

A MESSAGE FROM GZ PRESIDENT

HELP US REACH 1,500 TEENAGERS FOR CHRIST THIS YEAR

According to evangelist Billy Graham, "Decision is five percent; following up the decision is 95 percent." I'm sure you'll agree: we must equip teenagers to go the distance. We want to make absolutely certain that every single teenager that makes a decision at a **GROUND ZERO** event is given tools to grow in their faith.

GROUND ZERO's new devotional, *Make It Real*, is written just for teenagers who have made a decision for Christ. And it works! Youth workers have used these devos with fantastic success in their small groups, in regular youth meetings, even one-on-one with new students. *Make It Real* gives students grounding in their relationship with Jesus – covering topics like forgiveness, redemption, authenticity, prayer, transformation, accountability – even what God is like.

It costs just \$5 to put *Make It Real* in a teenager's hands. **Your tax-deductible gift of \$25 could mean 5 teenagers receive a copy of *Make It Real*.** Or maybe you can give \$50 to equip 10 teenagers ... or \$125 to equip 25 teenagers ... even \$250 to equip 50 teenagers!

You can make a difference for a teenager – for so little! Will you help? I pray you say yes and use the enclosed reply slip to respond. I personally pledge we'll use your gift to put discipleship tools into the hands of teenagers who make a decision for Christ at a **GZ** event. God calls us to "encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Can you think of a better way to build up His body than to help teenagers find Christ and grow in relationship with Him? Neither can I.

In His grace,

Scott Payseur, Founder & President

*Generation Next: What You Need to Know About Today's Youth. (Regal Books, 1997)



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GZ CAMPUS MINISTRIES ARE OFF TO AN EXCITING START!

- SEE PG ?

UPCOMING GZ EVENTS

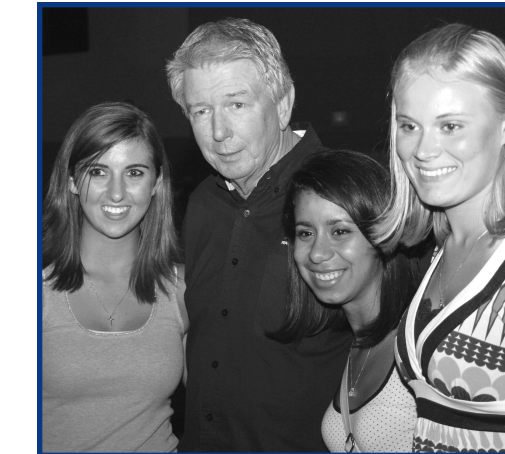
IMPACT EVENT with MAZE
Thursday, **November 6, 2008**
6:00 – 8:00 PM
Christ UMC, Myrtle Beach

CAMPUS CHECKUP
Inspiration, ideas and tools to equip you to be effective on your campus
Sunday, **November 9, 2008**
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
Myrtle Beach Ministry Center, Myrtle Beach

CAMPUS CHECKUP
Inspiration, ideas and tools to equip you to be effective on your campus
Sunday, **January 11, 2009**
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Myrtle Beach Ministry Center, Myrtle Beach

OUT ALL NIGHT
With Chris Sligh (from American Idol), pro-skater Tim Byrne, hip hop artist Manafest, concert, bowling, laser tag & fun – all night long!
Friday, **February 6** – Saturday, **February 7, 2009**
10:30 PM – 6:00 AM
Christ UMC, Myrtle Beach
Admission TBA

FOR MORE INFORMATION & SEAT RESERVATIONS, LOG ONTO WWW.GET-CONNECTED.ORG



RACHELS CHALLENGE: Lauren & Derrell Scott

GZ CAMPUS MINISTRIES OFF TO EXCITING START

STUDENT LEADER: "WE'RE DOING SOME PRETTY COOL THINGS"

"Our school needs ministry in a big way," says Myrtle Beach High School (MBHS) sophomore Lauren Berkey. "Ground Zero has a good plan to help us get going." Lauren and fellow student leaders launched their GZ Campus Ministry group by handing out tickets to *Rachel's Challenge*, and are excited by the outcome. Large numbers of students attended and afterwards, the team noticed a significant shift in attitudes. "People are different now," says Lauren. "They're trying to show kindness." Lauren was personally challenged to put compassion into practice when a new student in her Spanish class was alienated by others. Lauren made a conscious decision to befriend the newcomer.

