

October 2010

Dear Parents,

Last Month was a great Blessing. We have a strong calendar of events for the 2010 – 2011 year. Our leadership teams have made a number of adjustments and are beginning to confidently settle in their roles. In the midst of all the amazing things that God has done this past month, God is also opening up some amazing options for the future as well.

### **Take Everything Tour**

This Month, we are greatly blessed in cooperation with several other churches, businesses and other individuals to be hosting the "Take Everything Tour". Featuring the Alternative Rock Band *Seventh Day Slumber*, Hard Rock *The Letter Black*, and three time Rap/Hip Hop album of the Year Award winner *KJ -52 (Five Two)*. The Letter Black released their debut album "Hanging on by a thread" on itunes, finishing the day as number 9 in the rock section. Seventh Day Slumber has held a number of top 10 singles and has had two albums on the Billboard Heatseekers at #33 and #10. By the generosity of numerous individuals and the partnership of many people, we are excited to present this opportunity FREE of Charge. We'll be in the Vet's Hall Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 6 pm. (Doors will open at 5:30). If you are interested, we still need volunteers to help with Set Up Sunday Morning, Merchandise, Hospitality, Security, Prayer Counseling for the evening's program, and Clean up when the program is all done.

### **Jr High**

It has taken a little time to get adjusted as our Jr High ministry moved to Thursday Nights instead of Tuesdays, but the group has been slowly growing. As a general reminder, since we are now hosting Awana Tuesday Nights, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to participate in the Awana Program. We desire to give these students grade appropriate and specific attention. This way we can also do the same for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Even though there can be some great possibilities for students to spread their wings and grow, sometimes we push to grow too fast. Our Jr High Staff adores your students, but we also don't want to be selfish and desire for them to maximize their time, which includes their time preparing for Jr High ministries. Your assistance in this is important to us as we continue to grow. Our Jr Highers have had a great time reconnecting from our summer break and have hit the ground running. They had a great time in Jr High Water Wars and have been covering the basis of Fellowship, relearning what R.E.F.U.G.E. is, a place to **R**efresh, be **E**ncouraged, have **F**un, be **U**nified, **G**row and be **E**nlightened to what God says through His word. I was greatly blessed to see more Jr Highers participate in both See You At The Pole and the See You At The Pole Rally this Year. I believe that it's really important for students to make the personal time to pray and to connect with God for more than just their own desires.

The Last Thursday of the Month, Jr Highers will hold their October Theme Night "Nerd and Junkfood Night" The students decided on their theme. We'll spend a little time talking about the things that people consider 'Nerdy', and the difference between that and popularity, as well as How Christ would view and treat that. On a fun note, this will give students the opportunity to randomly dress up and just be silly, (But in a tasteful way.) We'll also briefly touch on the "junkfood" that we fill our lives with and figuring out how to better balance out what God intends. We'll include several fun games as well. If you are interested in donating food/drinks/candy or prizes, please drop those off **before** Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup>. We'll start the actual program that night at 5:30 to give time for all the activities that we have planned. Additional details can be found on the Youth Website.

### **Sr High**

Last Month we took a group of 10 to the William Jessup University Leadership Training in Rocklin Ca. Student Leaders were given the opportunity to participate in a number of breakout sessions from leaders all over Northern California and Northern Nevada. We joined up with over 40 other churches and was also blessed to connect with Les Christie, a world renowned leader in the area of youth ministry. (Les was also one of my mentors early in Ministry. ☺) On a personal note, this was also a great time for me to grow as well as I had the opportunity to teach one of the sessions. I was very excited to listen to our student leaders in regard to all the things that they had to share and the vision for growth and change that they have. It was

good to see some of that in action as they came together for both the See You at the Pole Rally, and actually for the See You At The Pole Meeting. We have taken time to study through some of our own basics for Fellowship as E.P.I.C. We've looked over the importance of remembering that our Energy and power comes from Christ, that our faith needs to be Personal and Practical, that as we connect with God and each other we can be Inspired, and that not only was Christ Creative, but that we are designed to be Creative as well. This month we'll be taking time for a Study of Dark Forces and the Bible. We'll look at some of the dark things in life and where the bible connects with them and how those may correspond with our lives today. Our Sr High Awana program Thursdays at 330 continues to grow and provide additional in depth training.

The Last Wednesday of the month, (October 27<sup>th</sup>) we'll take some time for Sr High Nerf Wars. We'll be introducing some new games, and introduce a new perspective on the battles we face in life. As we have in the past, we'll have the opportunity to purchase Nerf Guns, but if students (Or parents) bring their own, we are asking for \$5 per person to help cover the cost of food for the night.

### **Sunday Mornings**

As we have joined the Jr High and Sr High Classes again after several years, I was a little uncertain to how things were going to develop. We began to cover a new Series on the Book of Revelation. We've been covering some pretty intensive topics. Sure we've been looking at the signs of the end times, but we will also be looking at things like church struggles, personal development, interpersonal conflict, Church history and aspects of Christ's character.

### **College Young Adult**

In the midst of so many adjustments and changes, we have taken some time out periodically to provide opportunities for students to regain their bearings in regard to work and school. We took one night to just simply interact in playing a mixture of console and board games. We are continuing our study through the book of Nehemiah, looking at how Nehemiah dealt with things like unexpected difficulties, conflict from those who should be supporting you, financial difficulties, future planning, goals and habit forming.

This month we'll hold another game night and we'll also take some time to reevaluate our growth and direction. Please pray with us as we look at the possibility of returning to the college campus.

The end of last month and the beginning of this one, Michelle and I took some time to return back to the National Youth Worker's Convention. Last year, even though Student Ministries had the best year in many years financially, we held off on that conference because we wanted to make sure we did everything we could financially to provide the best we could for our students. This year as we made the time to attend this Year's Conference, It was an amazing time to be refreshed, encouraged, re-inspired and re-challenged. It was good to reconnect with old mentors, partners, students (who are now leaders) and to make new connections for future ventures. You'll hear more about these next month. This year we also helped work the conference to help keep the costs down. It was not only a good time to grow spiritually and professionally, but it was a great opportunity to grow a little closer to my wife. I am really grateful for the opportunity and the privilege to serve you and your family. We'll be exploring a number of new and old methods. Please keep us in prayer as any growing period includes stretching. We'll be raising the bar in a number of directions and ways. Please pray specifically for discernment during this time. DO check out the Student Ministries website ([CEFYouth.com](http://CEFYouth.com)) for pictures, updates and more!

Ever Blessed and Excited for what's Next,

Jackson Fong  
Student Ministries Pastor  
Community Church of Susanville