

# Youth Newsletter

April 2010

## Youth Go Hungry, Participate in World Vision 30 Hour Famine

100 acres. Over 4.3 million square feet.

That's the amount of pizza American teenagers eat every day.

To anyone who has raised a teenager, it comes as no surprise that pizza, and food in general, is a major part of their lives. What is surprising, however, is just how many children all over the world go without food on a daily basis.

The statistics are staggering. Over 25,000 children die every day due to hunger and hunger-related causes, while more than 850 million people, mostly women and children, go hungry.

But, on Friday, February 26, thirteen junior and senior high youth, along with four leaders, committed themselves to make a difference, and gathered in Graham Hall for the start of World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.

Until 6:00pm the next day, the youth pledged to eat or drink nothing but clear liquids, to challenge themselves personally and spiritually, and to gain a better understanding of what children living in poverty face on a daily basis.

A brief opening video and devotion illustrated just how serious the problem of world hunger is, and how we as Christians are called to help others in need.

The youth also learned about World Vision, an international Christian relief organization, and what they are doing to help.

For just \$1 a day, World Vision can feed and care for a child in one of the nearly 100 countries in

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 3	Easter Egg Hunt, 2:00pm
April 4	<b>No Regular Meeting</b> Easter Sunday
April 11	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
April 18	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
April 25	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
May 2	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm

For more information about your club's schedule, including any special events planned for your individual club, please see your club's leaders.

which they are active. In 2004, World Vision was one of the first relief organizations to respond to the tsunami in Indonesia, because volunteers were already in the area working with families and children. World Vision was also in Haiti helping over 300,000 children before the earthquake, and quickly joined other organizations in the relief efforts that followed. And, in a unique arrangement with the National Football League, World Vision even turns losing Super Bowl teams into winners, by distributing the championship apparel pre-printed for the team that did not win to needy children all over the world. This year's "Indianapolis Colts Super Bowl Champion" t-shirts and caps were shipped to children in Haiti.

Throughout the Famine, the youth participated in the game of Tribe. Created by World Vision, Tribe engages famine participants in a number of "Survivor"-like challenges, simulating the real challenges children in poverty are faced with every day. Each tribal challenge is followed by a topical devotion and time of discussion.

This year, the focus was on learning about the plight of children in Ethiopia. The youth learned

*(continued on Page 2, Famine)*

*(Famine, continued from Page 1)*

about the challenges of finding clean water and growing enough food to survive. Each famine participant was given a new identity as a child living in Ethiopia, and assigned to one of three different tribes.

The first Tribal Challenge of the Famine, “Hunger Scramble”, pitted tribe against tribe to find food items scattered around the floor in Graham Hall while blindfolded. After the challenge, the youth discussed Jesus’ feeding of the crowd found in Matthew 14:14-21.



Ginger wins a round of “Hunger Scramble” for the Tigray tribe

Between the tribal challenges and other activities, the youth watched movies, played video games, read books, and played board games to help pass the time and forget about their growling stomachs.



Famine participants pass the time between activities

In the second Tribal Challenge, “Save the Harvest”, one member of each tribe pinned bags



## Pioneer Clubs News & Notes





The **Scooters** have been meeting with the Voyagers and working on their club activities together with the older children. This is a wonderful age group that is a delight to work with! If you would like to volunteer to be a leader for this club, please call David Salerno at 334-1507.



This past month, the **Voyagers** began their Special to God unit. The children studied 1 Kings, Job, and John, and learned that God gives everyone unique talents. The group also completed their Sewing activity award.



In March, the **Pathfinders** worked on their I Like Me unit. The children continued making their “I Like Me” books, and crafted soap carvings and clay sculptures for their Creative Fun activity award.

of rice and seeds to their clothing, while the rest of the tribe protected the food from the other tribes. Following this challenge, the youth read Leviticus 23:22, and discussed how the Old Testament practice of leaving some of the harvest for the widows and homeless might apply to us today.



Tribes protect their food from scavengers in “Save the Harvest”

Around 11:45pm, the youth held their Candlelight Devotion, and then spread their blankets and sleeping bags to rest for the night.

*(continued on Page 3, Famine)*

*(Famine, continued from Page 2)*

The youth awoke the next morning around 8:00am and, after showers and some free time, participated in their next Tribal Challenge, "Phonic Frenzy". Tribes were challenged to decipher messages that pertained to hunger and poverty. The devotion following this challenge discussed 2 Chronicles 1:7-12, and how God granted Solomon wisdom.



