

MAY 2017

INSIDELIFE!

Stories From Life Promotions



Start a Revolution



What is an Evangelist?



Meet John Cooper from Skillet

Amazing
Alaska
Journey



Life Support

Letters from Friends of Life



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Supporting Faith for the
Next Generation

"I just wanted to reach out and say, "Thank you!" Quake inspired me to choose youth ministry as a career and it continues to be a growth experience for our youth. Keep up the good work."

-Youth Director, Pennsylvania

"Deb Tackmann's teacher training was an amazing connection for us. She was real, vulnerable, authentic and gave us ideas we can use immediately in our classroom."

-Teacher, Wisconsin

"It brought tears to my eyes watching our homeless women respond to the message of love, hope and value that Bob and AJ presented. It was wonderful to hear the sincere laughter of these women whose lives include a daily struggle to survive."

-Soup Kitchen Program Director, Alaska

"It was nice to be at a Quake, it has value and it is important to group leaders. I'm going home this weekend recharged and engaged with my students, not just tired and frustrated. THANK YOU!"

-Youth Director, Texas

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“May we be the ones **leading the way to a Dignity Revolution** by seeking out opportunities to **love, understand, invite, care, defend, and stand for justice.**”

- Bob Lenz

Lifest

A PARTY WITH A PURPOSE



Lifest is a beautiful place where grownups can be kids again and kids can relish in the innocence of their youth; where teenagers can learn, grow, celebrate and experience the thrill of life without having to hide it from their parents.

Throughout our 19 years, our purpose has remained the same...to present the hope of the Gospel through music, worship, speakers and diversity of the arts. Add camping and family-friendly activities and you have a beautiful community of thousands of people who live, play and worship together.

Lifest is about life. Beautiful life. For some, the beauty may be seen in a crowd of 23,000 people singing at a concert. For others, it may be found in the single smile of a passing stranger. Beauty is found in the sorrow of seeing our own mistakes and sufferings exposed, and in the joy of experiencing a grace that is bigger than ourselves.

Come and experience the beauty of life with your family and friends at Lifest. From dancing in the sunshine to eating corndogs for breakfast, there is something here for everyone. Though it may come in different forms, sounds, styles or appearances, it's all beautiful to Him.

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

John 10:10b NASB



Lifest Announces New Partnership with CM CARES

Life Promotions is pleased to announce our partnership with CM CARES, the Church Mutual Insurance Company foundation. The new partnership will help us maintain an exceptional event experience and expand our reach to the next generation. CM CARES was established in 2016 by Church Mutual Insurance Company, the nation's premier insurer of religious organizations. CM CARES supports charitable, educational and religious causes that improve the human condition.

For more information, visit
www.churchmutual.com/cmcares.

CM CARES

CHURCH MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY FOUNDATION



THURSDAY, JULY 6



Newsboys • Matt Maher • Red Jumpsuit Apparatus • Speaker Bob Lenz
KB • Hawk Nelson • Veridia • Zach Williams • Ryan Stevenson • Adalaide
Set for Fall • Spoken • Manic Drive • V. Rose • Brock Gill

FRIDAY, JULY 7



Skillet • Michael W Smith • Capital Kings • Speaker Reggie Dabbs
The Letter Black • Building 429 • Plumb • Phinehas • Love & the Outcome
Aaron Shust • Remedy Drive • Steven Malcolm • Derek Minor • Adelaide • Zach Williams
Ronnie Winter • To Speak of Wolves • Stars Go Dim • Holly Starr

SATURDAY, JULY 8



Matthew West • Tenth Avenue North • Disciple • Sidewalk Prophets
7eventh Time Down • Flatfoot 56 • Citizen Way • JJ Heller • Death Therapy
Capital Kings • Rapture Ruckus • Flame • I Am They • Geoff Moore • Humbled Kings
Peder Eide • 6'10 • Holly Starr • Tom Coverly



SUNDAY, JULY 9*
Sidewalk Prophets
Speaker Wess Stafford
*Sunday is free admission

Schedule subject to change. Visit Lifest.com for the most current schedule.

