



Leading students to follow Jesus fully and make Him fully known

Community Bible Church Youth Ministries
KICKS & TREK
 Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12

Youth Ministries Update

June 2011

A publication of CBC's Youth Leadership Team

Welcome!

Greetings from the Youth Leadership Team of Community Bible Church! The *Youth Ministries Update* is published approximately three times per year for parents of students as well as our CBC family.

This issue features student articles and pictures from the recent National Youth Conference in San Antonio (TREK), plus the KICKS and TREK summer calendars. And don't miss a back-page column on the joys

of KICKS from an out-going 8th grade student.

A lot is happening this summer and we invite your prayers and partnership!



KICKS and TREK—Summertime Opportunities

Summer break is here at last! What does that mean for KICKS and TREK? CBC youth groups take on a different look in the summer:

- Midweek: KICKS does not meet on Wednesdays during summer break but has other special events (see calendar). TREK continues to meet most Thursdays in June and July—these gatherings are fun and student-led. TREK does not meet Thursdays in August.
- Camp: Summer camp is always a highlight. Our church conference (Southern District Conference of the Mennonite

Brethren) puts on amazing camps for middle and high school students: Senior High Camp at Snow Mountain Ranch (Winter Park, CO) June 5-9, and Junior High Camp at New Life Ranch (Colcord, OK) July 2-6.

- Mission trip: July 25-31 TREK students can choose to take part in a local mission experience—we're calling it "KC11" with the focus on ministering to people in our own backyard! Partner organizations include Mission Southside (Olathe), Urban Scholastic Center (KCK), Freedom Fire (KCMO), and Hope Faith Ministries (KCMO).

- Youth Leadership Retreat: August 12-13 has been set aside for adult youth workers plus student leaders to meet together for a Friday evening and Saturday morning of inspiration, encouragement, and training. Details coming soon.

There are plenty of other youth activities and events this summer for growth, service, refreshment, and fun, so take note of the KICKS and TREK summer calendars on the left inside page. It'll be a great summer with students!

FEATURE: REMEMBER THE FLOOD—San Antonio 2011

Once every four years, high school students from Mennonite Brethren churches across the United States gather at a unique location for a National Youth Conference. April 16-19 it was San Antonio 2011!

SA2011 attracted around 900 participants from the West Coast, the Midwest, Colorado, Utah, South Texas, and North Carolina. 30 of those came from CBC as 22 TREK students and 8 adults traveled over 15 hours by bus to take part in this historic event. SA2011 was [pick a word] awesome... epic... inspiring... refreshing... life-changing.

The theme was FLOOD, from Amos 5:24—"Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-ending stream."



the famous River Walk—there were many opportunities to consider how we can join the flood of God's mission in the world. The speakers, the band, the youth group breakout session, the workshops, and the free time were all memorable, challenging and fun. Inside the newsletter are two

The convention was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel right along

articles from TREK students at SA2011 plus pictures.

YOUTH SUMMER CALENDARS:

KICKS

KICKS (6th-8th grade) does not meet Wednesdays over summer break.

- Jun 17-18:** KICKS Campout (1:30pm Fri to 3pm Sat—at Hillsdale Lake—\$10)
- Jul 2-6:** Junior High Camp at New Life Ranch
- Jul 17:** Mini-golf outing at Smiley's (noon—\$5)
- Aug 10:** Swim party (6pm at Northwood Trails pool, with new 6th graders)
- Aug 12-13:** Youth Leadership Retreat (details TBA—for leaders)
- Aug 31:** Start of weekly KICKS (6:30-8pm at CBC)

TREK

TREK (9th-12th grade) meets Thursdays 6:30-8:30 p.m. all year except August.

- Jun 5-9:** Senior High Camp at Snow Mountain Ranch
- Jun 9:** No TREK (camp)
- Jun 16:** No TREK (VBS)
- Jun 19:** Perkins pancake fundraiser at CBC (during Sunday School)
- Jun 23,30 & Jul 7,14,21:** TREK Thursdays
- Jul 25-31:** KC11 mission experience
- Jul 31:** TREK picnic at Ewy's [No TREK Thursdays in Aug]
- Aug 7:** Hillsdale Lake afternoon
- Aug 12-13:** Youth Leadership Retreat (details TBA—for leaders)
- Sep 1:** Start of weekly TREK (6:30-8:30pm at CBC)

Pictures from San Antonio 2011...



FLOOD Review (by Callie Gerbrandt—TREK)



Let me just start by saying that the National Youth Conference was by far all that it was cracked up to be. Not only was it a great time to get closer to my youth group, but it was also life-changing. I will never be the same after my experience in San Antonio. My relationship with the other people in TREK has gotten phenomenally better, and the whole feeling of coming to TREK has gotten extraordinarily better as well.

