

YOUTH NEWS!

MARCH 2011

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2010 UPDATE

Many of you helped make this past years youth service project "Operation Christmas Child" possible, and we thank you for that! I recently received a letter from the sponsoring organization, Samaritan's Purse that I would like to share with you:

We would like to extend a very special thanks to your congregation for partnering with Samaritan's Purse in the work of Operation Christmas Child. In 2010, we were blessed to receive over 5.5 million shoe box gifts in the United States and nearly 2.7 million boxes from 11 other sending countries, bringing our total to some 8.2 million gifts for needy children around the world!

Thousands of churches just like yours from across the United States participate in the project each year. It's a great outreach opportunity that can involve the entire congregation, no matter how large or small your church may be. North Point Community Church in Alpharetta, Georgia, is one of the churches that hosted an Operation Christmas Child packing party during the 2010 holiday season. We hope the video report will encourage your congregation as you share in the excitement of packing boxes, knowing that your gifts are making an eternal difference for children, their families, and their communities.

The ultimate gift we want children to receive goes far beyond the colorfully-wrapped packages. That gift is the Good News of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Through our follow-up discipleship program, "The Greatest Journey," more children than ever before have the opportunity to hear about Jesus and commit their hearts to Him. We are especially excited that "The Greatest Journey" Bible course will be offered in 65 countries this year!

Thanks again for your partnership and your commitment to global missions. May God bless your service as you minister to others in His Name.

Important Information

**Sunday Youth Group
Times:**

6th-8th Grade @ 5pm

9th-12th Grade @ 7pm

Youth Leader:

Jessie Patouillet

jessiepatouillet@gmail.com

(724) 378-3821 ext. #12

Church Information:

2720 Brodhead Road

Aliquippa, PA 15001

www.mtcpc.org

Sunday Morning:

Sunday School @ 9:45 am

Worship @ 11:00am

WHAT'S UP WITH YOUTH CULTURE?: IS LADY GAGA THE VOICE OF A GENERATION?

I believe strongly that the music we listen to says a lot about where we are as a culture. Lady Gaga is a musical artist who has set records for songs downloaded, purchased, and listened to on YouTube. Whether you appreciate her music or not (and I warn you it can actually be pretty catchy!), there is no doubt that her lyrics are a social commentary for our younger generations. For this reason, I believe Christian parents, and Christians in general should be engaging her music from a Biblical perspective.

Lady Gaga's most recent single, "Born This Way" says a lot about youth culture today, the culture that our students are facing every single day. It is so important that our young people are prepared to approach the world around them knowing the Truth of Jesus Christ, and standing firmly on that.

Looking at the world around us, the messages our culture is sending everyone, and especially our young people, can be very confusing. There are certain truths hidden in webs of falsehoods and unless we are firmly grounded in our faith and knowledge of Scripture, it will be hard to stand!

This mix of truths with lies is embodied in this new (and very popular) song that many of our young people already know the words to! I encourage you to read the following lyrics, and pray about how we as Christians are to respond and engage this piece of pop culture.

It doesn't matter if you love him, or capital H-I-M Just put your paws up' cause you were Born This Way, Baby MY MAMA TOLD ME WHEN I

WAS YOUNG WE ARE ALL BORN SUPERSTARS. SHE ROLLED MY HAIR AND PUT MY LIPSTICK ON IN THE GLASS OF HER BOUDOIR "THERE'S NOTHIN WRONG WITH LOVIN WHO YOU ARE" SHE SAID, "'CAUSE HE MADE YOU PERFECT, BABE" "SO HOLD YOUR HEAD UP GIRL AND YOU'LL GO FAR, LISTEN TO ME WHEN I SAY" I'M BEAUTIFUL IN MY WAY 'CAUSE GOD MAKES NO MISTAKES I'M ON THE RIGHT TRACK BABY I WAS BORN THIS WAY

DON'T HIDE YOURSELF IN REGRET JUST LOVE YOURSELF AND YOU'RE SET I'M ON THE RIGHT TRACK BABY I WAS BORN THIS WAY...

GIVE YOURSELF PRUDENCE AND LOVE YOUR FRIENDS SUBWAY KID, REJOICE YOUR TRUTH IN THE RELIGION OF THE INSECURE I MUST BE MYSELF, RESPECT MY YOUTH A DIFFERENT LOVER IS NOT A SIN BELIEVE CAPITAL H-I-M (HEY HEY HEY) I LOVE MY LIFE I LOVE THIS RECORD AND MI AMORE VOLE FE YAH (LOVE NEEDS FAITH)

YOU'RE BLACK, WHITE, BEIGE, CHOLA DESCENT YOU'RE LEBANESE, YOU'RE ORIENT WHETHER LIFE'S DISABILITIES

LEFT YOU OUTCAST, BULLIED, OR TEASED REJOICE AND LOVE YOURSELF TODAY 'CAUSE BABY YOU WERE BORN THIS WAY....