Another big step for the MBHS campus: many teenage guys attended *Pam Stenzel's Sex Has A Price Tag* and heard how purity impacts them as well as girls. Rather than preaching to students about how to live their lives, says Lauren. "Pam told us the truth and told us what our choices are."

But it was the *Youth Worker Luncheon* with Casting Crowns' Mark Hall that "opened my mind to what the church can do and how I can become a better Christian," says Lauren – specifically, how older teenagers can build their youth group by accepting middle schoolers, and how youth workers can meet regularly with parents, get to know them, and share youth culture resources.

Lauren sees her GZ role at school as an extension of her ministry as a youth student

leader, Praise Team member, and Kidstuf volunteer at Ocean View Baptist Church. "GZ is an opportunity for Christian students to come together and minister on our campus," says Lauren. "Our GZ group is a work in progress, but we're already doing some pretty cool things."

GZ STUDENT LEADERS BUILD BRIDGES DURING LUNCH

If you're looking for Carolina Forest High School senior Trent Ammons at lunch time, you'd better find the cafeteria table where the heads are bowed.

The prayer table launched when Trent and fellow GZ student leader Noah Lascell brainstormed for ways to mobilize students to pray at their school. Noah suggested saying grace at their lunch table before eating.

"I was nervous that first day," said Trent. "I didn't know half the students at the table. But when we asked if it was OK to pray over our food, right away students started tossing out prayer requests." Offering thanks has now turned into a daily prayer meeting over brown bags and cafeteria trays. Trent and Noah lead students in creative prayer methods – "so things stay fresh," says Trent – from popcorn prayers to praying phrases in succession around the table.

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Students cram together, asking prayer for an injured football player, family members in trouble, and friends being tested for cancer. Some teenagers leave other tables when the praying begins to stand at the table's fringe with bowed heads to participate.

The prayer bonds started by the GZ Campus Ministry students are now penetrating the Carolina Forest campus, and numbers of participating students are growing each week. "It's awesome," says Trent. "A few weeks ago, I didn't know a lot of these guys. Now we're part of each other's lives."

GZ Campus Ministries at Myrtle Beach High School and Carolina Forest High School launched in September.



RACHELS CHALLENGE: Mark Hall speaks at Rachel's Challenge

FIRST GZ EVENTS OF SCHOOL YEAR IMPACT STUDENTS \RACHEL'S CHALLENGE DRAWS 1,000+

Ground Zero's first event of the 2008-2009 school year drew an audience of more than 1,000 students, parents, and teachers on Sunday, September 14 to hear Darrell Scott, father of Columbine shooting victim Rachel Scott, as he offered Rachel's Challenge – a call for students to demonstrate a Christ-like lifestyle of compassion that marked his daughter's life.

Nearly half the audience responded and stood when Scott invited them to start a

chain reaction at their schools with deliberate acts of kindness that demonstrate authentic Christianity.

"Rachel's Challenge was amazing!" said one GZ faculty sponsor. "My husband came with me and I can tell you that he was simply blown away by our young people, their energy and their participation."

The evening opened with worship led by Christian artists Living Anthem, followed by Scott, then a powerful monologue from Socastee High School student Conner Ryan. Before closing worship, students were invited to participate in Ground Zero Campus Ministries at eight Myrtle Beach-area middle and high schools.

GZ partner Carolina Forest Community Church hosted Rachel's Challenge to a packed house and provided thirty hardworking volunteers for the event.

