



# Southwest

*Church of the Nazarene*

CHURCH NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER 21, 2020 – VOLUME 31

## Reflections on REFRESH

How many of you have ever tried to do something (perhaps a vacation) and nothing went right? Perhaps the airline lost your luggage, your debit card was rejected at the clothing store, or you were sick the entire time. For something like a vacation, this may be due to incompetence, a lack of planning, or just life.

When you are involved in something with spiritual consequences, the things that 'don't go right', however, are often signs that the enemy of our soul is trying to disrupt God's plans.

That is what happened with the youth retreat REFRESH this weekend. Dave and Dana Metcalf worked very hard to bring this retreat to its completion this weekend and the devil was right there at every turn trying to disrupt that process. Adult leaders dropping out, kids' indecisiveness on registrations, and other things were the enemy's attempts to discourage them at every turn.

Well, we know that with the Metcalfs - especially when involved with youth events - nothing deters them. Problems even arose while they were trying to relax, but they would not be deterred. In a matter of a few weeks, they were able to pull off what normally would take months of planning.

I can personally attest to this truth - the disrupting plans of the enemy got interrupted by the Presence of Christ!

The weekend focused on four elements of being "refreshed" in Christ - unplug, rest, discipline, and following Him. We need to unplug from the mess of this world and plug into the power of Jesus. We need to take the time to rest in the amazing care of the Good Shepherd. We need to discipline ourselves to pray and read God's Word. And we need to follow Christ by taking on His attitude of servanthood and humility in life.

As usual, Dave and Dana were successful in pulling off the minute details of the services, games, and activities. They really are fantastic youth leaders, and Southwest is blessed to have them leading our youth. We were also very blessed to have Bryson and Brielle Fox along with Brielle's boyfriend Christian leading the musical worship.

But please understand, what happened this weekend was not because of Dave and Dana Metcalf, the Fox kids, the adult team leaders, or the campground facilities. What happened this weekend was not the work of anybody except God Himself.

Going in, it may have been presumed that the best part of this weekend would be the activities - like the rock climbing, the high ropes course and zip line, and the evening bonfires. And yes, the teens (and some of the adults (Vince 😊) had fun.

But I have to say the very best part of the weekend was the inexplicable Presence of the Almighty during the four services. God made Himself known in a way that I believe will be felt in the hearts, minds, and souls of the participants (teen and adult alike) for years, if not an eternity. On the next page, the teens and adults share their thoughts on how God invaded their lives this past weekend.

Pray for our teens. They face many pressures that you and I just do not understand because they were nonexistent when we were young. And pray that this weekend will not be forgotten in a couple days or weeks, but that the Presence of Christ would continue to pervade every young soul and "refresh" their spirit in Christ.

Stephen Bechdol

## Reflections of REFRESH Retreat Participants

*Below are some of the comments from both the teens and the adults who attended the Refresh youth retreat in Amelia, OH.*

Truly honored to be a part of this weekend. Because of our obedience to the Spirit, walls were torn down, true healing took place, and hearts were transformed.

*I was really moved by how we all came together to support each other as we prayed. I'm so thankful for everyone who I connected with and can't wait to see them again.*

Well, it was a lot of fun and I learned that I had to do certain things to improve my relationship with God.

*The retreat this weekend was one where I was able to grow closer to God and learn what I need to do. I figured out that I have to listen for Him and rely on Him to keep going through the trials that I face.*

It may have been painful, cold, and downright crazy, but throughout the weekend, I felt closer to the youth group and God.

*It was an amazing weekend full of fun, laughter, tears, making new friends, worship, and great messages from Dave. I loved seeing the altars full after every service, the teens praying for each other and the commitments made to Christ. This will be an experience they will not forget.*

It was fun and there was a lot of activities like basketball, Gaga ball, minute to win it etc., the worship team and Save did good and you could tell God was working with us all.

*This weekend gave me an amazing experience. I had a conversation with God, and I felt like He touched my heart and gave me a sign to keep going and not to give up even when I feel like I have nothing left.*

It was awesome to see all of the youth supporting each other and form bonds. I am so thankful I was able to be part of it.

It was an amazing experience and I got to make so many new friends. Definitely sticking around.

*It was pretty fun, and I enjoyed being outside and making new friends.*

The worship during the retreat was anointed by God and touched my heart. Dave's messages touched our teens. I really enjoyed getting to know and having fun with our church teens and their friends. Looking forward to next year's retreat!"

