

# THE PARENT INSIDER

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Faith Fellowship Church, 6734 Bridgetown Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45248 513-598-6734

## What Does Your Child Really Need

The importance of praying parents.

By Rob Flood

In 1979, my father, Larry, was the manager of computer operations for a major oil company. It was the dawn of the computer age and, at that time, computers were just beginning to change from luxuries to necessities. In an industry of high competition, time was just as valuable as money. Then, it happened.

For no apparent reason, the computer room (at that time, computers took up rooms, not laptops or desktops) shut down—dead. The computer operators were not able to reboot the computer and could not find any reason for the problem. In an effort to get up and running, Larry called in the A-Team of technicians ... no success. They called in the regional technicians ... no success. The room was full of operators, managers,

and junior and senior technicians all scratching their heads.

The next day, an intern returned from vacation and wondered what the problem was. No one gave him a very thorough answer, convinced he had nothing additional to offer. He strolled around the room to kill time and then asked, "Shouldn't this button be pushed in?" He pushed it, and the computer rebooted.

The technicians and managers, my father included, had gone to great lengths to address the problems. Yet all the while, the solution was so simple; it's just that no one stopped to think of the basics.

**Article continued on Pgs 4 and 5.**

## Youth Beat: Youth Culture Statistics

### TOP 10 Favorite Fast Food Restaurants of Millennials

- ◆ 1. Subway
- ◆ 2. Chick-fil-A
- ◆ 3. Chipotle
- ◆ 4. McDonald's
- ◆ 5. Taco Bell
- ◆ 6. Wendy's
- ◆ 7. Five Guys
- ◆ 8. Dominos
- ◆ 9. Papa John's
- ◆ 10. Burger King

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## TOP TEN MOVIES



Movies 12/18/2015 - 12/20/2015

Source: Box Office Mojo

Rank	Movie	Gross Income
1	Star Wars: The Force Awakens	\$248 mil
2	Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip	\$14.3 mil
3	Sisters	\$13.9 mil
4	The Hunger Games; Mockingjay - Part 2	\$5.9 mil
5	Creed	\$5 mil
6	The Good Dinosaur	\$4.4 mil
7	Krampus	\$4.1 mil
8	In the Heart of the Sea	\$3.5 mil
9	Dilwale	\$1.9 mil
10	Bajirao Mastani	\$1.7 mil

## Youth Beat Continued

- ◆ Teenagers care 20% more than the average shopper about brands. (NPD Market Research Group)
- ◆ 1 in 8 teens is abusing Adderall (used to treat ADHD) in an effort to lose weight. (The Partnership at Drugfree.org)
- ◆ Almost a quarter of married homeowners ages 18-34 bought a home together before they were married. (Coldwell Banker Real Estate Survey)

## Celebrity Quotes

"Sometimes. And to be honest, I've had a week of deleting my Instagram off my phone, so I didn't have it, and I would have to go to my laptop if I wanted to post something – so that I wouldn't get caught up in it. You always get wrapped up in it. You look at one image and then you're on different pages, and then you are 52 weeks in, and it's just a lot. I don't know how I can get through it other than to just know that it isn't real. I have to put my phone down and look up and look at life and know that I'm in this moment that I'll never have again, and I need to enjoy it and not give in to those people."

– Selena Gomez, answering the questions "How do you deal with the negativity of social media? Are you able to ignore it?" from Yahoo editor Bobbi Brown, Yahoo.com, Sep. 24,

## PRAYER CENTRAL:

### Things to pray about with and for your kids

- Pray for 2016 and that you and your family make an impact for the Kingdom.
- Pray that your teen becomes bolder with sharing their faith.
- Pray that you become bolder with sharing your faith and that your example shines to your teen.

Prayer is the energy source for us as believers. Continue to utilize it often and do it with your teen. Let them see how important it is and how vital it is as a Christian.

## Verse of the Month

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

-Romans 1:16-17

Time in the Word is essential. These verses are going to be discussed a lot this spring. Pray for your youth but more than that, sit down with them and read this. Then talk about it with them.

Start making time everyday this next year to do this.

# Cutting Edge Music:

## Coldplay- "A Head Full of Dreams"



**Background:** A British rock band formed in 1996 by lead vocalist Chris Martin and lead guitarist Jonny Buckland at University College London (UCL). After they formed under the name Pectoralz, Guy Berryman joined the group as a bassist and they changed their name to Starfish. Will Champion joined as a drummer, backing vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist, completing the line-up. The band renamed themselves "Coldplay" in 1998. They achieved worldwide fame with the release of the single "Yellow" in 2000, followed by their debut album released in the same year, *Parachutes*, which was nominated for the Mercury Prize.

