

Youth Newsletter

April 2007

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

To anyone who has raised a teenager, it comes as no surprise that food 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.

In fact, **29,000 children die every day** due to hunger and hunger-related causes.

For the fourth consecutive year, the youth at Bethlehem have chosen to do something about the problem of world hunger.

On Friday, February 23, fourteen junior and senior high youth, along with two leaders, gathered in Graham Hall for the start of World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.

Until 6:00pm the next day, the group would eat or drink nothing but clear liquids, to challenge themselves personally and spiritually, and to gain a better understanding of what children just like them 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.

This year, the focus was on learning about the plight of the children of northern Uganda, who are caught in the middle of a violent, 19-year-long civil war. Each famine participant was given a new identity as a "night commuter"—the name given to the more than 40,000 children who travel nearly 10 miles each night to the nearest major town to sleep in safety from being abducted by the LRA rebel movement—and assigned to one of four different tribes.

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES

ALL CLUBS

April 1	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
April 8	No Regular Meeting • <i>Easter Sunday</i>
April 15	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
April 22	Pioneer Clubs, 5:30pm-6:45pm Youth Concert, 5:30pm-8:00pm
April 29	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
May	Family Skating Party, date & details TBA
June	End-of-Year Pool Party, date & 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.

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, simulating the real challenges children in poverty are faced with every day. Each tribal challenge is followed by a topical devotion and time of discussion.



Famine participants compete in a tribal challenge

(continued on page 2, *Famine*)

(Famine, continued from page 1)



David 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 group participated in a special Tribal challenge—a road rally specially created for the Famine by Lisa Tarkington.

The youth split up into three teams, and were given checklists containing riddles and coded messages to solve in order to find each item or place on the route. Because each team consisted of members from several different tribes, the youth had to work together, rather than compete with each other, to earn points for their tribe, much like competing tribes might have to work together to survive in northern Uganda.

The road rally took the teams all over Suffolk, beginning with the Target warehouse, to Liberty Spring church, through downtown, to the Nursing Home, up North Main Street, and then finally back to church, with stops at over a dozen points along the way.

By 2:30pm, all of the teams had returned to church, the checklists were reviewed, and the scores were tallied.

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 watch a movie and play video games to take their minds off 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.



After 30 hours without food, Kelsey and Brittany are happy to break their fast

Although the final totals are still being calculated, thanks to the support of the congregation, over \$800 in pledges have been collected to date.

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

Alphas, Omegas Travel to West Virginia for Annual Ski Trip

For the past two years, the Alpha and Omega Youth traveled north to the hills of Pennsylvania for their annual Ski Retreat. This year, the group decided to head west, and on Friday, January 26, ten youth and three chaperones left for Snowshoe Resort in West Virginia.

The group left shortly after 2:00pm on Friday, and after a long drive through the mountains of West Virginia, finally arrived at the resort around 10:30pm. The group checked into their rooms at the Top of the World complex, and turned in for the night.

The next morning, the group hopped on the resort's courtesy shuttle and headed to the Silver Creek skiing area. Several in the group had a blast snowtubing at the resort's Tubing Hill, while the rest checked out their skis and snowboards, and headed for the slopes.




Dominique and Taylor after an exciting ride down the Tubing Hill


Although the weather was relatively clear on Saturday, it had been snowing almost the entire week before we arrived, and almost four feet of snow had accumulated in spots at the resort.


The group returned to their rooms for lunch, then spent the rest of the afternoon skiing the Snowshoe trails at the resort until the lifts closed at 4:30pm.

The accommodations could not have been more




Pioneer Clubs News & Notes






Recently, the Scooters club has been working on their God Helps Me, God Talks to Me, and I Talk to God lesson units. This past month, the children strung beads and decorated baskets, and they are currently making Prayer Boxes, that they can put the names of people they want to pray for inside.



The Voyagers have been working on their God's Word, Sewing, and Play Ball badges. To earn their God's Word badge, the children learned how to use their Bibles, including the books of the Bible, the differences between the Old and New Testaments, and the meaning of chapters and verses. The children also practiced looking up verses and using the index in their Bibles. To earn their sewing badge, the Voyagers learned how to use needle and thread to make a bookmark and a stuffed animal,



This past month, the Pathfinders' lessons have dealt with the topic of Families—how special families are in God's eyes, the different roles there are within a family, and the importance of being a part of God's family. The children also helped paint canvas tote bags for the church's Outreach Program, and have been continuing to work on their "I Like Me" journals.

convenient—all of our rooms featured full kitchens and dining areas, and were literally steps from the slopes.

After stopping for dinner, the group returned to the Silver Creek area for several hours of nighttime tubing and skiing.



Paula, C.J., Becke, and Kelsey skiing at night at Silver Creek

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(Ski Trip, continued from page 3)

The group awoke on Sunday morning and attended the Protestant worship service at St. Bernard's Chapel. We were greeted with a warm welcome, and as guests, we were invited to help during the service—Taylor King lit the candles, while C.J. Holland passed the offering plate.



The group after the service at St. Bernard's Chapel

A light snow had fallen the night before, and continued falling off-and-on that morning, at times quite heavily, covering the resort in a beautiful new layer of white powder.

Following the church service, about half of the group returned to the Silver Creek area for one last session of snowtubing, while the rest stayed behind and loaded the bus for our return trip.



Karis, Brooke, and Kelsey had a blast snowtubing together!

The group left Snowshoe around 1:30pm. The drive back was much more enjoyable, riding through the West Virginia countryside as the snow continued to lightly fall. The group stopped for dinner in Short Pump, just west of Richmond, before returning to church around 10:30pm.



The view as we left Snowshoe Mountain

Youth Revival • Sunday, April 22

Junior/Senior High Youth Concert

featuring



**the southside baptist
church praise band**

plus special guest
comedian
Stephen West



5:30pm-8:00pm • Graham Hall

Pioneer Clubs

featuring



5:30pm-6:45pm
Old Fellowship Hall