Also... Camping • Comedians • Speakers • Art Space



KidZone

A PARTY WITH A PORPOISE

KidZone is a festival within a festival designed specifically for children.

Vacation Bible School classes teach kids God's "porpoise" for their lives. Kids enjoy age-appropriate music and entertainers along with:

- Arts and Crafts
- Inflatables
- Petting Zoo
- Visits from Bob & Larry and Piper the Porpoise
- Suberbook Movies

Open 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Sponsored by:



Aaron Kampman 5K Benefit Run

Saturday, July 8th at 7:30 am

Registration is \$25 and includes a t-shirt and gift bag. Visit Lifest.com by July 1 to register.

Proceeds benefit Dignity Revolution and Timberline Lodge.

Sponsored by:



Purchase your tickets at Lifest.com
Save \$10
 on Adult Full Event Tickets
 with code: **INSIDELIFE**
 (See back of magazine for more info.)



THRIVENT FINANCIAL

Understanding the Gift of the Evangelist

By Pastor Ed House

Door of Life Christian Church, Sister Bay, WI

Evangelism. Does any other word associated with our faith provoke such profound celebration...or invite such potent condemnation? Celebration, because we know that God loves us and we get to tell others about that love. Condemnation, because we experience the guilt of missed opportunities, the sting of hypocrisy, and the fear of rejection. We're often out of our comfort zone.

We pray for the salvation of our loved ones (when we remember). We know we're called to share our faith (gulp). However, in the process of pursuing evangelism, we sometimes overlook a wonderful treasure the Heavenly Father has given to help us—the gift of the evangelist.

Notice that He didn't give us a personality of evangelism. Sometimes we think of evangelists as people who are gregarious. Outgoing. Passionate about sharing their faith. These may be common characteristics, but it's important to understand that God's gift of the evangelist is not a personality type. It is a supernatural ability which rests on a person to preach the Gospel.

As a teenager, I received Christ at a Nicky Cruz evangelistic outreach. There was an undeniable presence of the Lord that filled the place where Nicky was preaching. After responding to the altar call, I experienced a peace and a love that I didn't even know existed.

Fast forward thirty-some years. Our ministerial association, along with the local school system, invited Bob Lenz to speak to the junior high and high school students about various teen-related issues. Bob's empathy and humor enabled him to easily and powerfully connect with students...and to invite them to attend a special event that evening.

The evening turnout was amazing! The auditorium was full...300 people returned to hear him speak because the students wanted to hear this guy again! This time when Bob spoke, he told his own story. He spoke of family dysfunction. Growing pains. Personal failure. And...the power of God was evident. For me, it was just like the Nicky Cruz event thirty years before. The Holy Spirit of God enabled Bob to speak from his heart so that Jesus was REAL to everyone in the room.

When Bob gave the invitation to receive Christ, a hundred hands shot up in quick response. Students and adults responded with their whole hearts. This is the gift of the evangelist.

My point is this...our personal responsibility to share our faith was never meant to replace our need for the gift of the evangelist. God has placed in His Word a call for us to share our faith and to receive from the ministry the gift of the evangelist. We need both! As a pastor, I do the work of an evangelist every week (2 Timothy 4:5). But there is nothing quite like seeing an evangelist do the work of an evangelist.

Let's recognize and esteem the gift of the evangelist. This person is a present given to us by God. Let's unwrap the gift with our prayers and our giving and create opportunities for this gift to help us evangelize our communities. After all, there's just something about seeing people respond to an evangelistic message that seems to ignite the evangelist in all of us!



In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul reminds us when Jesus ascended on high, He gave gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.

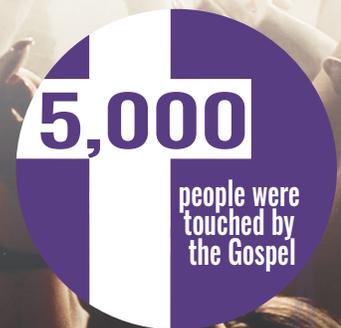


Year One Is Done!