*The retreat did more than letting me just have fun; it really pushed me out of my comfort zone getting me closer to God. I got closer with the people around me through God. We had an amazing time playing all the games there. The high ropes course was frightening. Overall, I really needed something like that. The retreat was an amazing experience that I will remember.*

The retreat this weekend opened my eyes to what it means to rest with the Lord and give Him my time in prayer and worship, not only in church but on my own time as well. It made me realize how important it is to give my time to God as He is the one who leads me in life and made sacrifices in order for me to do things with my life.

I enjoyed going to the retreat. It was a place I was able to relax and be myself.

*It was super fun and really good to meet new people and learn more about God.*

This weekend was the best thing that has happened to me. I've felt more like a Christian after the services and prayer time.

(continued on next page)



**October 16 – 18, 2020 REFRESH Retreat Participants**



## Reflections of REFRESH Retreat Participants (continued)

This weekend for me was such an amazing experience - from the worship to the prayer. The sermons were so powerful, and you could really see the Holy Spirit making a difference in the teens.

*I went on the REFRESH trip as an adult hoping to inspire teens, but it turns out they had more of an impact on me. I didn't realize how much hurt and burden they carried, but they were so willing to give it all to God and come alongside one another in prayer. God was present and I sincerely believe that moments like this add up to lives that are forever changed.*

It was an eye-opening retreat that really helped me understand that I need to give more time in prayer and in meditation and less time on my phone and being lazy.

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07-09-2003

YES, THAT WOULD BE NICE FORM IF, IN FACT, THAT WAS A FRISBEE

*The grass withers,  
the flower fades,  
But the word of our  
God stands forever.  
Isaiah 40:8*

### "Reckless Love" by Cory Asbury

(Writers: Caleb Culver, Cory Asbury, Ran Jackson)

Before I spoke a word,  
You were singing over me  
You have been so, so good to me  
Before I took a breath,  
You breathed Your life in me  
You have been so, so kind to me

When I was Your foe,  
still Your love fought for me  
You have been so, so good to me  
When I felt no worth,  
You paid it all for me  
You have been so, so kind to me

There's no shadow You won't light up  
Mountain You won't climb up  
Coming after me  
There's no wall You won't kick down  
Lie You won't tear down  
Coming after me

Oh, the overwhelming, never-  
ending, reckless love of God  
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til  
I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine  
I couldn't earn it,  
and I don't deserve it,  
still, You give Yourself away  
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# Praises:

- Praise the Lord for the R!OT Youth experience this past weekend. The teens and adults who went on the REFRESH retreat had a great time! God was definitely on the move, and ten teens committed their lives to Christ! Please be in prayer for those making commitments and all those who were part of this experience!
- Praise the Lord for Pastor Cheryl Beers providing the message "What About Faith?" on Sunday. It was a timely message and reminds us all that we should strive to be Found Faithful!

# Prayer Needs:

- Pray for those impacted by COVID19.
- Pray for our President, Government, First Responders, Military, and our Nation – For the Lord to bring peace and guidance for the elections, the Supreme Court nomination, and the continual unrest in our country.

# Announcements & Upcoming Events

This Sunday (Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:40am), the message will be delivered by Pastor Keith Grove. His message is titled "How We Know We Have Found the Lord" and comes to us from John 10:1-6. We hope to see you there or on Facebook Live!



**Southwest Church's Annual Trunk & Treat  
Saturday, October 31st from 4:00pm-6:00pm.**

*Due to COVID restrictions, we will be doing the following:*

- We will have a limited number of cars providing candy. If you would like to participate, be sure to sign up in the Welcome Center. You can also join with one of the participating cars. Help us continue the Superhero theme by dressing up and decorating your cars as your favorite Superhero! \* Not required.
- This will be a drive through event, and everyone attending will stay in their cars. Treats will be passed out to those attending via their car windows.
- There will be a route the cars will follow in and out of the church parking lot.
- Each car from the church will provide prepackaged bags with individually wrapped treats, and our church people will be wearing facemasks and gloves.
- We will need donated candy to provide to the public. All donated candy must be individually wrapped. There is a container near the welcome center to place your donations. If you would like to give money, you may place it in the offering (mark Trunk and Treat on the*

**TRUNK  
AND TREAT**  
SAFE SUPER HERO FUN FOR THE FAMILY!



*Come out and join us for this chance to worship with this amazing, talented couple!*

**Blake & Jenna  
Bolerjack  
In Concert -  
Sunday,  
November 22,  
2020  
at 10:40am**