**What Parents should know about their new album:** band's last—bristles brightly with the buoyant belief that no matter how bad things Chris Martin is finally at peace. No, no, Coldplay's lead singer isn't dead. Far from it. The influential British band's frontman just seems to have vanquished the metaphorical specters that haunted Coldplay's last effort, 2014's *Ghost Stories*. Since then, Martin has soared out from the beneath the gray fog that hung over him after his divorce last year from actress Gwyneth Paltrow. Now, it seems, there's nothing but sunshine and rainbows, optimism unleashed so luminously (just check out the album cover, for starters) that it prompted *nowtoronto.com* reviewer Matt Williams to write, "A Head Full of Dreams comes off like that one friend of yours who's so positive you want to punch him." If that's a problem, though, it's a very good one—not to mention a rare one in popular music. Indeed, the swirling, chiming (vaguely spiritual) positive thinking on Coldplay's seventh studio effort—which Chris Martin has hinted may be the influential British have been, they're bound to get better.

For the full write up, visit [www.pluggedin.com/musicreviews](http://www.pluggedin.com/musicreviews). Also, visit [pluggedin.com](http://pluggedin.com) for other music reviews.

# Christian Artists

## Everfound



Everfound is a Christian-rock band based in Denver, Colorado, consisting of three brothers, Ruslan, Nikita, and Yan. The Odnoralov family

moved from Russia to Colorado in 1996. Since their formation, they have independently released three EPs and one full length independent album, *Colorful Alibis and Scandalous Smiles*. They released their national debut, major-label, self-titled album on July 16, 2013, as well as a remix of several songs released exclusively on Spotify, August 5, 2014, shortly followed by a Christmas EP (titled *Resolution*) on November 11th of the same year.

Check them out at [www.everfoundmusic.com](http://www.everfoundmusic.com)

# Featured Film: Newly Released in Theater



## SYNOPSIS— Moonwalkers—Opens Jan. 15

After failing to locate the legendary Stanley Kubrick, an unstable CIA agent (Ron Perlman) must instead team up with a seedy rock band manager (Rupert Grint) to develop the biggest con of all time—staging the moon landing.

Starring: Ron Perlman, Rupert Grint, Robert Sheehan, Stephen Campbell Moore

Rated R-For Strong Bloody Violence, Drug Use, Language and Graphic Nudity

For more information on the movie check out [www.Christianitytoday.com](http://www.Christianitytoday.com) under their media section

Check out [www.Christianitytoday.com](http://www.Christianitytoday.com) for more information on new movie releases

## Other Movies in Theaters

Title	Rating	Red Flags	Genre	Starring
<b>Norm of the North</b> Opens Jan. 15	PG	Mild rude humor and action.	Animated/ Comedy	Rob Schneider, Heather Graham, Ken Jeong, Gabriel Iglesias, Loretta Devine
<b>Boy</b> Opens Jan. 22	PG-13	Violence and terror, and for some thematic material.	Horror/ Thriller	Lauren Cohan, Rupert Evans, Jim Norton, Diana Hardcastle, Javier Botet
<b>The Revenant</b> Opened Dec. 25	R	Strong frontier combat and violence including gory images, a sexual assault, language and brief nudity	Action/ Adventure	Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hardy, Domhnall Gleeson, Will Poulter, Lukas Haas

In the same way, as parents we are so willing to give our children all we think they need. We give them food, clothing, and shelter. We give them entertainment and enrichment. We sacrifice our own hobbies, preferences, and personal interests on their behalf. Most of us would give our own lives to ensure their success and happiness. Yet is it possible that we are missing their most important need?

Corrie ten Boom once wrote, "Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" As parents we should be asking ourselves, "Is prayer for our children a normal part of our daily lives ... or is it something we do only when we feel helpless?"

The truth is, we can never pray enough. We need power from God to do all He's called us to do, and so do our children. In addition, we are raising our children in a world with values contrary to our own—a world that seeks to attack and destroy our children. And so much of the attack is out of our control. We can't defend them against all of these attacks, but we can always pray!

### **A common misunderstanding**

With all of the needs children have, many parents wonder if prayer is actually their *greatest* need. This often stems from a very common misunderstanding. As parents we fall into the trap of believing that we are the ones providing food, clothing, and shelter. We think we are the ones giving them the love and care they need, building character into their lives, and teaching them spiritual truths. While we are often used by God as the vehicle for these needs, it is always God who provides all things, and it is God who is responsible for moving in their hearts (Matthew 6:25-33).

Even the most well intended parents cannot

force their children to accept their love and care. While most children will not deny a free home and free food, not all will see these as tangible acts of love.

God is at work in the lives and hearts of your children. He is the One who restrains your children—and you—from being the worst among sinners. God orchestrates the events in their lives, and ultimately they will come to faith only when His Spirit draws them.