PARTNER CHURCH WEAVES ITS MINISTRY WITH GZ

Just days before Carolina Forest Community Church (CFCC) hosted Ground Zero's Rachel's Challenge, reservations topped 900 – triple original projections. That's when CCFC's student pastor Rick Adkins and more than thirty of his church volunteers – adults, teenagers, college students, and staff – worked nonstop to prepare the auditorium, set up equipment, and run audio/visual components for the band and speakers.

"We're on the same team as Ground Zero," says Adkins, who leads CFCC's middle and high school ministries. "GZ and local churches working together can have a great impact on this generation." [put yellow highlighted statement in pull out box]

Many congregations don't have resources to pull off large scale events and area-wide campus ministry, says Adkins, and GZ acts as a catalyst to offer those opportunities to students. Adkins sees his church as GZ's strategic partner, particularly in mobilizing students to participate and invite friends to events.

"We weave every GZ event and activity into our student ministry calendar," says Adkins, who has been on CCFC's staff for three years. "We promote all GZ events, we attend as a youth group, we encourage students to participate in GZ Campus Ministries at their schools – we do everything we can to get our teenagers involved."

Adkins even tapped his 2008 summer ministry intern, Trent Ammons, to become a new student leader for GZ's new Campus Ministry at Carolina Forest High School, explaining to him, "you'll be able to get more kids connected to the local church when you get involved in ministry on campus." (See "GZ student leaders build bridges," page 1).

Now after two years of GZ's presence on the Grand Strand, Adkins is thoroughly convinced the ministry is a vital resource for youth pastors, churches, and students.

"GZ is in its sweet spot," he says. "It's in exactly the right place to be used by God in great ways."

Find out how your church can partner with Ground Zero when you contact GZ Director of Community Relations VICTORIA SALYERS at **843.497.0580** - or - victoria@get-connected.org

Learn about Ground Zero's exciting 2008-2009 Events when you log onto get-connected.org and click on "Events"

CASTING CROWNS' MARK HALL OFFERS GZ YOUTH WORKERS PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT

More than 50 Myrtle Beach-area youth workers and student leaders shared pizza and inspiration at Ground Zero's monthly Youth Worker Luncheon on Friday, October 3, as blockbuster Christian band Casting Crowns' lead vocalist Mark Hall spoke about how to transform their youth groups into leader-producing youth ministries.

Hall, himself a youth worker, conveyed key ingredients that inspire teenagers to become effective leaders: one-on-one student mentoring, support from teenagers' families, and helping each student find a way to serve that's meaningful to him.

Hall drew from 15 years' experience as a youth pastor first in Florida and now at Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church in Georgia, where he ministers to 400 teenagers each week.

GZ YOUTH WORKER INVESTS PERSONALLY IN TEENAGERS

Aaron Grant is a volunteer youth worker, but his commitment as leader and mentor to the 50 teenagers at Grand Strand Community Church is anything but part-time.

"More than half my youth group members come from unchurched families," says Aaron. "When they call, I'm here for them and I listen, even if it's at 2 AM."

That's why the GZ Youth Worker Luncheon resonated with Grant – particularly when visiting Casting Crowns' Mark Hall shared his message of investing one-on-one with students. Hall searched for commonalities among 40 of his former youth group members now in full-time ministry and discovered an important thread: during their teen years, every one of the young people had received personal mentoring from him or another adult

leader. (In addition, each had also cultivated a personal area of ministry, such as music, drama or missions, and had support from a parent or adult family member.)

That's when Grant knew he was on the right track. "Mark's message was a huge encouragement," said Grant. "He affirmed my personal investment in teenagers." During a typical week, Grant spends volunteer 20-30 hours preparing and leading youth worship and mentoring youth group members one-on-one. Now, in response to Hall's emphasis on discipling, Grant and his volunteer team are developing their ministry further by launching small groups for the church's teenagers.

GZ's resources – youth worker luncheons, outreach events, campus ministries – allow Grant to have a more effective ministry to teenagers. "Our church has no youth budget," he says. "But Ground Zero gives me fantastic opportunities to get these kids plugged into God."

