



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

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THE TEENS JUST WENT TO WANDERING WHEELS UP, UP AT TAYLOR UNIVERSITY, AND IT WAS ANOTHER GREAT WEEKEND. WE WERE STRUCK WITH SICKNESS BEFORE WE WENT, AND WHILE WE WERE THERE, BUT IT WAS STILL FUN. OF THE TWO RETREATS THIS IS MY FAVORITE. DON'T GET ME WRONG, I REALLY ENJOY THE FALL RETREAT AND BEING OUT IN NATURE, BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT ALL OF US BEING TRAPPED IN ONE BUILDING FOR TWO DAYS THAT MAKES IT WORTH IT. THERE ARE ACTUALLY SEVERAL LITTLE THINGS, WHEN TAKEN ONE BY ONE DON'T MEAN VERY MUCH, BUT WHEN I PUT THEM ALL TOGETHER, IT'S WHAT MAKES THIS RETREAT A BLAST FOR MORE THAN A DECADE.

LITTLE THINGS LIKE:

DAVE MOELLER USED TO STOP AND GET ME A STARBUCKS COFFEE ON FRIDAY NIGHT, AND I WOULD NURSE THAT CUP THE WHOLE EVENING, AND IF I WAS LUCKY I WOULD HAVE A LITTLE TO WARM UP IN THE MORNING. NOW LIZ, OR EVEN JON BULLOCK, HAS GOTTEN ME A CUP AND IT MEANS THE WORLD TO ME.

THERE IS ALWAYS, ALWAYS, A RANDOM GAME THAT 90% OF THE KIDS START PLAYING ON SATURDAY NIGHT ABOUT 10PM. I NEVER KNOW WHAT IT'S GOING TO BE, AND IT USUALLY CHANGES FROM YEAR TO YEAR, BUT WATCHING THEM COME UP WITH IT IS FUN. THEY ARE NOT RELYING ON THE LEADERS TO TELL THEM WHAT TO DO NEXT.

THE LEADERS KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO. THE 6 OF US, WHO ONLY ONE HAS TEENS, HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR 10+ YEARS, AND FROM THE MOMENT WE REACH W.W. I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN ANYTHING TO THEM. THEY KNOW WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. WHETHER IT'S SITTING AT THE POOL AND GETTING SPLASHED BY JUNIOR-HIGHERS OR GOING STRAIGHT TO THE KITCHEN TO MAKE SURE THE FOOD GETS PUT AWAY PROPERLY (AND ORDERLY) . .I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON THEM.

THE WALK TO IVANHOE'S FOR ICE CREAM. THIS IS NEVER PLANNED FOR A REASON, BUT I NEVER WALK WITH THE SAME FEW KIDS THERE AND BACK. THAT HALF MILE WALK IS AN EXCELLENT TIME FOR A SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY, AND THEY ARE VERY WILLING TO TALK.

PLAYING CARPET BALL WITH THE KIDS AND SEEING HOW EXCITED THEY GET WHEN THEY BEAT A LEADER THE SUNDAY MORNING MALE LEADER'S VS MALE TEENS POOL VOLLEYBALL GAME. THE LEADERS HAVE NEVER LOST, ALTHOUGH THE 3 GUYS THIS YEAR (ALL 8TH GRADERS) CAME VERY CLOSE. THERE IS ALWAYS 1 OR 2 QUESTIONABLE CALLS THAT LEAD TO A BRAWL.

I REALLY COULD GO ON FOR A WHILE, BUT IF YOU WERE TO ASK ME WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT THE RETREAT, IT WOULD BE HARD TO TELL YOU JUST ONE, BECAUSE EACH ONE THING IS PART OF A MANY LITTLE THINGS.

IN THE SAME MANNER, IF WERE TO ASK YOU WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY? YOUR FAVORITE SCRIPTURE VERSE? THE BEST PART OF YOUR DAY? HOPEFULLY, ONCE YOU THINK OF SOMETHING, SOMETHING ELSE COMES TO MIND AS WELL. .AND THEN SOMETHING ELSE.

I JOHN 3:1A SAYS, "SEE HOW GREAT A LOVE THE FATHER HAS BESTOWED ON US, THAT WE WOULD BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD; AND SUCH WE ARE. .".

OUR LIVES, DAY BY DAY, HOUR BY HOUR, BREATH BY BREATH, ARE A GIFT FROM GOD THAT HAVE INTENDED PURPOSES AND BLESSINGS THAT ARE BESTOWED UPON US FROM HIS GREAT LOVE. THE QUESTION IS, DO YOU NOTICE THEM? IT CAN BE HARD TO SEE THEM IF WE ARE NOT LOOKING, BUT THEY ARE THERE. GOD DESIRES FOR OUR CUPS TO OVERFLOW (PS 23:5). IS IT?

PASTOR ANDY