



2010 STORIES FROM ONE FAVOR STREET

ANTHONY'S STORY

Anthony is a young man who has had to deal with major life challenges even at very early age. Anthony, like many young black men in the City of Rochester, has struggled to get an education, find employment, and has had to learn how to be a man on his own because of the absence of his father. Both Anthony's father and older brother are in prison. He was determined not to end up like them, but when he was down on his luck he decided to enter the dangerous life of a drug dealer.

Anthony's girlfriend was told about our program from a friend. Most young ladies come to our parenting classes alone, but this teen brought Anthony with her. Anthony and his girlfriend already have two children.

This year an incredible transformation took place in Anthony's life after attending a YFC Excel Christian Youth Conference. Anthony was not a Christian. He was just excited about the opportunity of getting out of Rochester for a few days. Who knew those few days would change every day for the rest of his life. Anthony highlighted every workshop he wanted to attend. He asked leaders for suggestions on how to get the most out of the conference, and most importantly he stepped outside of the need to be "hard" and just allowed the Lord to work in his life.

On the last day of the conference Anthony gave his life to Christ in a bold way!

After giving his life to Christ he wrote this in his YFC journal: ***"I am at a point where I just want***



Anthony and Carrie

to exceed to a higher level of faith and understanding. I've been through so much in my life, at a young age, spiritually and emotionally, that I feel that I am even lucky to see 2010. To make it this far and to be free and healthy is a blessing in itself. I truly can say from the heart, no exaggeration, no faking, no smoke screens as most adults would say, I am truly at the throne of God kneeling before Him and looking for my answers and true calling in life. My heart felt good these past couple of days. There are no more burdens on my heart and not a knot of stress in my chest. Thank you all.

YFC Excel impacted me in a way I just would not have believed. It showed me that people of all types can come together to have fun. Of course there are a few bad seeds in the garden, but that should not stop all the other

trees, flowers, etc. from sprouting in a beautiful way, reaching out toward the sun, especially myself as I hold on and don't let go from this moment on. I am speaking loud in my actions toward God. Again, thanks LaShunda for bringing me along on this journey to become a better man. (Real talk) It showed me that you can believe in Jesus Christ, have faith, and still have fun and enjoy yourself. Now I have to be a positive leader for myself and my family.

Since that time, Anthony continues to struggle to maintain his faith, to stay away from the street life, and to be a positive role model to his family; but he has not stopped coming to YFC! He, like many new Christians, struggled

initially, but he is doing all he can to grow in his faith. He recently completed a six week spiritual leadership series that we offered and he is excited about the opportunity to share his faith with other young people. There are so many more young people like Anthony whom your financial investment has directly impacted. Without your continued support, YFC would not be able to touch every young person, one at a time.