



New Year and New Ideas

About 11 years ago a bug bit me. No it's not the kind of bug with multiple legs and maybe multiple eyes, this was a different kind of bug. The bug came in the form of a horrific accident that took place half way around the globe and close to 29,000 feet in the air. In May of 1996 a tragic accident occurred during an expedition up Mount Everest in which eight climbers died on one single day. One of the men who survived the climb in a miraculous way was Beck Weathers, a doctor from the Dallas area. His story and survival was a huge story in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area so extra information was out about him and his near fatal trip. This story is also chronicled in the book *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer.

Ever since this tragedy I have been captivated by Mount Everest and stories about Mount Everest. Recently I have watched the show on Discovery Channel titled *Everest: Beyond the Limit*. This show plays out the summit attempts of a group of advanced and novice climbers from 2006. It is amazing to see all that they are willing to endure to get a glimpse from the top of the world. I am blown away at how they are willing to risk their lives with every step and every advance in elevation just to have a short fifteen to twenty minute stay at 29,035 feet. Some of the people who attempt to conquer Mount Everest doing for many different reasons. Some want to be the oldest to accomplish this feat; some do it to show that an asthmatic can overcome their disability, while others just do it to prove that being a double leg amputee doesn't stop their world.

These individuals have motivation to accomplish this amazing feat. When you think about it motivation in life is what fuels us and keeps us going. We have to remember that at one

time we as Christians were "bitten by a bug" and that is the realization and understanding of the love of Jesus Christ. We have hopefully been enamored by Christ and have had an insatiable desire to draw closer to him and to also tell others about him. I know that if I ever climbed to the top of Mount Everest (which will never happen because Allison has prohibited me from even entertaining the idea) I would tell everyone and everyone would know. I would probably introduce myself like this, "Hi, I'm Michael Sepulveda and I climbed Mount Everest." Shouldn't we be as bold to share about Jesus and have a motivation to know Jesus as one who climbs a mountain? I would hope we would.

So this next year let us consider why, how and when we share who Christ is to other people in our lives.

Useless Fact of the Month

The youngest person to ever summit Mount Everest was 15 year old Temba Tsheri, from Nepal, on May, 22, 2001.

Golden Tickets

Due to your incredible generosity last year we are once again going to do our Golden Ticket program to help send our Middle School and High School students and chaperones to their 2008 retreats.

Here's how the Golden Tickets work:

We charge those who attend the retreats a certain price. It actually costs more than this charged price for each person so the Golden Tickets will help cover the extra cost of those who attend. You can help send a youth and a chaperone on a retreat to have an incredible encounter with God.

- For the Middle School Retreat (Jan. 25-27) we will need 30 Golden Tickets
- Each Golden Ticket costs \$30.
- You may purchase a Golden Ticket for a specific person or for just anyone in general.
- Starting in January you will find a Golden Ticket form in the worship guide. Please fill this out and turn it in with your check either in the offering plate or in the office. (You will receive offering credit for this)
- The Sr. High Retreat will be in April 11-13. We will take up these Golden Tickets during the month of March.

The youth are very thankful for you helping give them this opportunity and the chaperones are equally thankful as well. Without chaperones we would not even be able to go on trips. Thanks again for your support and generosity.

Youth Happenings

Middle School Retreat

Theme: (To Be Determined)

January 25-27

Cost: \$92

Deposit: \$40

Deposit due by: Jan. 6

Cost goes up to \$102 after Jan. 6th.

Speaker: Jay Ridenour

Location: Camp Horizons, Harrisonburg, VA

Robious Lock-In

Tentative Date: Feb 15th

Sr. High Retreat

April 11-13

Speaker: Tiffany Kellogg

Worship Leader: Joel Johns

Location: Eagle Eyrie

Cost: TBD