

# PARENT LINK

*Keeping Parents Connected*



## SUMMER 2008 RECAP, AND A LOOK AHEAD TO FALL.

Summertime in Student Ministry is always an adventure. When the rest of the world typically slows down, the life of a Youth Pastor turns hectic. June and July have been filled with out of town trips, long stays at camp, late nights at conventions, and of course the joys of airline delays (6 hours on the tarmac in Georgia).

All of that said... I wouldn't change it for anything. The time I have spent with students this summer, and the experiences we have had as a group are simply unforgettable. I'd love to share with you some of our experiences this summer... the events, the highlights, and of course the funny moments! I hope you can catch a glimpse of what God has done so far in the lives of several at BIG Student Ministries.

**BIG Beach Bash** - Although the rains came and washed away our plans of hanging out at Caesar's Creek Lake, we made the most of it

by hanging out at Camp Lebanon for a couple of days of fun and fellowship.

**Beach Bash Highlight** - Our worship service on Saturday evening was a powerful time in the lives of the 20 some students involved. Students had the opportunity to "Make a Joyful Noise" by playing percussion during one of the songs with their homemade instruments. Several Faith decisions were made as God's true identity for us was brought to light, and the identity that the world has given us was laid down at the feet of Jesus. It was an awesome moment!

**Beach Bash Funny Moment** - In an attempt to play the "Push Broom" during our worship time, Katie Davis took a spill on the concrete floor that was unforgettable. Her embarrassment could not be hidden, thankfully she was not hurt and took it all in stride! The pictures of this historic fall will be locked away in a safe place on my hard drive... unless the right offer comes in!

**Jr. and Sr. High Camp at Camp Lebanon** - We had a record number of attendees representing Journey Church at Camp Lebanon this year... can't wait to see how many attend next year! As usual, Camp Lebanon delivered tons of great stories and memories for all involved. As a former camper, it's a lot of fun to watch a new generation make their mark on Camp Lebanon, and visa versa.

**Camp Highlight** - Without question, the highlight of camp every year are the moments spent praying and processing what God is saying in one's heart. It's a really cool thing to see a huddle of kids praying together after an evening service, or supporting one another as they share at the Thursday evening campfire. BIG Student Ministries saw three students make first time commitments follow Jesus, and several others make significant decisions regarding their lives and relationships.

**Camp Funny Moment** - You want to know what happens to a camper that won't let the Youth Pastor take a mid-day nap after two weeks at church camp? Go find Tytus Planck... he might be able to tell you... or go find the pillow that was used to WHOOP him! Tytus was definitely used to set an example for the rest of the guys... the lesson: Luke swings a mean pillow, especially when sleep deprived!

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**Article By: Luke Dooley**

## ***IYC 2008 San Antonio, Texas -***

Every two years thousands of High School students gather in one of America's finest cities for something called International Youth Convention (IYC). This year IYC was in San Antonio, Texas... in 2010 it will be in Orlando, Florida. Over a year ago we began discussions about taking a group from BIG Student Ministries to IYC... the initial interest was significant, but as time wore on, schedule conflicts and other outside factors dwindled our group down to three students. After pondering whether or not to proceed with our plans to attend IYC with only a few students, we eventually decided that "The Show Must Go On"... am I ever glad that's the decision we made.

The five days we spent in San Antonio will go down as five unforgettable days in my book. I know that if you talked to any of the students who attended, they would give you a similar refrain.

What's so great about it you ask? In short... everything! The following is just a glimpse:

**The Travel Adventures** - We were delayed 8 hours on the way down thanks to a closure at the Atlanta airport. The bright side is that we added an extra day onto the back side of our trip as a result. For the record, all flights home were flawless!

**The Incredible Worship Experiences** - First off, worshiping in a room with 5,000 other people is pretty awesome to start with. Add incredible lights, video, and sound it gets even better. Finally, throw in two of the foremost leaders in modern worship (Charlie Hall & Chris Tomlin), and the end result is something unforgettable, something truly bigger than words. God used the worship at IYC to stir the hearts of teenagers for His renown!

**The Amazing Speakers** - We had the opportunity to hear from some incredible story-tellers and gospel communicators. From the inspirational Becky Tirabassi, to the hilarious and empowering Efram Smith and Steve Fitzhugh, and of course my personal favorite, the passionate and direct Louie Giglio. God used each of these men & women to say something unique and direct to those in attendance. It was apparent from the conversations with the BIG Students at the end of each

evening that there were some significant realizations and decisions made!

**The Great Food** - MMMM... The great thing about any type of convention is that you typically get to eat at some pretty cool restaurants. Our trip included such establishments as: The Hard Rock Cafe, The Rainforest Cafe, Rio Grande Authentic Mexican on the Riverwalk, and of course who can forget POPEYE'S Chicken in the Atlanta airport!

**The Sights Seen** - It was the first time in San Antonio for every person in our group, so we were all excited to see what the city had in store for us. We were not disappointed. Some of the highlights include: *Sea World, The Alamo, The Riverwalk, Hemisphere Park, The Alamodome, and Jenessa's personal favorite: The five story rooftop pool at the brand new Grand Hyatt Hotel where we stayed!*

All in all, IYC2008 was a complete success, and an unforgettable experience for all involved. It will be fun to tell stories from this trip for a long time. I can't wait until 2010 when we have an even bigger group of BSM students to take to Orlando, so we can create a whole batch of new stories!