The Oromia tribe deciphers the messages in "Phonic Frenzy"

Later, the group participated in their last Tribal Challenge of the Famine, "Clinic Crisis", where tribes raced to match five diseases rampant in Ethiopia with their cause, symptom, and prevention. The youth learned God's promise in Psalm 41:1-3 to sustain us in times of sickness.



The Afar tribe sorts the diseases and their cures in "Clinic Crisis"

Around 3:00pm on Saturday, the group made meals and delivered them to our area shut-ins and other church members. The youth helped prepare the plates of roast beef, mashed potatoes, and peas, and spent time visiting and talking with the

shut-ins while delivering the meals.



Tori, Kate, and Madison help prepare the meals for our shut-ins

Finally, at 5:15pm, the group gathered for their closing Bible study. The youth read Paul's secret to contentment in Philippians 4:11-13, and learned God's model for our lives found in James 2:14-17, 1 John 3:17-18, and Matthew 25:35-45. Famine participants were challenged to use what they learned during the previous 30 hours, and to make a difference in the world around them.



Closing Bible study

After a group prayer at 6:00pm, the hungry youth were treated to a dinner of steak and lasagna, baked potato, and tossed salad, prepared by Johnny and Becke West.

Thanks to the support of the congregation, \$285 in pledges was raised to help World Vision's Christian relief efforts, enough to help feed and care for a child for nearly 10 months.

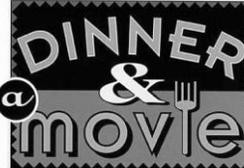
*(continued on Page 4, Famine)*

*(Famine, continued from Page 3)*



Lisa, Paula, and Becke serve the youth dinner after the Famine

Thanks to everyone who made pledges to the youth and contributed to World Vision. Special thanks to Lisa Tarkington, Paula Thornton, and Becke West, for all they did to make the Famine happen, while also fasting alongside the youth. And a great job to the youth who went without food so that others might eat.



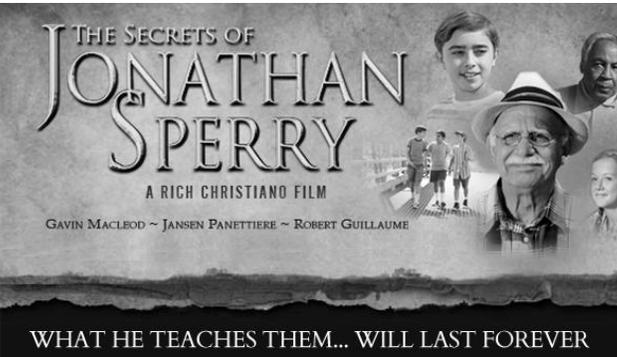
## Friday, April 30

### 6:00pm

## Graham Hall

*Fun for the whole family!*

featuring a special pre-release screening of



Watch it before you can buy it on DVD!

*"The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry is a heartwarming experience for the entire family."—Pat Boone, Actor/Singer*

**Dinner Menu: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Salad and Dressing, Tea, and Dessert**

**Tickets are \$6 each**

Please see any Omega youth or leader to get your ticket today!



## 2010

**Camp Piankatank • Hartfield, VA**

[www.camppiankatank.org](http://www.camppiankatank.org)

July 7-9	Amazing Adventure Mini-Camp (ages 7-9)
July 18-23	Extreme Escape Youth Week (ages 13-17)
July 25-30	Amazing Adventure Camp (ages 10-14)

**Register today to insure your space!**



## SUFFOLK ROCKIN'



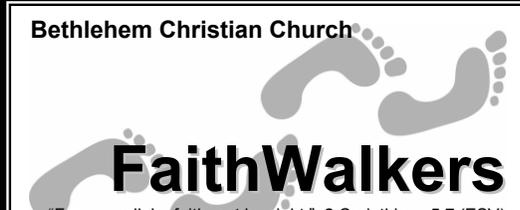
# Relay for Life

## May 14-15, 2010

**Nansemond-Suffolk Academy**  
3373 Pruden Boulevard, Suffolk, Virginia

*All youth and their families are encouraged to participate*  
Join our Relay for Life team today!

Bethlehem Christian Church



**FaithWalkers**

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV)

Sign up now at [www.suffolkrockinrelay.org](http://www.suffolkrockinrelay.org),  
or by completing the Registration Form.

Please call David Salerno at 334-1507 for more information.