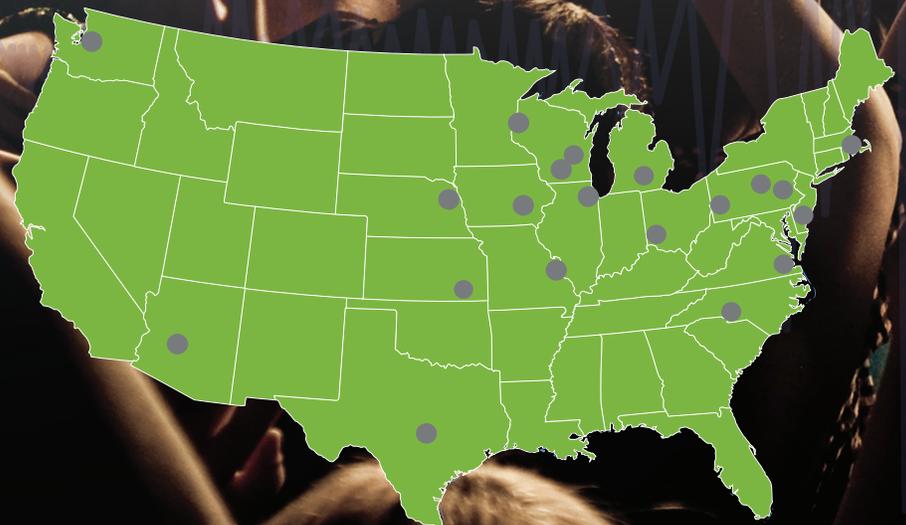
One year ago, Life Promotions expanded its ministry reach by adding weekend youth conferences called Quake.

Quake events are Christian weekend retreats that allow students to express and celebrate their faith in a positive and safe environment. Each weekend features nationally renowned Christian musicians and speakers, while giving participants the opportunity to develop healthy relationships with other youth. Students can grow deeper faith through focused workshops like junior guide leadership training, learn about global hunger and package life-saving meals. We hosted 20 events between January and April this year for students in grades 6-12.

By partnering with youth leaders in local churches, we help teens become established in their faith, empowered for Christian living and enabled to live a life of ministry and leadership. Quake was an already established program from Youth Encounter, a Christian non-profit organization that closed last spring after 51 years of ministry. It has been an exciting and very busy first year for Quake at Life Promotions.



20 Quake Events in 2017



Volunteers Make Quake Happen

"God opened my eyes and I finally saw what He saw in me." – Cam Warba

When I think of Quake, my heart skips a beat. It all started in middle school when I attended my first event. Quake was a fun weekend away with friends and some cool speakers and musicians. Little did I know, Quake would change my life.

Fast forward a couple years to when I was in high school and was "volun-told" (volunteered by someone else on my behalf) to lead a breakout session at Quake. I had to fill 50 minutes of time on the topic, "How to Survive High School: A Slap of Reality." This was the longest 50 minutes of my life! I poured out my life story to people my own age. That moment, God opened my eyes and I finally saw what He saw in me. That was twelve years ago; I have not missed a single year as a Quake workshop speaker.

Over the years, I have watched high schoolers turn into youth directors. Middle schoolers turn into college graduates. There are adult leaders from Quake who are now more like family than friends. Through Quake, God has changed me from a broken teen into a loving father, mentor, and motivational speaker. Quake brings together perfectly imperfect people and God works in and through the speakers and musicians to meet each participant right where they are. After seeing the impact these weekends have on youth, all I can say is GOD IS GOOD!

–Cam Warba, Volunteer in Pittsburgh, PA



Components of the Dignity Revolution

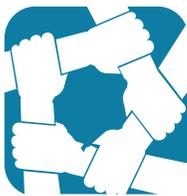
The Dignity Revolution is a comprehensive, educational program that provides cultural change in schools and entire communities to improve overall academic learning.



School assembly programs with Bob Lenz, international speaker and author.



Professional Development Training with Deborah L. Tackmann, National Teachers Hall of Fame inductee.



Dignity Revolution Challenge, a bullying prevention program which includes Teacher's Guides, supplies for student activities, staff coaching, follow-up and assessments to create a movement of love and respect in schools and communities.

