

## Teen Night Update -

Teenagers are a hard group to work with. Anyone who has ever helped with a youth group knows the challenges. When kids are young they happily come to Bible Clubs and special events. But as they get older, they have sports, band, dances, friends with agendas, homework we can't comprehend - all adding up to schedules that are packed even more than our own. And all of that doesn't even scratch the surface: they must deal with spiritual battles, hormones, relationship drama, peer pressure and more. By the time the kids are teenagers, many would rather play on their phones or listen to their iPods than listen in a Bible study. And teenagers grow up so quick—soon, they're done with school and on the other things.

We at Urban Connections have faced these same challenges with our Teen Night Bible study. Teens have passed through, some even staying committed for a couple of years after finishing high school. Very often the house was packed but the teaching time could be frustrating as kids



### A New Partnership

We have prayed for partnership with our local schools for many years and finally one is developing. Fairwood Elementary School is part of the "ColumbusReads," a Kindergarten reading program. Tutors with this program are assigned two students, and they read with each one for a half hour. We learned of the need and several people have begun to help out. We hope to meet - and exceed - their need, and move on to helping in other classrooms. Tutoring in this way is an easy way to serve in our community. We also pray that this partnership continues to develop as we join together in impacting our neighborhood.

This program meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 10:00-11:00am. If you're interested in helping with ColumbusReads or with tutoring & mentoring of other students, contact Cathy Alexander at [cathy@urban-connections.org](mailto:cathy@urban-connections.org).

chose a life apart from Christ.

This year has been different for us. We have a core group of about 15, plus new kids coming in and out. There are some who just come to play ball and socialize. But this year some of those core kids really are "getting it". They are actively participating in the Bible study, asking questions and allowing themselves to be challenged. They are willing to hear the Word and then listen about applying it to their sports, relationships and school. Through the generosity of DaySpring Community Church, we've been able to play full court basketball with the group almost every week this fall.

We've started out the year talking about intimacy with God and with people, and now we have moved on to humility. It's fun to see how easily they point the finger at others not being humble but make excuses for their own lack of humility. As we play basketball or other games, they've come to see that their tempers flare when they're not being humble. It's amazing to see them realize what they're doing and then back down from an argument.

Will you actively pray for our teens with us? We want to see their hearts continue to change, and of course we want to see their lives reflect that with every choice that they make. Pray that Christ would be obvious to them, and that He would be irresistible.

## Current Needs

Meijer/Kroger gift cards  
Pre-sweetened drink mix  
(lemonade, fruit punch, etc)  
aluminum foil (heavy duty)  
re-sealable bags (gallon and quart)

heavy duty kitchen trash bags  
Grated Cheese  
ranch salad dressing  
toilet paper  
paper towels  
napkins

### Prizes for the kids:

Basketballs (full size)  
footballs (full size)  
soda (Coke, Mountain Dew, Sprite, etc)  
gum  
basic calculators

### Let us Pray...

- that the lives of our teens would be changing with their decisions for Christ, and that being "Christ-followers" would be evident in every part of their life.
- that our presence in our neighborhood would be encouraging and empowering, that we would choose our words and actions wisely as we develop relationships and partnerships throughout our community.
- for the kids and their families - that they would be seeing Christ in all that we do.
- Pastor Burt Manchester and Pastor Tony Burns are making choices in the new year that will allow them to spend more time serving Urban Connections. Burt will be joining our staff part-time, and Tony will be retiring from his day-job to be a full-time pastor. Please pray for them as they step out in faith for finances and also for their time with us and in our community.
- Pray for our new partnership with Fairwood Elementary School. We want to serve them wisely, represent Christ well, and build relationships with kids and their families that will lead to people putting their faith in Christ.

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## Special Thanks

**We want to thank Cornerstone Christian Fellowship in Hilliard for thinking of us when they were getting a new copy machine - they donated their old one and it will be put to good use.**

## Calendar of Events

- Jan. 26 Ice Skating w/ Teens
- Feb. 9 Movie Night for Tuesday kids
- Feb. 23 Movie Night for Teens
- Mar. 7-8 City Vision Conference



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