### **Looking Ahead to Fall:**

This summer has been a blast, while I know it's not quite over (we still have two pool parties and a Reds Game on the schedule before school begins!), it's time to start looking ahead to the Fall Ministry season for BIG Student Ministries. As busy as the summer was, Fall is going to be even busier!

**Beginning the first Sunday in September, we will be jumping back into our full Sunday morning environment for BSM.** This means that from 10:10 - 11:45, we will be in the cafe area for teenage specific programming & teaching. In talking with the students the past few weeks, they are eager to be back in an environment that is created specifically for them... there is also an air of excitement about the possibility of inviting friends into this opportunity. I can't wait to see how things goes this Fall as we seek to provide the best atmosphere for students to grow in their relationships, and invite their friends to do the same!

**In October we will be kicking off our Fall Small Groups Semester** for students. This session of small groups will run until mid-December, when we will take a break for the Holiday season.

If you're student has not been involved in a small group in the past, I urge you to nudge them in that direction this Fall. I can't express how critical the small group environment is to the consistent growth of a teenager who hopes to be involved in Student Ministry. Small Groups provide the perfect opportunity to connect with students who are the same age & gender, and process questions about life, faith, fears and God.

More details will be coming out soon about small groups at BSM. Meeting nights & locations are still being nailed down, but rest assured that as soon as this information is solidified, it will be in your hands so you can plan accordingly. I'm praying that we see a record number of students involved in Small Groups this Fall!

In addition to these weekly venues, we have a couple of exciting weekend events planned for the Fall. Please take note of these dates now so you can help ensure your student's availability for these exciting opportunities.

First up on **September 12th-13th**, we have the girls only trip to Columbus for the "Revolve Tour". This Friday & Saturday event will be an awesome opportunity for the ladies of BIG Student Ministries to bond with one another, while hearing from some of the most influential speakers for teenage girls. Don't miss out on this event!

Finally, BSM will be making our first trip to Ohio State Youth Convention this year! On November 7-9 we will be spending the weekend in Columbus for an awesome opportunity to hang out and worship with one another, as well as hundreds of other students from around the state. More details to follow regarding this trip. Mark your calendars, and begin preparing financially now (estimated cost is \$175).

I hope that you as parents will partner with the leadership of BSM in making this our most exciting Fall Ministry Season yet. Pray for us, support us, clear your calendars, encourage your students to bring friends. **It's gonna be BIG!**

## Picks & Clicks: Our Current Favorite Movies, Music and Websites

### Worship Album

#### Starfield - I will Go

Starfield brings something different to the Worship table... and that is hard to find! Their modern rock sound mixed with great lyrics and vocals make for some fantastic worship melodies. Check them out ASAP!

In stores or on i-tunes!

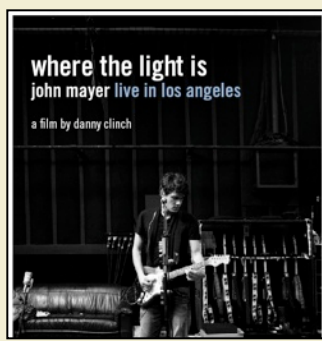


### Secular Album

#### John Mayer - Where the Light Is

John Mayer is one of the most talented artists of this generation. His music is soulful, and heartfelt. This unique live album offers 3 totally different experiences: acoustic, blues, and full band. A must have CD!

In stores or on i-tunes!



### Movie

#### Batman: The Dark Knight

This is the best movie of the summer... of the year... of all time. Okay, maybe that's overboard, but The Dark Knight is a visually and mentally stunning film. Violence and anarchy play a major role, so keep that in mind with teens.



### Website

#### Tom's Blog - [www.tomplanck.com](http://www.tomplanck.com)

How could we not send you to Pastor Tom's blog. It's the best place to see what's going on behind the scenes of the Journey Church's lead pastor. Great writings on: life, sports, family, ministry, and leadership. Check it out today!



## UPCOMING EVENTS... DON'T MISS OUT!

WHAT	<b>BIG Pool Parties (Two in August)</b>	<b>Reds Game &amp; Water Giveaway</b>	<b>Revolve Tour</b>	<b>BSM Parents Meeting!</b>
WHEN	Wednesday Evenings August 6 & August 27 7:00 - 9:30 pm	Sunday August 17th After church until 6 pm	September 12-13 Friday & Saturday	Sunday September 7th 9:40 - 10:10
WHERE	Mark & Aimee Davis' Home located in the Beckett Ridge Community.	Drop-off and Pick-up at Lakota East High School	Nationwide Arena Columbus, Ohio	Lakota East High School Cafeteria
COST & OTHER KEY INFO	FREE!! PLEASE BRING A FRIEND! RSVP by e-mailing Luke	Cost is \$10 plus fast food money RSVP by Sunday, August 10th	Cost is \$120. This is a girls only event! Contact Luke or Jenessa for more details.	An opportunity to share the plans for BIG for Fall 2008 and beyond. All parents are encouraged to be around!