all they have for those that have nothing. An event like this changes kids.** They become more aware of the needs of the world and become less focused on things they do or don't have.

As always, please keep praying for our little ones in Tanzania: Asia, Boke, and Najimu. We've received several letters from each child recently and all are doing well. May God continue to protect them and move in their lives!

Serving Him, **Derek**