



2010 STORIES FROM ONE FAVOR STREET

CURTIS'S STORY

When I met Curtis in September, he was a young teenager desperately looking for peace, guidance and understanding. He could not understand why life was so unfair. He was failing out of school, contemplating joining a gang and looking for an easy way to end it all.

Curtis came into my office one day just before his basketball practice was supposed to start. He looked like he had the weight of the world on his shoulders. So I asked him what was going on - he opened right up to me. Curtis told me he could not understand why life was so hard, and why he was dealt the hand he was. He was extremely unhappy at home and felt as though his mom did not understand him nor did she care to. He was desperate to have a positive caring male role model in his life to guide him through life's challenges.

Curtis lives in a single parent home with his mom, who despite her best efforts, could not get through to his heart. Curtis admitted to me that he was thinking of suicide. Curtis said, *maybe it would better if I just killed myself so I would not have to feel the pain that I do every day.*

When he uttered those words, I asked him if he had a relationship with Christ. He told me no and that he had never given it much thought. I asked him to go home and come up with some questions he might have that would keep him from making the decision to give his life to

Christ. Curtis prayed to receive Christ the next evening as I was taking him home from practice.



Sports Ministry Director Marques Bryant and Curtis

It has been three months since that night. We gave Curtis a Bible and immediately he got involved in our SWAG Leadership Bible study.

Curtis has made huge strides in his life. He goes to special school for troubled youth but has managed to stay out of in school suspension for almost a month now. He is showing signs of life and you can see it in his eyes. His relationship with his mother is beginning to improve and his grades are up for the first time this school year. Curtis attends church and bible study with my family and what started out to be a way for me to keep my eye him has grown to him coming to hang out at YFC with me every day after school.

Curtis is an amazing kid. His self confidence is soaring and I know we owe all of these things to Jesus. Curtis Smith is a 15 year old kid born-again by the grace and mercy of our Lord and Savior (and now his).....Jesus Christ.