

Dear CWC High School Parents,

I wanted to take a minute and introduce myself, my name is Conor Craft. I am honored to be the youth pastor here at Calvary Worship Center.

I am 25 years old, and I married my best friend on July 8th of 2016. My beautiful wife, Diana, and I are both incredibly passionate about high school students and what God is wanting to do with them in their generation. We believe that God has big plans for the youth here in Colorado Springs... and especially those here at CWC.

My mission, as well as my wife's, is to love and serve the youth of this generation and lead them into a deep and authentic relationship with Jesus Christ! I believe that each of you play a very important role in the fulfillment of this mission. The impact that you have on your children will always be far greater than the impact that I, or any other outside leader, can have, because you have them throughout the entire week. I desperately need your help to accomplish all that I believe God desires. Perhaps you're thinking, "So, Pastor Conor...what exactly do you think that God is wanting this youth group to be?" I am so glad you asked! The answer to that question is really three fold:

- **First**, this will be a place of genuine **community**. Our youth group will be a solid band of brothers and sisters who follow Jesus radically.
- **Second**, we want this to be a place where, rather than defining ourselves by the things of this world, we will find our **identity** in Jesus Christ and His Word only.
- **Thirdly**, we want everything that we do and say to be centered around the **Gospel**. There is truly no hope aside from Jesus Christ. We live in a seemingly dark and hopeless time, but where there is Jesus there is no hopelessness. Hopelessness can only exist where there is a lack of Jesus. Even in our own city we're seeing a scary amount of teens committing suicide. Please understand, we are 100% committed to having a youth group that is centered around Jesus!

I've found that young people all over the world are seeking three things:

1. They want a *cause* bigger than themselves to live for
2. They want it to *cost* them something – to be worthy of their sacrifice
3. They want a *band of brothers and sisters* to run with.

I believe that we were not made to be plugged into some religious machine and stand idly by, while we wait for Jesus' return. When we surrendered our lives to Jesus Christ, we joined His mission. If we call ourselves "Christian", we are now a part of the most powerful movement on the planet. We've been brought into a new way of life that'll guide our pursuits, our sacrifices, and our community of burning hearts, as we run with one another.

Some have said that 80% (*others say this statistic is low*) of teens who grew up in the church walk away from their faith by the time they get through college. Could it be because their faith was never truly their own? I believe that now is the time for students to make their faith their own. Parents, no longer can your students survive off of your faith. **It is time that they experience Jesus for themselves!** I

believe with all of my heart that the high school years are the most incredible and challenging years of a person's life... I know they were for me. I believe that this can be a time of life when students are establishing the trajectory for the rest of their journey. It can be a time when they get to go on adventures, let their hair down, and find out who they really are. It can be a time when they set their course and determine what is really most important.

What is it that your students are really living for right now? Is it Video Games? Sports? Social Media? That guy or girl who has a crush on them? I believe your students were created for so much more! I believe that they were designed uniquely, with a purpose, and that their life, as a high school student, is not simply a “waiting period” for real life. I believe that God has a purpose for your students that goes far beyond what we can even comprehend! I believe that He has called this generation to do impossible things... ultimately for His glory!

The Word teaches us; *“Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.”*

- **1 Tim 4:12**

I say, stop playing games, let’s dive in, cut the ropes, leave all the other options behind and go 100% for Jesus and the life He’s called us to. I am committed to doing my part in making it the greatest adventure of your children’s lives! I challenge you not only to live this radical lifestyle yourself, but to get your students here on Saturday nights at 6pm or Sunday mornings at 10am. Help them get involved with the youth group of Calvary Worship Center. Help them surround themselves with a band of brothers and sisters, with burning hearts, who are chasing after Jesus with everything that they are! Help them discover who they were created to be, and help launch them into a whole new way of life completely centered around the Gospel. Parents, I truly cannot do this without your help. Take the leap! Come... and help your students join what God is doing here in the CWC Youth! He really is doing epic things here!

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me here at the church. The phone number is: 719-632-3311 and my personal email is: conorc@cwccs.org Thank you so much for reading this Long letter and hearing my heart. I look forward to meeting you face-to-face at your earliest convenience. May God bless you big time!

- **Pastor Conor Craft**