



## *The Kairos Yes Retreat, 2012* Great(er) Expectations

Why would you get up at 3am and travel 28 hours to attend a retreat that was only 44 hours long? Ask the high school youth and staff who came from New Jersey, Minnesota, California, Florida, or Ottawa. They were some of the four hundred who

attended the 18<sup>th</sup> annual (and largest ever) Youth Equipped to Stand (YES) Retreat held at Camp Michindoh near Hillsdale, Michigan, on March 23<sup>rd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012. They came with great expectations and were not disappointed.



### There Is No Middle Road

Peter Demarais (YES 2002-2005) opened the retreat on Friday night speaking on "being a pretty good kid, at a pretty good retreat listening to a pretty good talk about a pretty good God. Yawn!" Mediocre expectations, lukewarm faith and half-hearted commitment all amount to a Christianity that's not worth living. The youth were challenged to have greater expectations for what God wanted to do in and through their lives.

### Good Enough Isn't Good Enough

The Saturday morning session took the "greater expectations" theme a step further by proclaiming the truth that we are made for

something greater than we can possibly imagine. God himself. What we believe **now** shapes not only the way we live on earth but it also shapes our eternal destiny.

### Missing the Mark

On Saturday evening James Munk (YES 1999-2003) called everyone to deal with the main obstacles to greatness: sin, the world, the flesh and the devil. He showed the way to smash their strongholds. The ministry time in small groups that followed brought many to deal honestly with the Lord and in that process to be set free. The worship time and testimonies later that evening manifested that freedom.

### Never Surrender

On Sunday Andrew Davignon spoke on the power of having a team that never surrenders. He used the 2010 University of California women's rowing team as an example and exhorted everyone to get surrounded with a team committed to the same goals – one that would call the most out of them.



## YOU CAN QUOTE ME!



"The worship was an experience of the glory of heaven."

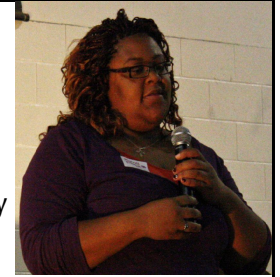


"It was like God was raining *Miracle Grow* on us!"

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"I came to my first YES retreat back in high school because I liked one of the boys in the youth group, but the first night I was so overwhelmed by all the God talk and the worship times that I went and hid most of the night in the bathroom! I was scared. Saturday morning I opened up a bit and by Saturday night God had won me. Suddenly, talking to him made sense. Singing the songs made sense. I was converted by God at my first YES retreat." ~ Kirra Pope



(Kirra gave her testimony on Friday night. She has helped staff the YES retreats and is now participating in the Work of Christ Community in Lansing, Michigan.)



"When my small group was praying over me on Saturday night it was the first time I ever heard the Lord speak to me. He spoke about forgiveness –something I really needed to hear. How cool is that!"

"It wasn't that long ago that many of those attending needed prodding to even sing. Some would stand there, arms crossed, appearing disinterested, ...but God still worked!

"He has been building something powerful among the youth and we are beginning to see it. They are stronger in their faith at even younger ages, and come eager to pray and worship. The Lord is equipping our youth to set a new course in today's culture. It is such a blessing to be here and see the Lord at work!" ~ Mary Berchem



(Mary Berchem has transported Minnesota youth to most of the YES retreats.)