



Youth Coop

Coopers Rock

Written by Sierra Maust

On October 25, 2015, the Youth Group went to Coopers Rock. We all meet at the Church at nine o'clock to carpool. Once we got there we took our belongings to our pavilion, then walked to the same rock that we go to every year for our Church service. Once we all got there and everyone found a place to sit, Kara started us out in worship. Then Clinton, Kendell, and Trevor talked about their trip to India. A couple months ago they went, along with Lorie and Lynette, to Calcutta, India. There they helped out at an orphanage, went to a leper colony, and did some street ministry. One of the things they talked about was idols. The people in India have millions of made up gods. They pick one to worship in hopes it will make their life easier. When one idol doesn't work, they just pick a different one. They talked about how even though here we do not have statues as idols, that does not mean we don't have idols in our lives. Anything that is more valuable to us than spending time with God, or anything that is higher up on our priority list, is an idol before God. They shared some more stories of some things that happened there, and then we headed back to the pavilion.

There we played games and went to the beautiful overlook until lunch was ready. After lunch the majority decided to go start rock climbing, while others stayed back and played a few card games. Once we finished playing games, Doug, Lydia, Miranda, Morgan, and I decided to go out on an adventure. We eventually caught up to Ellie and Rachel, and they decided to join us. We went on most of the usual trails, rocks, caves, and little crevices that we normally go in. But then we found something new. We found a spot below the overlook that none of us had gone on before. Some of us were doubtful we could make it all the way up, but we decided to give it a try. Doug and Miranda climbed up at first, then waited so they could help the rest of us up. First you had to reach up, hold on to the rock that Miranda was sitting on, and put one foot against a tree while someone else on the ground gave your other foot a boost.

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Youth Quotes:

- "You push, I'll catch"
-Sierra to Danae, while making noodles.
"It sounds like you're giving birth!"
-Kara
- "Philosophy is like chasing rabbits that don't die."
-Logan

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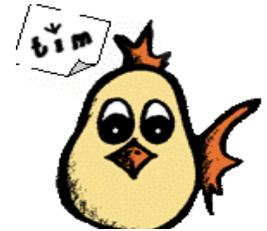


Coopers Rock Continued

You then had to quickly reach up for Miranda’s hand and try to shimmy your way up on the tiny rock without falling or pulling Miranda off! Once I got up there, I had to put my back and one foot against the rock, while Miranda pushed on my other foot and I reached up for a root. Once I grabbed it I had to shift my weight and quickly reach up for Doug’s hand, and hope I wouldn’t slip. It was quit terrifying! :) Once we made it up, we found out that some people could hear us the whole time, and they thought we were pretty hysterical! Most of us decided we were done climbing for the day, so we headed back to the pavilion to play some more games. When four o’clock rolled around, we gathered our belongings and headed for the church, where we would spend the rest of the evening.

It started out as a normal Sunday Youth Group. We played volley ball, lightning, and nine square, but eventually got a little bored of that. As we were all sitting around, trying to figure out what to do next, Morgan and I were just standing there, swinging our arms so that they went in and out of each other. Matt and Trevor decided to see if they could do it too. Once they figured out how to do it, they asked Miranda who was doing it better, and of course it was us! They were determined to beat us, so they decided to try again. When we did better again, they decided they would come up with something else that they would try to do better. We ended up having a girls against guys competition for the rest of the evening!

Our competitions determined who could: run the fastest, crab walk the longest, come up with the best dance routine, jump the furthest, and who could hit a volley ball back and fourth the most amount of times. I think the score at that point was guys: three, and girls: two. Next Sam decided he would try to teach us how to stand on our heads. We all tried it, and soon picked two girls and two guys that would go against each other. It was Ellie and Karen against Matt and Trevor. Karen stayed up for just over a minute, and Ellie did it for almost five minutes!! Matt and Trevor each stayed up for just over three minutes, so they beat us by just a few seconds. We did three more challenges that were all a little harder then the past couple. We stood on the very edge of the stage, so that only our toes were touching, then waited to see who would be the last person to lose their balance, and fall off. Everyone fell except for Me and Matt, but then he fell, so I won, but was very sore the next morning! We did one more challenge similar to the last one, then decided to make the trashcan game our last challenge. The trashcan game is where everyone holds hand in a circle around an upside down trash can, and tries to pull other people into the trashcan without touching it yourself, or letting go of hands. One by one, we all got out until only Morgan and Trevor were the only ones left. For some reason, even though this was the last challenge, and the guys were winning by two, they decided to make this one for all the marbles! Morgan ended up winning, so the girls were victorious! All in all, the whole day was a blast, and I can’t wait to go to Coopers Rock again next year!



