

# BEHIND the SCENES

*Ministering To and Through America's Youth*

March 2023

## A simple straight cut

*[The gospel] by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 1 Cor. 15:2*



Jim & Robyn Cicchese

As I was working on a small project yesterday, I was trying to make a somewhat longer cut on a piece of plywood. I was not in my garage, where my tools reside, and had only a small circular saw handy. So I tried to make the cut with one hand, while simultaneously holding the board with the other.

If you have ever tried this, you know the result – I eventually cut the board, but it was a wandering, uneven cut with several burn marks where I had not cut properly. The result was not the straight line I expect when I use the proper saw and hold the board firmly while cutting.

A similar thing can happen when we approach theology. We are not cutting a piece of wood, but we can still be guilty of the assumption that it won't matter much if we just give a little ground here or there. Christianity has been famous for this pattern over the centuries – the world pulls us away from the absolute standards of Scripture, and we follow slowly but surely into a mess.

The result is a wandering, uneven approach to God and to His standards for our lives. It is an approach based entirely on what people **think** is important or true, not on what God has **revealed** about Himself or His covenant with us.

Even worse, the world will never stop pulling, so the pattern reveals itself with time. As the world moves a lot, we move a little, giving a bit of ground in the hope of peace and safety. Surely if we just give this little bit, we think, the world will be satisfied and will stop trying to get us to move.

But the response of the world is the same every time – with each victory, they are emboldened to even greater demands.

The sins of today are only a small step worse than the sins of yesterday – we don't wander in large jumps, we slide in small increments. The "sexual revolution" gives way to the "homosexual revolution," which in turn gives way to the gender transition movement – an idea that would have been unthinkable even 50 years ago. Nonetheless, our nation is full of churches that have embraced one or more of these things as if they were good and holy.

The people of the world imagine that because they can name, describe, and sometimes achieve things like a gender transition, they have therefore legitimized them as righteous acts before God – and anyone who objects is labeled a hater or fearmonger.

But it is not fear nor hatred to say that the only truly safe place for the believer is that place where we are in total agreement with the whole Word of God. I do not profess to fully understand what Paul meant when he said those who don't hold fast have "believed in vain," but those are scary words!

I have many clamps in my garage. Any one of them would have helped me to make a straight cut on that piece of wood. But what are the clamps that hold us fast to the revealed Word and Will of God? Can we find the tools that will keep us from sliding about when God is moving us through the process of "being saved," as the verse above says?

Perhaps the thing I emphasize more than any other in my own life, and at TFC, is a desire to know and to follow the Word of God – as we clamp ourselves to it fiercely, we give God the ability to turn us from random pieces of wood with wandering cuts and burn marks, into a finished product that is beautiful and effective. What about you? Do you have that fierce commitment to the Word of God? Or do you decide the right and wrong things in life by standards that move every day?

# What's Happening ..... at TFC



## Highlighting an Ambassador Student

My name is Keaton Garrett. I am the oldest brother of nine siblings, I have two older sisters, two younger sisters and four younger brothers. I was homeschooled my whole life and just graduated high school in 2022. I came to know the Lord when I was twelve years old by my sister questioning me on my beliefs, and have continued to grow my faith since then through various programs such as Teens For Christ, SCOPE (a homeschool co-op), and church. The Lord has greatly used TFC to grow and challenge me in Bible quizzing and Bible club, through the friends and leaders who have poured into my life so much, and through the teaching of His word. As I drew closer to graduating high school, I originally intended to attend a trade school or find an apprenticeship. The more I searched, the more I couldn't find one that seemed right. Then one day as I was reading my Bible, I came across a verse that said simply "two years." I do not remember the reference for the verse, I just remember that. And as I read it, I questioned, "what is two years? Ambassador is two years", and so I decided to attend Ambassador. Since then, though it has been hard and a lot of work, I have learned so much through the class sessions and the involvement as an intern. Now I seek the Lord's will to see where He will lead me next.



## Golf Tournament July 11th

Save the Date! The Tentative date for our Annual Golf Tournament is July 11th from 12-6pm at the Kilkarney Hills Golf Club Located only 20 minutes East of the Twin Cities.



*Player Fees:* \$120 Per Player or \$550.00 for Team with hole Sponsorship **Each team or player fee includes:** Green fees, golf cart, champagne chicken dinner, and prize participation. Register at [www.teens4christ.com](http://www.teens4christ.com)

*Tax deductions:* \$60 of your registration fee is tax deductible.

All donations will go towards ministering to and through Americas youth. See you there!

— MARCH —

LIVING WORD MISSION TRIP.....13TH-18TH

REGIONALS.....24TH-25TH

LOOKING AHEAD

— APRIL —

NATIONALS.....26TH-30TH

## Nationals



We are so blessed to have 56 quizzers going to Nationals this year. Congratulations to Caleb Doran, Joel Pendergast, Isaac Olmsheid, Sebastian Bork, Aubrey Peterson, Sierra Thompson and Hannah Larson for making Revelation this year!

We look forward to seeing what the Lord has

instored this year and ask that you keep all of the quizzers and coaches in your prayers as they study and memorize Gods word together. May God truly be glorified in their lives!

CONTACT US!  
**Teens For Christ**  
P.O. Box 920  
Hudson, WI 54016  
715-386-2549

Visit us online at  
[www.teens4christ.com](http://www.teens4christ.com)