

Youth Newsletter

May 2006

Voyager Club Active During April

by Paula Thornton

The Voyager Youth Group has been very busy this past month.

On Sunday, April 3, the group met at the home of Jerry Thornton, Sr., for an afternoon of fishing. Over 20 youth, siblings, and parents enjoyed fishing and roasting hot dogs and marshmallows over a campfire.

It was a successful outing, with beautiful weather, good fellowship, and plenty of fish. Every child caught at least one fish, and many of the little anglers caught several fish.

The fishing trip was the conclusion of the club's God's People unit, with the children earning their God's People, Fishing, and Campfire awards.



The little anglers show off their prize catches

The Voyagers also visited Nansemond Pointe Nursing Home on Sunday, April 24, and were accompanied by the Alpha Youth Group.

They gave out hand-made favors to residents and put on an impromptu concert, singing "Jesus Loves Me" by request.

A trip to Sonic for ice cream and slushies concluded the evening.



"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." --Matthew 4:19 (NIV)

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES

SCOOTERS • VOYAGERS • PATHFINDERS

May 7	Regular Meeting, 12:15pm-2:00pm
May 14	No Regular Meeting <i>Mother's Day</i>
May 21	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
May 28	No Regular Meeting <i>Memorial Day Weekend</i>
June 4	Youth Group Picnic, time & details TBA

ALPHAS • OMEGAS

May 7	Regular Meeting, 12:15pm-2:00pm
May 14	No Regular Meeting <i>Mother's Day</i>
May 21	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
May 28	No Regular Meeting <i>Memorial Day Weekend</i>
June 4	Youth Group Picnic, time & details TBA

For more information about your club's schedule, including any special events planned for your individual club, please contact your club's leaders.

Special Thanks

to all who helped support the Alpha and Omega Youth during their recent Pie Sale

Over \$550 was raised for the groups' mission projects and other activities

Thank you for your support!

Alphas/Omegas Fast for Food, Participate in 30 Hour Famine

100 acres. Over 4.3 **million** square feet.

That's the amount of pizza consumed by American teenagers **every day**.

To anyone who has raised a teenager, it comes as no surprise that pizza, and food in general, is a major part of their lives. What is surprising is, as plentiful as food is in the United States, just how many children all over the world go without food on a daily basis.

Over 1 billion people live on less than \$1 a day, and, every night, over 800 million children go to sleep hungry.

But, if that weren't enough, 29,000 children die every day due to hunger and hunger-related causes.

Clearly, hunger and poverty are global problems.


However, for the third consecutive year, the youth at Bethlehem have chosen to do something about the problem of world hunger.

On Friday, March 3, twelve junior and senior high youth, together with three chaperones, gathered in Graham Hall for the start of World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.

Until 6:00pm the next day, the group would consume nothing but clear liquids, to challenge themselves personally and spiritually, and to gain a better understanding of what children just like themselves face on a daily basis.


A brief opening video and devotion helped the youth understand just how serious the problem of hunger is, and how we as Christians are called to help others in need.

The group then learned of the plight of the Masaai, a proud band of cattle herders in eastern Africa that now faces difficult times due to drought and poverty. Each famine participant was given a new identity as a member of the Masaai




PIONEER CLUBS®


Pioneer Clubs News & Notes




PIONEER CLUBS®



The Scooters have been working on their Be A Friend unit this past month. They have made invitations for friends to come to Pioneer Clubs, made animals out of spools of thread and pipe cleaners, and made their own special autograph books.



The Voyagers have been working on their God's People unit, earning their God's People, Fishing, and Campfire award badges.



The Pathfinders recently completed their Understanding the Bible unit, and earned their Carpentry and Drawing activity awards. They are currently working on their Home And Heart unit, and are working to earn their Home Helper, Board Games, and Critters award badges.

people, and assigned to one of three different tribes.

Throughout the Famine, the group participated in the game of Tribe. Created by World Vision, Tribe engages famine participants in a number of Survivor-like challenges, with the winning tribe earning cards representing food, water, health,

*(continued on page 3, **Famine**)*



Famine participants compete in a variety of tribal challenges in the game of Tribe

(Famine, continued from page 2)

education, and other things needed for survival. The tribal challenges were designed to simulate the real challenges children in poverty are faced with every day, and were often followed by a topical devotion and time of discussion.