Dignity Revolution Reaches Goal

At year-end, we set a goal to raise \$350,000 for the Dignity Revolution. We are excited to announce we reached that GOAL! Thank you for your support and for partnering with us to address issues like bullying, self-harm, suicide and substance abuse. Through the Dignity Revolution program, we impact the lives of not only students, but their families and communities. Thank you for helping us make a difference!

Please consider bringing the Dignity Revolution into your community to change the culture in your schools and make the world a better place filled with value, courage, and respect.

Subsidized
DRA for 47
Schools



Published
DR Teacher's Guide
DR Leader's Guide



\$350k
Goal Met



The Dignity Pledge has been signed by over 50,000 people who have agreed to stand up for the value of every person. Many students use this opportunity to share personal stories about their pain and the hope they found because of the truth they heard through the Dignity Revolution.



"I have anxiety and depression. I have also been raped. I know how it feels to be alone. I also know the feeling of betrayal. I felt obligated to say nothing, but it just made my depression

worsen and made me hate myself. I knew I had to speak up. I learned that to overcome my situation, I had to value and respect myself because in the end, it doesn't matter what other people think of you, it matters what you think of yourself."

—High School Student

"I have been cutting and struggling with anorexia. My mom has consistently told me that I am worthless and useless. Then Bob came to my school. I cried and cried during his talk. I stopped cutting because Bob made me realize that of course I have value, and if others don't see it, then who cares? I have value no matter what others say. You, Bob Lenz, saved my life."

— Middle School Student

Dignity Revolution Pledge

1. I pledge to be kind.
2. I pledge to be loving.
3. I pledge to be peaceful.
4. I pledge to be patient.
5. I pledge to be a person of goodness.
6. I pledge to bring joy everywhere.
7. I pledge to be a person of faithfulness.
8. I pledge to be gentle with my words & actions.
9. I pledge to have self-control.
10. I pledge to be a friend to all.

Sign the Pledge at DignityPledge.com/The-Pledge



Dignity Revolution at Quake



Reaching communities with the Dignity Revolution Challenge (DRC) has been an exciting opportunity this year. At 11 Quake events, DRC-trained coaches presented the workshop Bullying, Balloons and Band-Aids to students and youth leaders, which incorporated three DRC activities and shared the core message of the Dignity Revolution that every person has value...including the bully.

Since Quake events are designed to help youth grow deeper in their faith, we were able to use this opportunity to share a biblical view on the tough issue of bullying facing youth in America today. Groups explored how to love as Jesus called us to and incorporated biblical teachings, inspiring students to be compassionate, patient and kind. In addition, youth leaders were trained with resources and tools to come alongside teens facing these issues.

Group activities are valuable, but the highlight of the event for DRC coaches was receiving feedback from students and leaders after the workshop.



It is exciting to hear the results from people who have brought the Dignity Revolution back to their communities.

Judy, a youth leader from Ann Arbor, MI works at an after-school program made up of neighborhood kids who need a place to hang out with positive influences. The DRC activities remind the students that they are loved and empower them to stand up for themselves and others.

A student at the Chicago Quake was excited to tell her dad about the Challenge. He is the principal at her middle school and she was convinced that the program can make a difference in her school.

The stories of lives changed during the event were amazing and impactful. Yet this is just the start of the ripple effect that will happen as the Dignity Revolution is being brought back into schools and communities. Thank you for being a part of this message!

-Joyel VandenBoogart
Director of Dignity Revolution



"I didn't feel like I had value, but you showed me today I have a voice and can stand up for myself."

- Middle School Student

"Bullying is a real issue in my school, but we can be part of the change."

- Adult Youth Leader

"I have tried to commit suicide because of the bullying in my school. Thank you for sharing this message. Thanks for saying I have value."

- High School Student

**DIGNITY
REVOLUTION**
STANDING UP FOR THE VALUE OF EVERY PERSON

QUAKE
YOUTH ENCOUNTERING THE GOSPEL

Meet John Cooper from Skillet



How long have you been performing?

