

# Salt n Light 2013-2014

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I first came to the youth ministry at WBC in 1998 as a young high school student who didn't know Jesus. It is amazing to think that now, 16 years later, I have the privilege of shepherding the teens of Salt & Light; sharing the same hope in Christ that gave me life when God used Mark's words to enlighten my heart to my desperate need for a Savior. My aim has been to increasingly and consistently bring the comfort and call of the Gospel to bear in the hearts and lives of our teens as they deal with everyday life. Our teens continue to impress me with their grasp of the Gospel. It is a pleasure to teach them and dialogue with them about how the Gospel infuses itself in their understanding of life and the world around them.

One thing that I have always loved about our youth ministry is something that Mark instilled in all of us as youth staff: Everything we do is rooted and has its purpose in sharing the Gospel and building up the body of Christ. Either through **inreach**, which is building health and community within the group, or **outreach**, which is bringing people in by sharing the love of Christ and the hope of the Gospel. So simple things like a snack after youth group is an opportunity to enjoy one another's company, build relationships and share Jesus. Last year we enjoyed several trips or events that did just that. We had a great time on our traditional **Funtown** trip. I don't think it's possible to not build better relationships when there are amusement park rides and one member of your group gets sick afterward! That story still comes up from time to time. We scored big on our **Bigger & Better** event as well. The teens piled in cars and drove around town looking to trade paper clip for any item that is bigger or better. We may not have come back with a car, but we got a phoosball table out of it! We enjoyed a great BBQ for dinner at the Gedick's house afterward. Bigger & Better is an event that gives us the opportunity share that despite the promise of life that our belongings can promise us, they will always let us down. There is nothing bigger or better than Jesus.

Our camping trip and hike up **Tumbledown Mountain** was fun, tiring, rewarding and beautiful. Teamwork was necessary to encourage each other up the steep climb, over boulders and to the summit where we enjoyed a pond and a great view!

Every year I end my annual report the same way. I am privileged to lead this youth ministry. I am incredibly grateful for the help of our other **youth staff volunteers, Tracy Gedicks, Rachel Comeau, and Geoff & Jillian Wright**. Our youth ministry would not be what it is without their help! It is an honor to teach these students about the deep love and care of God over every part of their lives, through Christ our King.

By Grace,

Matt Dyer