Becke leads the group in a discussion

As the day came to an end, the group spread blankets and sleeping bags in Graham Hall, and went to sleep.

At about noon on Saturday, the tribes were given \$20 and a scavenger hunt checklist, and were taken to Food Lion. In less than 30 minutes, the tribes were challenged to buy as many food items on their checklist as they could with the \$20 given. In the end, over 90 food items were purchased, and donated to the Bethlehem food pantry.



Youth race to make their purchases at Food Lion during the Food Scavenger Hunt

Between the tribal challenges, the youth helped the

COFFEE Class prepare for their annual Roast Beef Dinner. The group also watched movies, played video games, and read books to help pass the time.



Famine participants play video games and cards to take their minds off of food.

At 5:30pm, the group gathered for their closing devotion. The youth read Matthew 15:29-39, James 2:14-17, and 1 John 3:17-18, and discussed how those passages applied to our lives. The famine participants were challenged not to let the experience end, but in the days and months to follow, to continue the spirit of the 30 Hour Famine, and to dedicate themselves to showing a Christ-like compassion for others in need.

Finally, at 6:00pm, the hungry famine participants were treated to a delicious roast beef dinner, courtesy of the COFFEE Class.

Thanks to the support of the congregation, \$1,732.25 in pledges were collected and sent to World Vision. Along with matching Federal grants, that's enough to feed over 100 children for a month, or 9 children for a whole year.

Special thanks to all who contributed to World Vision, and a great job to the youth who fasted so that others might eat.



Bethlehem's 30 Hour Famine participants and chaperones

Over 120 Children, Youth Attend Youth Revival Activities

On Sunday, March 26, the Youth Groups at Bethlehem kicked off Revival Week with two activities specifically designed for its children and youth.

The activities began at 5:30pm, where, in the Old Fellowship Hall, the Pioneer Clubs gathered for a special big-screen presentation of the latest VeggieTales video, "The Lord of the Beans".

Children two years old through fifth grade were treated to pizza, chips, drinks, and dessert, while learning how they can use their gifts for God from Bob the Tomato, Larry the Cucumber, and all their vegetable friends.

At the same time, in Graham Hall, Revolution.06, a youth concert and rally geared towards junior and senior high youth, was getting underway.

The concert began with an acoustic set from local Christian group The Blacktop June. With Luke on bass guitar and vocals, and Tyler on acoustic guitar, the duo performed "It Only Gets Better" and several other songs from their new CD "Abandon Ship".

While the bands were changing their instruments on stage between sets, Youth Director David Salerno welcomed the youth and held interactive contests for door prizes. Pizza, cheeseburgers,

candy, and drinks were also available, and the bands had CDs, t-shirts, and other merchandise for sale.

Final Card Random, a Virginia Beach-based band, took the stage next, and entertained the audience with their unique pop/rock style. Many of the band's songs—notably "Christian Game", "From This Place", and "Follow At A Distance"—emphasized the futility of living life without God.

Closing out the musical portion of the event was local favorite Hatcher, featuring Bethlehem's own Russ Greene. Their unique style of music energized the crowd, bringing most of them to their feet at the front of the stage, while frontman Randy Forehand delivered an unashamedly Christian message with a real and genuine passion.

Following the bands, guest speaker Johnathan Woodham, Youth Pastor at Fort Lee Baptist Church in Richmond, took the stage and delivered a powerful message that challenged the youth.

Over 90 youth attended the concert. Many of the youth came from other area churches, including several who brought their entire youth group. Approximately 25 youth, leaders, and adults attended VeggieTales Movie Night.

"The Youth Revival just gets better every year," commented Nathan Neblett, Omega Youth Group President. "Many of my friends came out to see the bands, but it was especially nice to have a guest speaker to come speak to us."

Youth Revival Photo Gallery

Left: Pioneer Clubs VeggieTales Movie Night
Below: The Blacktop June, Final Card Random, Hatcher, and guest speaker Johnathan Woodham

