



THE STATE — OF THE — YOUTH

MAY 2024

412 LATELY

Spring!

April showers bring May flowers!... At least we hope we get enough to ease the drought of August, am I right?! In any case, rain or shine, nothing is stopping the ministries at JAXSBC, and April was no exception. The way we have seen the Lord move in our church this past month is incredible and we believe the future is bright for the 412 Student Ministry.

In April, we said goodbye to the Easter season although the truths of the resurrection remain with us all year. In hopes of doing just that, we began a brand new series in AXIS called *Transcendent Joy*. This is a study on the book of Philippians where we are spending seven weeks in this wonderful letter, learning why and how Paul stays so joyful through hardships. *Spoiler Alert* It's because the hope of the Gospel of Christ! I am excited to see what God has to teach us in these seven weeks. We also had our last AfterLife of the year where we played Assassin (with Nerf Guns, no teenagers were unalived during this event). So congrats to Carter O'Dell for taking home the W!

This past month we have also began the downhill run to the end of the school year. (Go ahead and wipe that tear... It's ok. September will be here before you know it) But to get ready for summer we have announced this year's MYBS Study (Mid-Year Bible Study) which is *Revival Generation* by Shane Pruitt. I am excited for us to go through this brand new Bible Study and see how young people can use their



-The girls at U.S. Pizza for GNO.



-Kaden Dawejko over analyzing his swing at Top Golf during GNO

influence today to impact the world for the Gospel. As if the study wasn't going to be great on it's own, we are going to have the honor of hearing and meeting the author himself at Super Summer this year! Shane is going to be this year's speaker at camp and we are excited to hear what the Lord is leading him to teach us. Please be in prayer for our teenagers this summer. Camp is June 25-29!

Well the time has come I know you were all regretting to hear. (kidding, I know you'll be glad to have a break from these hitting your phone every month) This edition of TSOTY will officially be the last until the summer break is over... (I'm not crying, you are) However, I will be back in September with hopefully lots of fun and interesting things to share with you about what the 412 Student Ministry is up to and what I've seen in youth culture over the summer.

Real quickly though before you move on to the article below that I know you are dying to get to. If you are a parent of an upcoming 7th grader (and we have several this year!), I want to remind you of Roll-Up Sunday, May 19th. This is the day all youth, birth through 12th grade, will meet during their normal Sunday School hour in the Activity Center to officially move up to their next class. That means for your outgoing 6th grader (wipe that tear), they will be moving up to the 412 Student Ministry!! Now, they are not officially official just yet, because they will not be able to attend Super Summer with the teenagers, they will go to Centrikid. BUT they are fully welcome to participate in any other summer activities 412 has planned, including MYBS and the MYBS Trip in August! You can find all Summer dates on our website right now. I can't wait to see the impact that your new teens are going to make on our church, and I am excited to have you apart of the 412 Parent Group!

GEN Z LINGO

“Tuff”; adj. - A quality of something similar to cool and unique.

Tuff can be used when something is genuinely cool, or to be obviously sarcastic. In most all cases it is used in relation to something that is new and unique. May stem from something being firmly itself, hence, “Tuff”.

Example: *Stephen wears a shirt with Jesus in sunglasses*

Noah: “Dude that shirt is tuff.”

WHY I AM AN UNASHAMED HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL SUPERFAN

GEN Z LINGO

“Touch grass”; phrase. - you are acting very weird and/or you are going over and beyond what is necessary. you are being too much.

This statement originated from people needing to get outside more during the Covid-19 pandemic. People were tempted to stay and inside and become couch potatoes, so an admonishment from a friend would be “go touch grass”. It is now evolved into being used when someone is acting socially abnormal or trying too hard. It is a way of telling someone to calm down or chill out.



The year was 2006. Little Stephen was starting the 1st grade and a major change was about to happen to him and every other child in America. High School Musical. Now I know what you're thinking... You're old. I mean if you're a parent reading this, you were probably graduating High School or even in college in 2006. Ancient! But for us early Gen Z and late Millennials, High School Musical was a pivotal point in our childhood. It marked a turning point for the Disney Channel Original Movie. High School Musical was the moment in Disney history that they realized not only can they do music, but they can do music WELL! After this, we saw wave after wave of musical Disney Channel Original Movies released every year leading up to the undisputed, greatest Disney Channel Original Movie, and without a doubt, BEST High School Musical... High School Musical 2. There are very few hills that I am willing to die on and this one of them. I will accept no blasphemy against HSM2. It is unequivocally the best, no contest, though I do very much love 1 and 3.

Stephen, what in the world are you getting at? Just humor for a moment because this will start to make sense.

What many people do not understand about HSM2 is why doesn't it take place at the High School like 1 and 3? Why are all of the songs over the top and do not seem to even follow the plot of the movie? Besides Disney dumping in more money than they had ever spent on a

Disney Movie before HSM2, and giving Kenny Ortega complete full reign to unleash his musical and choreography genius; many people still miss the overall message that the three movies are seeking to answer as a cohesive piece.

The first movie, being an attempt to make my generation's *Grease*, seeks to ask the same question, "Who am I?" The second movie is asking the question, "Where am I going?" And the third, "What will I take with me?" These three questions are the very things all teenagers are asking themselves as they coming up on the end of their High School careers. Although we do not have any Seniors this year in 412, we will have several next year and I can already begin to see these same questions being tossed around by each of them, "Who am I?; Where am I going?; What will I take with me?"

As a Student Pastor these are the very questions I have a big heart for helping with, because as a follower of Jesus I believe the best and only answer for us is that we are God's children, we are going wherever the Lord leads, and we will take the truths of His Word with us. If we are being honest with ourselves, these are the questions we all are still asking ourselves. Yet the High School years are that pivotal time in each person life where those questions first become real to us.

So as a parent of preteens, what does this mean for you? Well your child is about to hit this moment in their life, it is not that far away. You may be in a place in your own life where most of these questions are beginning to settle down, and you must make a decision on how will you use your influence to shape how you future teen will answer these questions. My challenge for you this month and this Summer is to think about that reality and to realize that you have the most influence over your child's worldview RIGHT NOW. Yes you will always be there parent, but very soon they will begin to start thinking for themselves, being influenced by a plethora of outside information and people that want to answer those three questions for them. As a believer in Christ, seeking to follow His will and His way, my prayer is that you would not waste these precious few years, but use them to grow and to mold your child into someone who is rooted in the Word and understands their identity is in Christ and Christ alone.

You are not alone in this endeavor. This is the beauty of the

"Who am I?"
"Where am I going?"
"What will I take with me?"

Church! Having a faith family behind you, and willing to give you the necessary resources to do just that is invaluable in today's world. It really does take a village!

We are praying for you and your family and that you receive all that God has in store for your children. For those of you with 5th and 6th graders entering our newest Bridge Ministry, I am excited to see how the Lord is going to use this group to grow them in their knowledge of the Lord. And for those moving up as 7th graders, welcome to the 412 Student Ministry, I hope it is some of the best years of their life just as they were for me.

Happy Summer! I will see you again September.

Following His Lead,

Stephen Yates

Associate Pastor of Students and Young Adults



THEOLOGY 101

The Image of God— The quality all humans have that make them different from all other creatures. Because God wanted representatives of Himself all over the earth, he put in humans His Image, that wherever we go, we carry Him with us.

Genesis 5:1; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:24

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:27