

From
MISSION POSSIBLE
'06 in Jasper, AR

YOUTH REACH

Don't forget . . .

- SWD Winter Youth Retreat in Midlothian, TX, December 27-30
- MISSION POSSIBLE June 22-29, 2008 Conroe, TX
Contact: Kurt Lang, National FYC director, 541-517-1079 or nfyc@cog7.org
Jesus did the impossible: He came to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. You ready to do the impossible and follow in His footsteps?

Watch Your Words!

"Oh, my God!" How many times did you hear that today? Or has it become so common that you don't even notice? Count the number of times you hear this phrase tomorrow. Include the times you say it, too.

You may be thinking, **Oh, now you're going to tell me that people who use this phrase are swearing.** You're right. It fits with "Jesus Christ," "God d___ it," and similar phrases.

So what's the big deal? Well, God's Word tells us, "Do not swear" (James 5:12, NIV). This is really telling us not to make an oath we can't keep. Don't say irreverent or irrelevant words — anything without value.

What is valuable is God's name. "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God" (Exodus 20:7, NIV). God doesn't mess around when it comes to His name and character. God is a holy God. He deserves, even demands, that His name be honored. Every time we use His name carelessly, we misuse it.

The big deal is that our culture has misused God's name so long that it no longer has any meaning, and God himself no longer has much meaning. We have a choice: Either join the crowd and dishonor the Almighty, or step up our commitment to properly honor our heavenly Father.

While I'm on my "Jesus freak rampage," how about we quit substituting the "f" word with **frikkin** or **flippin**? It's the same attitude without the vulgar word. We shouldn't let the culture press us into its mold. We're better than that.

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us (1 Peter 2:11, 12, NIV).

'Nuff said.

— Kurt Lang
NFYC Director

2T4G

Dear Young Person:

When I was your age. . . You love that beginning, don't you!

Way back then, somebody in NFYC challenged me to use at least five minutes every day to listen to God and talk to Him. 2T4G, they called it: Take Time for God.

So, still a teenager, I began reading Scripture daily. I haven't been perfect at it, but somewhere from 300 to 350 days each year, I read the Word. More than any other one thing, this helps me be a serious student of the Bible and a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Would you like to develop the 2T4G habit next year? We can help by sending you the easy-read **One Minute Bible** to get you started. Just e-mail us with 25 words or so of why you'll "Take Time for God" in 2008. If you're one of the first 25 youth to do that, we'll send you the Bible. Make sure you include your mailing address when you e-mail us at bibleadvocate@cog7.org.

One more thing: I want to say thanks to the NFYC leaders and writers who got me started with 2T4G 50 years ago. Thanks, Elden and Cecyl Fischer. Thanks, Hope Dais. Thanks, Dale Lawson. You guys were great!

— Editor Calvin Burrell

Western Canada Winter Retreat

"Staying Alive"

December 28 – 31, 2007

- Place: Island Lake Conference Centre at Crowsnest Pass, Alberta
- Price: \$100 per person; \$210 per family
- What to bring: sleeping bag or bedding, pillow, towel, hygiene supplies, Bible, positive attitude, warm clothing, snow boots, and a desire to become "spiritually fit."

Contact: Francisco or Deborah Chavez: 403-590-6976; 403-312-8823; 403-831-6221; fm.chavez@shaw.ca; cisco_21@hotmail.com

Contest Winners!!

Congratulations to these writers for their winning submissions to the BA contest.

First place: Brian Franks (Colorado Springs, CO), "Through Him" (\$100)

Second place: Arno Jacob Argueta (Ontario, CA), "You Loved Me So" (\$50)

Third place - Natalie Rivas (Dallas Melbourne, TX), "For the First Time" (\$15)

Unfortunately, no winning photos were submitted.

Thanks to these writers for sharing their work with us. Now we'd like to share the first-place winner with you:

Through Him

1st
Place

There's a mark on my head,
Given by my Father
Who art in heaven.
I've had it since the day I died.

There's a cross upon my shoulders;
I cannot lift it
With all my strength,
And I never will.

There's a thorn in my side,
One that threatens the life of me,
One that I can never pull free.

There're chains about my wrists.
I'm a sinner,
A slave for all these years,
In need of mercy.

There's a stumbling block before my foot.
I need light
Just to guide my steps,
That I may see my path.

There's a spirit on my heart,
One that will lift my cross, remove my thorn,
Undo my chains, and light my way.
Through man, impossible;
Through God, all things are achievable.

— Brian Franks

For more events and pictures, visit <http://nfyc.cog7.org>