



CENTRAL OREGON YFC

GIVE LIFE TO YOUR STORY

PO Box 86, Madras, OR 97741 | Phone: (541) 475-6070 | office@centraloregonyfc.org



It is with a confusing mix of excitement and sadness that I am announcing that my family and I are moving out of Central Oregon. I will be handing off the privilege of running Central Oregon Youth for Christ to whomever God has called next for this position. I have now sat down 4 times to write this update and each time I have struggled. The words just wouldn't come to me. Each time I would stare at a blank screen, hoping that the words would just magically appear. But they never do. I sit. I stare. Nothing happens. Then I would distract myself with something else that needed to get done. I am fighting conflicting emotions. I don't want to leave, but I know that God has called us to move on, and truthfully there is a part of me that is excited for what God has next.

This morning instead of staring at a blank screen, I went for a walk. I wanted to clear my head a little and try to find some words so I can write this newsletter. I ended up walking a 5-mile loop around Madras. The weather was great. It is our first truly warm day here in Central Oregon. The temperature topped out at 83 degrees. All of the flowers are in full bloom. I spent the entirety of the walk dodging bumblebees, grasshoppers, ladybugs, and any other insect that thought they could jump on me for a free ride. Part of my walk carried me to the top of the "M" Hill. It is a popular walking destination within Madras, as it is a good workout to get to the top of the hill and it has a great view of the whole town. Today, however, as I huffed and puffed my way to the top, I realized that I had the hill to myself. There is a bench that sits atop the hill at the crest. Normally I would keep on chugging along, so as to not lose any steam in my power walk (also known as my excuse not to write this letter), but instead I sat down and enjoyed the view. It was a great time of reflection. From the bench, I could see all of the churches in town, the schools, the parks, the houses of my students and friends, the businesses, everything. I reminisced on my 4 years here and it brought me nothing but happiness. I came to a conclusion while sitting on that rock hard bench. I love this place!

There are two places on this planet that I can truly say are my favorite places in America. One is a beautiful little camp nestled near the Rocky Mountains and the other is here in Central Oregon. I have lived in a lot of places. No exaggeration! Every state west of the Mississippi River, I

have lived in or spent some significant time in. I have been all over this wonderful country. There is only a small handful of states that I have never been to, all of which are in the Northeast (someday). So when I say that Central Oregon is one of the best places, I feel like I am very qualified to make that judgment. I am truly going to miss this place.

I sat on that bench, overlooking one of the best places in America, and I felt peace. I am leaving. God has placed a specific call on my life, I feel like it is my job to come in and help build, or in some cases rebuild something, make it sustainable, and then pass it off to someone who can take that foundation and build something amazing. I am not a visionary. I am not a person who can concoct grand schemes or come up with innovative new ways to do things. God didn't make me that way. COYFC has just come off probably its most successful year ever (I can only find data going back 10 years). We reached 350+ kids last year. We have multiple sites in multiple towns. I feel as if, through God's grace, I have accomplished everything God has called me to. I feel as if I have done everything I am capable of doing in order to further God's name. I know in my heart that it is time for me to move on. I also know in my heart that God is going to bring someone here who can and will take the ministry even farther than I could have dreamed of. At the same time, there is a new opportunity for me in Tacoma, Washington. There is a place that needs rebuilt, almost entirely. I feel the tug, that feeling you get when you know God is guiding you on a new adventure. It is scary and exciting all at the same time.

I'm now sitting in a diner. I am drinking coffee and I am wishing that I wore sunscreen (seriously, why didn't I wear sunscreen?). I am staring at a screen that is no longer blank.

God's plan is perfect. I trust Him. He knows what comes next. I like the adventure of not knowing.

In Christ,

Zakary Caldwell
Executive Director of Central Oregon YFC (for a little while longer)



Redmond

Every Tuesday night from 5:30-7:30, join us at Mountain View Fellowship. Our goal is to mentor and encourage students in the abundant life that Christ offers. There is a meal served at 5:30 and there are group games. The church is located at 1475 SW 35th Street in Redmond.



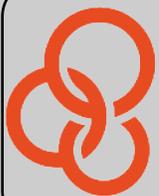
Drop-In

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30-6:00, join us at the Madras YFC Drop-In Center located at 18 SE D Street in Madras. Come try out our mini Rock Wall, shoot some pool, play air-hockey, play video games, and do homework. It is a great time to just hang out and relax after school.



CLUB:Life

Every Monday night from 3:45-7:45, join us at the Free Methodist Church. There is a meal served at 5:30, there are group games, and a discussion about God, His Word, and how we fit into God's story today. The church is located at 976 S. Adams Drive in Madras.



CAMPUS LIFE®

Every Wednesday 3:30-4:30, join us in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Culver High School. There are snacks available, we play some wild and crazy games, and we discuss God, His Word, and how we fit into God's story today. The school is located at 710 5th Street in Culver.

Our annual banquet is happening on Thursday, May 25th. We are holding it at the Central Oregon Community College Campus in Madras. Doors open at 6:15 pm and the program starts at 6:30 pm. You are cordially invited to enjoy a wonderful night of community fellowship, some dessert, tea, and coffee. As well as, get an update on all of the exciting happenings for COYFC. Please come and partake in a celebration of all the wonderful achievements that God is doing in Central Oregon. This will also be important because we will be looking to the future and hope to introduce the new Executive Director. We could not function without your prayerful support. Thank you so much for partnering with us in this adventure.

Financial Support:



Central Oregon Youth for Christ is 100% dependent on donor support. Everything we do is because of people's partnership with this ministry. If you are currently supporting us I want to take this opportunity and say thank you. Because of your generosity, *you* are able to impact lives of young people. Our vision is to be a vibrant light in our youth culture today. Please pray with us as we pursue making this dream a reality.