NO MATTER GAY, STRAIGHT, OR BI, LESBIAN, TRANSGENDERED LIFE I'M ON THE RIGHT TRACK BABY I WAS BORN TO SURVIVE NO MATTER BLACK, WHITE OR BEIGE CHOLA OR ORIENT MADE I'M ON THE RIGHT TRACK BABY I WAS BORN TO BE BRAVE

This is the generation that our students are growing up in, these are some of the messages they are being bombarded with. We live in a world that mixes truths such as "God makes no mistakes" with lies about godly sexuality shortly after. It's no wonder so many young people are lost in the chaos.

I encourage Christian parents to persevere in this very difficult world we live in and have open conversations with your students about this song, and others. In his comments about this song, Walt Mueller (cpyu.org) provides a helpful commentary that I would like to close with: "The song puts forth and promotes a way of thinking about, looking at, and living life that's been increasingly embraced in our culture. We are who we are. . . but we need to be who we've been called to be. Lady Gaga is making some powerful statements about the nature of God, the nature of humanity, the nature of sin, and how to live life....As I've said before, I'm so thankful that our kids have by-and-large walked away from the attitudes that I and my peers had towards homosexuals when I was in high school. Thinking back, it was horrible. But now, the pendulum has swung in the other direction, to leave us living in a world where we love sinners *and* celebrate sin. What was once seen as vice is now virtuous. And to use the words "sinner" or "sin" . . . well. . . that's actually the only thing that's seen as a sin."



UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE YOUTH MINISTRY:

There are several events coming up that it is important students and parents are aware of:

First, a reminder for all 8th graders who will be participating in Confirmation Class: The first class will be Sunday March 6 at 9:45am in the church library. All other students should report to regular Sunday School.

We will have regularly scheduled youth group on Sunday March 6 and 13, so please join us on these weeks!



On Sunday March 20, we will be joining together with several local youth groups and hosting an event called **“One Night Stand: Discovering God’s Design for Sexuality”** this event will be a one day “mini-retreat” for all middle school and high school students. Parents will be receiving a letter with more details about this event in the coming

weeks. The event will include activities, main sessions, and break out sessions. The break out sessions are all different and targeted for different students: Sexual abuse, teen pregnancy, relationships panel, and new beginnings (testimonial about God’s forgiveness in regards to sexual sin). We will also be having a speaker who is trained through a nationally recognized abstinence program. Please contact Jessie if you have any questions regarding this event, and stay tuned for more specific details in the coming weeks.

Another opportunity I would like students and parents to be aware of is 8th grade visitation night at Teen Community Bible Study, Tuesday March 29th from 6:30-8:30pm. Teen CBS is an interdenominational Bible study that many of our students and adults have been involved with over the years. We meet at North Branch Presbyterian Church near the Beaver Valley Mall.

We would like to have another high school lock in Friday April 15-Saturday April 16. Please check your calendars and make sure you are available for these dates. Current 8th graders are also invited to participate in this lock-in. This is a great way to transition into the high school youth group for next year! Last year’s lock-in was a success, and



one of the most talked about youth group events of the year, so you do not want to miss this one!

Dates have also been set for two summer events. The high school youth group will be going to a youth conference called “Summer in the Son” the week of June 19-24. To learn more about this conference, visit the website summerintheson.org. We need to know how many students are interested in going on this trip so that we can register so please get a \$25.00 deposit to Jessie **as soon as possible!** The summer mission week has also been scheduled for July 17-22. More information about this local mission week will be released in the coming weeks, so please consider participating in this wonderful mission experience. God worked in mighty ways in the lives of adults and teens during last year’s local mission week. This is an event you do not want to miss! years.

MT. CARMEL CHURCH YOUTH MINISTRIES

March 2011

Sunday Youth Group Times:
 6th-8th Grade @ 5:00pm
 9th-12th Grade @ 7:00pm
 Youth Leader: Jessie Patouillet
 jessiepatouillet@gmail.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	
6 Youth Group!	7 8	9	10	11	12	
13 Youth Group!	14 15	16	17	18	19	
20 "One Night Stand" Event	21 22	23	24	25	26	
27 Youth Group!	28 29 Teen CBS "8th Grade Night" @ North Branch Church 6:30pm	30	31			