The speakers in San Antonio were Paula Simpson-Perry and Shane Claiborne. They were both great speakers and both seemed to know exactly what to say to reach their audience. Paula covered more of the basics and the theme of the "Flood". Shane got a little bit deeper, covering the "how?" and "why?" issues. I really liked the speakers and the results the came from their speaking.



The youth group breakout session will for sure be the most memorable part of the whole trip [photo above]. It was Sunday night after session in our own youth groups, and somehow we got on the topic of the issues that have very much affected the bond of our youth group recently. I cannot tell you what a relief it was to know that

the issues that existed were being noticed and addressed. One thing that one of the girls in TREK suggested was to go up to just one person that we individually may have had an issue with and work it out with them. Since then, the bond and structure of our youth group has strengthened greatly and I definitely hope that it stays this way.



The bus rides were definitely interesting (and interesting is an understatement!). Although the bus was very nice and seats were comfortable, you definitely got what I called "bus lag" from sitting down for so long, but it seems that's what happens

when you sit on a bus for 15+ hours. The bus ride home, however, was a whole new story, probably because everybody sat in new seats. I think that I chose the worst possible seat in the whole bus: right smack dab in front of the bathroom. Whenever the bathroom door opened, everybody by me would have to cover their noses for like 5 minutes. Despite the "wonderful" bathroom smell, the bus rides did give everybody to socialize and get closer to the people around them.



Finally, I want to thank everybody for their financial support as well as their prayers for the whole youth group and the sponsors. Everything was much appreciated!

SA2011 (by Gracie Funk—TREK)



San Antonio was an *interesting* city. For starters, we arrived on the night on "Fiesta!", otherwise known as the second largest night parade in the country. We had NO idea what we were in for... crossing the street to McDonald's took us 30 minutes!

Free time in the city was pretty hoppin', there was so much to do! A giant mall, the



River Walk, various stores, the Alamo, movies, swimming, and much more! There were also some pretty tasty restaurants, and some REAL Mexican food. The city was very interesting and an enlightening experience.

But with all big cities, you have your nice, modern, tourist-y area, and your run-down, dirty slum-y area. We traveled to the West side for our service project, to a wondrous place called the Inman Christian Center [photo bottom right]. It was a daycare/after school center for the underprivileged kids in the area. Surrounded by apartment complexes and built over 50 years ago, this building was the center of the neighborhood. Inside were lots of children, from newborns to second graders, of all types of backgrounds.

We arrived to do various 'grunt jobs', such as painting, staining, cleaning, sorting, and playing with the kids. First, Sandra, the manager of ICC, gave us a grand tour and told us what we would be doing. She also introduced us to Lupe, the know-all handyman of the center. We

set out to work, from staining doors to painting the outside and cleaning the inside. At about noon, we went to an amazing Mexican restaurant named Linda's. The food was very good and about half as expensive as the food by the hotel. Then, we went back to working. We left the smiling children and staff almost six hours later.

I enjoyed working at ICC because when I was young, I also went to a center. I remember how it felt when a volunteer smiled at me. I think working there made us all value hard work and companionship a little more. San Antonio was a great learning experience for all of us. The best memory I have of it was the thank-you note that Sandra wrote us, and the awesome feeling of doing God's work.



My KICKS Experience—by Elaine Williams (KICKS)



The past two years of KICKS have been amazing! It was always a highlight of my week.

We met every Wednesday for a fun time of games, a message, and fellowship. Group and service nights were also a big part of KICKS. We spent time with the elderly, helped clean yards, and carried out jobs our community needed. Our small groups each picked one fun



activity to do at least once a semester, such as game night,



laser tag, and getting ice cream. As a group, we grew closer as the year progressed. I always felt comfortable there and had an opportunity to connect with many new friends.

The theme this year was “Ultimate Road Trip.”

We had a lot of discussion about the ultimate road trip we are going on with God in our lives. Going along with the theme, we also participated in many activities outside of our weekly meetings. Fall parties, SDJHYC, and scavenger hunts were just a few of the many fun things we did. It will be bitter-sweet as I move up to TREK next year. I will always remember the long car rides, deep conversations, and all of the people that made KICKS unforgettable.



2010-2011 “Ultimate Road Trip” Theme Verse (KICKS & TREK):

I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on your laws. I hold fast to your statutes, O Lord; do not let me be put to shame. I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free.
(Psalm 119:30-32)

Congratulations to the TREK Class of 2011!



Ben Guensche, Briana Awad, Allison Ens, Bekah Hood, Beth Koop, Becky Koop, Evan Williams

PARENTS—Don't miss P.O.T.S this fall!

P.O.T.S. (Parents of Teenagers Support) is off for the summer but will resume this fall. All parents of teenagers are welcome to this informal time of sharing and learning together—take advantage of this great opportunity! Beginning September 18, P.O.T.S will meet 6:00-7:30 p.m. the 3rd Sunday of each month at the home of Jack & Lori Houghton (11539 Northwood Dr., Olathe—call 599-2553 or email jackandlori@hotmail.com).

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