I've been playing music since I was about four. My mom was a piano teacher and voice teacher. I sang in church as early as five. I was pretty serious about piano for about eight years. I also started playing the trombone in band and orchestra when I was in sixth grade. I fell in love with rock music and started my first band when I was 14 and began performing around the age of 17. Skillet began when I was about 20.

Why become a musical artist?

I always loved music ever since I was a kid. It spoke to me and God spoke to me through songs. When I began listening to Christian music in junior high school, it made sense to me to sing songs about spiritual things because music was already very spiritual and supernatural to me. My parents were 100% against rock music...even Christian rock music. They believed that the style of music was inherently evil and belonged to the devil, whether the bands identified as Christian or not.

What is your favorite part of the show?

My favorite moments in the show are when I see fans singing my songs. To know that my thoughts, my feelings, my passions, my hurts, my desires, and my emotions, are being shared by multitudes of people who love the songs enough to sing them and lose their voices screaming the lyrics (sometimes even tattooing the lyrics)...this is incredibly powerful. Sometimes I'll witness a fan crying during a song and it is the most awesome moment of the night.

What is your favorite bible verse? Romans 8:38 NIV

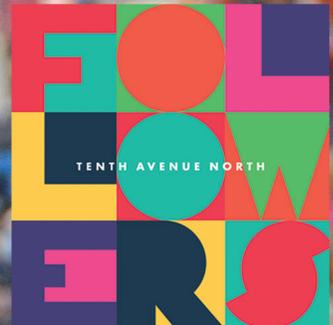
"I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

How do you share your faith at home?

The best way that I've experienced sharing my faith has been through raising my kids to serve Christ. Children will learn based on what they see. Parents sometimes don't realize that it's our every day actions that will speak the loudest to the kids. I love watching my kids experience God and worship God on their own. I travel with many unsaved people. I love getting to live life with nonbelievers. It's a wonderful way to share my faith by every day community and communication through actions as well as words. Treating employees and peers and fans, promoters, radio peeps with dignity, fairness, and integrity goes a really long way.

What is your favorite Lifest memory?

Lifest always makes me think of the Edge Stage. We used to have absolutely amazing shows over there. It was truly one of the shows that I looked forward to every year. It was a rock crowd – always packed. I remember those performances like it was yesterday. I also have greatly appreciated the focus on evangelism at the festival. Lastly, on a personal note, I will always remember that the folks who own and run Lifest have treated Skillet well. After 20 years of shows together, that's a huge statement. It means a lot to me.



Alaska - What an Amazing Journey!

By Bob Lenz

14 Days • 11 Villages • 20 Schools • 21 Talks

Alaska has the highest suicide rate in the United States. Drugs and alcohol have long been a problem, but now synthetic heroine is entering the villages of Alaska. Drug abuse and broken families plague the next generation. The message of dignity, hope and value is desperately needed. Alaskans are moved by the performing arts, which made AJ, the Animated Illusionist, a smashing hit. His performances articulated the Gospel message of hope and reached their culture with grace and inspiration. Their hearts were moved through storytelling and humor. It was God's wonderful orchestration designed specifically for the people we met.

We traveled in sleds behind snow machines when there were no roads – what a journey! We partnered with organizations like Youth for Christ, Boys and Girls Club, and Alaskan Christian College. I'm so proud of this school...the college gives high school students from bush villages in Alaska a full scholarship for a two-year college education in order to help them thrive in their culture and plan for their future. We connected with local churches and called them to live out biblical dignity in this land that is filled with hate, fear and addiction. We partnered with a new church in a small community called Kokhanok. More people attended the community outreach in their church than they have ever had in their building. We worked with Camp Tanalian where a friend of the family, Willie Nickols, is a missionary serving as assistant to the camp's program director. The camp ministers to 33 villages in the area. Willie accompanied us to six schools and he knew students in every one.

After connecting with youth and communities in Alaska for over 15 years, we are reaping great fruit as well as creating a support network for students and missionaries. We don't want these kids to fall through the cracks.

One of my personal highlights of the trip was meeting our pilot, Joel. He heard me speak over 10 years ago, when we brought Casting Crowns to his village of Unalakleet. God's long-term impact is unbelievable!





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