

snapshot.

a glimpse of Life!



November 2007

What's it Really Worth?...



Bob Lenz

In the last couple months we've spoken to tens of thousands of youth from Pennsylvania to Newfoundland, from Michigan to Oregon, from Florida to Green Bay and all the way to Finland. And next week, I'll be heading to Alaska. It's been a busy season.

But this time what I want to share about is a little town in northern Wisconsin called Rhinelander, home of the "Hodags." The hodag is a fictional dinosaur-like creature found in the folklore of 19th-century lumberjacks, and it lives on as this town's school mascot. That's the kind of unique place the Rhinelander area is. It's "up north" for those who live in mid-Wisconsin—dotted with lakes, surrounded by forests, known for hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling. I once walked into a restroom at a gas station up there that happened to

have a baby changing station. Above it hung a sign with bold letters: "Not for cleaning fish." I laughed so hard.

The last time I was in Rhinelander more than 350 youth came out to our rally, so this time we had high expectations. We were already planning on being in the area for a few days, so it made sense to schedule a Saturday night youth event in hopes of a nice kick-off to the school programs that would begin on Monday morning.

Instead of 350, only 70 people came that Saturday night. Disappointment hit my heart, and I felt bad for the sponsors. But then I remembered a time in my life years ago when God used an even smaller crowd to get my attention ...

I had gotten a call from a pastor asking me to speak to 300 youth, and I was so excited. I had never spoken to that many people. The promise of an offering was my only financial guarantee, and I had to drive five hours just to get there. But I didn't care—I knew this was my calling in life. All the way there I kept thinking, "I'm going to speak to 300 kids!" I got there and sure enough, there were 300 chairs ... but only 18 people. Ouch.

I wasn't just disappointed—I was mad! But God wouldn't let me stay in that anger.

A few minutes before my time to speak, the pastor asked me to pray with him and a few adult leaders in his office. He closed his eyes and began, "Lord, if it's all for one, it's worth it all." I was so angry that I couldn't even close my eyes. I peered around the room looking for anything on the walls to distract me so I wouldn't hit this pastor. He hadn't driven five hours. He was getting paid. And me? I was going to get an offering from 18 high school kids. My attitude stunk.

As I looked around the room my eyes came upon a poster of Jesus and his disciples tacked to the wall with a caption that read, "His youth group changed the world." Ouch.

My heart melted and I was hit with the conviction of God's love. I might have driven five hours, but Jesus came all the way from heaven. I had eighteen. He had only twelve. I was just Bob, and He was God. For three years, Jesus invested in those twelve. All I was asked to do was give a talk for an hour. I promised on that day, 24 years ago, that I would always give my all to reach youth—no matter what—because they matter.

So, in Rhineland, I was reminded of that night so many years before, but this time with a much better attitude. Our team was determined to give those 70 youth our best. The band, NoonDaySun, rocked out as though they had thousands in the audience. Then I came up and shared the good news of Jesus. God moved and brought salvation to seven youth that night. Seven! Yes, 10% of the audience received Christ. And dozens more made a commitment to live out their faith and share it with their friends. There was so much excitement among the youth to bring their friends to an upcoming "See You at the Pole" rally and introduce them to Jesus. They left the church that night inspired and challenged to change their world. I was humbled once again, and I thought ...

"Okay God, I remember. It's worth it. Really, it is worth it all just for one of those precious kids."

We are committed to sharing Jesus with as many young people as possible, whether it is a handful at a time or crowds of thousands. And it wouldn't be as effective without you. Thank you for standing with us, for your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for Life! Promotions as we seek to share Jesus with youth who need Him.

For Youth,
Bob Lenz



Life! Promotions
211 E. Franklin St. Appleton, WI 54911
800-955-LIFE www.lifepromotions.com