December Birthdays:

- 2nd- Kara Maust (YS)
- 11th- Miranda Bender
- 18th- Anthony + Anita Lehman
- 19th- Stephanie Bryner
- 20th- Lynette Maust
- 23rd- Kendell Schrock
- 25th- Sam Frantz (YS)
- 31st- Kraig Lehman (YSC)





Youth Leaders Update

Does wind really exist? Have you ever seen it or taken hold of it? Or do you just believe in it because someone told you it is real? How do you know it exists? Couldn't it just be the leaves having a dance party and the trees swaying to creation's music? Why believe in wind? It's an invisible, imaginary, so-called force that people say is there. Or is it more? Haven't you felt the force? Haven't you seen its influence on nature around? Is it not evidence enough to agree there is something out there? Shall we agree to call it wind?

God is a lot like wind. People around you may try to deny that God exists. But like the wind, it's so much greater than anything we can really explain. But we can feel Him- see the evidence of this work- this marvelous creation. If we have enough faith to believe in the wind, let's use that faith to believe in the one who created it. Proverbs 30:4, "Who has gone up to Heaven and come down? Who has wrapped up the waters in a cloth? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name and what is the name of His son? As we enter the holiday celebration, remember the Holy Spirit inside you and the Son who came to set you free indeed. May the true force be with you! -Anthony and Anita



Persecution

Written by Chuckie Griffith

For "persecution," we started out at Morgan's house. Once everyone got there Morgan had prepared a video for us. It was a very eye opening video. I thought that I had a general idea of what went on in other countries, but I quickly found out, that was not the case. I now know more about persecution in other countries, but I still probably don't know as much as there is to know. After the video we split up into groups and went over the rules. We went outside and started on our way. My group didn't take long until we split in half and went separate ways. Soon after the separation, we soon found our first "Church." Each Church is either a plastic bag with a paper of someone's story and a glow stick, or an actual person that talked to us.



Editor's Note

As you heard a little bit from Chuckie, a couple weeks ago the Youth Group participated in "persecution." I've gotten to plan persecution for quite a few years. Through these nights our goal is to try to spread awareness of the sacrifice our fellow brothers and sisters around the world are making in order to live out their faith in Christ, and to remember them in prayer. In order to do this, every gets split up into groups of three our four and disperses through the woods in search of "Churches." At each Church you will find either: a paper with a story of a martyr, someone from our Church who has been oversees, or video's about persecution. As everyone was in search for the Churches, there were "cops" in search of the Christians. If you were caught, you were taken to a jail (Ida's barn), where you were questioned for your faith, etc. In preparing this night for the Youth Group, I ended up reading story after story and watching many videos. It is so eye opening, and yet the things that I have heard and seen are so small compared to what is really happening. If you don't know much about the persecuted Church, I encourage you to take time and look into it more and see what is really happening, or talk to me.

Thank you Chuckie, Sierra, Isaac, Anthony, and Anita for doing all that you did to make this issue happen!

Until next time, Morgan.



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Upcoming Events

- December 4th- Christmas Banquet.
- December 11th- Jason Gray Concert.
- December 18th- Christmas Caroling at 6:30 PM.
- December 25th- No Youth Group. Merry Christmas!
- December 30th-January 1st- New Years Party.
- January 8th- Bible Study.
- January 10th- Potato Taco Bar Fundraiser Meal.
- January 15th- Mall Hunt.



YOUTH PROFILE: ISAAC JAMES GRABER

Parents: Corby and Kristine Graber. YC: What is your dream job?

Birthday: April 29, 2001.

YC: What was your favorite childhood toy?

IG: My bike.

YC: What is the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?

IG: Sushi.

What are some things on your bucket list?

IG: Skydiving and going to China.

YC: What is something most people don't know about you?

IG: My left pointer finger is bigger than my right pointer finger.

YC: What is your favorite sport?

IG: Soccer.



IG: I don't know.

YC: If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?

IG: To learn how to fly.

YC: Where are three places you would like to go on vacation?

IG: Hawaii, China, and Australia.

YC: What are some of your hobbies?

IG: Soccer and ps4.

YC: Tell us about your family.

IG: There are six kids in our family. There is Kali, Ryan, Kara, Melanie, Sage, and me! And, of course, my Mom and Dad- Corby and Kris. I am the youngest and everyone is married except for two- me and Sage. I also

have two nieces and nephews.

YC: What would you do with one million ping-pong balls?

IG: Throw them in the trash.

YC: What's your favorite cereal?

IG: Cocoa Puffs.

YC: Any Last Words of Wisdom?

IG: Be good.