Get connected to GZ's Youth Worker events by contacting SCOTT PAYSEUR **843.497.0580** - or by logging on to - get-connected.org and clicking on "Youth Workers"

110 STUDENTS TAKE A STAND FOR SEXUAL PURITY

On Wednesday, September 8, Ground Zero hosted nearly 700 teenagers, youth workers, parents, and community leaders as abstinence educator Pam Stenzel shared why Sex Still Has a Price Tag. GZ partner Beach Church (Myrtle Beach, SC) provided its facility and technical support for the event.

Pam offered her personal story and her experience as pregnancy counselor in a hard-hitting look at the consequences of sexual activity outside of a monogamous, lifetime relationship. When students were offered the opportunity to start new lives with Christ, whether through a commitment to sexual purity or release from other troubles, 110 stood.

"Tonight was awesome!" said one parent, who'd brought her daughter's dance class to the event, some of them non-Christians. "All six of my daughter's friends stood and made commitments to sexual purity."

The evening opened with improv and comedy duo Mad Dogs & Englishmen, whose side-splitting skits and real life drama underscored the importance of choices. Both Pam Stenzel and Mad Dogs & Englishmen appeared at Myrtle Beach-area school assemblies that morning.

Learn about upcoming Ground Zero events when you log onto www.get-connected.org and click on "Events."

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP GZ IMPACT TEENAGERS

"We can take this community and its youth for Christ with the help of Ground Zero," says Scott Pyle, a local investment manager with Wachovia Securities and father of teenagers. "But we need to drop barriers between churches. We need to be the Body of Christ."

Pyle, a leader in the weekly, 100+ member Myrtle Beach-area Men's Bible Study, is a firm believer in churches working together and parents engaging in youth outreach. This fall, when he and his wife Pamela saw GZ's impact on youth, they got involved by sponsoring a GZ Host Home Evening. The Pyles invited friends to join them for a light meal, which included a ministry presentation from GZ staff and the auction of a football (autographed by members of the Green Bay Packers) benefiting GZ.

"We can get traction with our youth through the outreach Ground Zero offers," says Pyle. "But only when people in churches come together – and when parents come alongside the ministry with strong support."

We need parents to partner with us, if you are interested in partnering with us to bring the Grand Strand teens to Christ, please contact Development Director JOHN SHRIVER at **843.497.0580** - or - john@get-connected.org

Learn about Ground Zero's exciting 2008-2009 Events when you log onto get-connected.org and click on "Events"

YOUR PRAYERS BRING RESULTS!

- Praise for overwhelming response at our first Impact Events of the school year: Rachel's Challenge and Pam Stenzel's Sex Has A Price Tag
- Thanks for 450+ students who participated in Myrtle Beach area See You At The Pole™ in Myrtle Beach area
- Praise for enthusiastic launch of our 8 new GZ Campus Ministries
- Thanks for our student-created GZ Campus Ministry video

Thank you for praying.

PRAY WITH US

- For our student leaders, faculty sponsors and mentors as they build our 8 GZ Campus Ministries
- For opportunities to present GZ to community leaders and organizations
- For God to provide 3 more GZ Events sponsors
- For God to provide financial resources for GZ operations



GROUND ZERO

We empower the Christian community to reach and disciple teenagers for Jesus Christ.

PO BOX 8279 MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29578 843.497.0580 GET-CONNECTED.ORG

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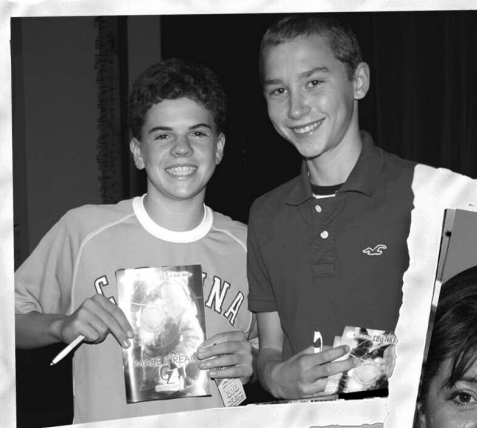
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