That's why praying for our children must top our list of parenting priorities. In their book, *While They Are Sleeping*, Anne Arkins and Gary Harrell write:

*One of the most important things we can do for our children may occur in the still of the night—while all is quiet, and they are sound asleep. That is ... to pray for them—faithfully, and fervently petitioning the Father on their behalf—involving ourselves in the work He is doing in their lives. Prayer changes things ... prayer changes people. There are many times when far greater results come from quiet communion with God than from all the rhetoric available to mankind.*

*As parents, God calls us to much action. We are to take part joyfully in the care and nurture of our children. It requires much commitment and stamina. However, all might just be for naught if we fail to recognize our need for God's power, their need for God's power—their need for prayer.*

### **Praying for our children**

Even when we realize the importance of praying for our children, we often allow ourselves to be deterred, even discouraged, in the process. Here are a few suggestions to help you pray for your children with effectiveness and power.

**A:** Acknowledge before God that your children belong first to Him, then to you. Acknowledge that His love for them is even greater than your love for them. Acknowledge that He can and does influence them more than you do. Acknowledge your own dependence upon Him to fulfill the calling He's given you as a parent (John 15:5).

**B:** Be an example of Christian integrity for your children. Don't be their excuse for not doing as they ought. Be available to pray *with*, and not just *for*, your children. Be trustworthy as a model of Christlikeness for them. Recall what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:1: "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ." The calling is this: Be what you desire them to be.

**C:** Consistency is key. Don't give up on them. Allow consistency to characterize your prayer life for them as well as your love and care of them. Consider using a prayer guide such as *While They Were Sleeping* or a book like *How a Man Prays For His Family* to encourage regular prayer. Don't allow the behavior of your children to draw you away from praying. They will feel your lack of consistency; they will feel your consistency as well (Psalm 1).

It really can be that simple—and that challenging—all at once. As complicated as parenting can be, how sad it is to know so many who have forgotten the simple and uncomplicated blessing of praying as parents. As we pursue effective parenting techniques, we have to remember the basic call to pray ... to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

There comes a time when our children may not express their love to us in the same way. It may seem as though they are pulling away. Don't allow this tendency to create a distance. Pursue your children with great fervor. Pursue God on your children's behalf all the more. Stick it out, both in action and in prayer, until you release them from your home and into their own lives as adults.

As you do this, you will communicate to your children that they always have someone on their side fighting in their corner. They'll know you mean it, and it will give them great confidence. They may not always appreciate it. They may even try to push it away. If they do, consider these words from evangelist Charles Spurgeon: "If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. If they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees. Let no one go there unwarned and unprayed for."

This is the type of sacrificial love and prayer our children need to see, feel, and experience from all of us. If our children succeed in life, let us thank God for His great work in their lives. If they wander into the things of this world, let it not be because their mom and dad failed to plead with God on their behalf. And, if and when they return, let us again turn our thanks and praise to God Himself, who is the great Father of us all.

Article found at [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com)

# youth Group News

## Events

**Lock-in**– The youth lock-in will be January 17-18. The cost is \$5. Everyone is strongly encouraged to invite friends! The more people, the more fun! There will be an inflatable obstacle, 9 square tournament, a photo-booth and more! Pastor Josh issued a challenge if there is 50 teens at the lock-in, everyone in the youth group can throw a pie in his face! Encourage your teen to invite, invite, invite!!! Sign ups are in the youth room!

**Volleyball**– The youth volleyball league is back and will start on January 31st. Youth from 6-12 grade can sign up anytime in the youth room! Cost is \$35 per player.

## News

**Lock-In**– We are in need of helpers for the lock-in! It's on a Sunday night, but Monday is holiday so many have it off work! If you would like to help or even come and help for a period of time that would be great! Let Pastor Josh know asap!

**Website**– Check out the newly updated youth website. It now houses all of the newsletters, past and present! Soon to come is a photo gallery!

**Cancelled Events**– We have had to cancel several events due to unforeseen circumstances. One was the progressive dinner and the other was ice skating. These events will be rescheduled for some time in the next few months.

## On the Horizon

**February 13: Murder Mystery**

**February 19: Winterjam Cost is \$10.**

**March 4-5: Dare2Share Conference**

**April 29-May 1: Disciple Now Retreat**

## Youth Group Teaching Schedule

Jan. 3- Study of James- James 5:1-12

Jan. 10- Study of James- James 5: 13-20

Jan. 17- Holding Us Together (Lock-in)- Colossians 1:15-23

Jan. 24- Gospel Journey Evangelism- Is there a Higher Power?

Jan. 31- Gospel Journey Evangelism-What is the Purpose of life?

## Youth Culture Music Artists Top Ten

All information for song radio play was for the week of 12/15 from Mediabase.

All information for song albums was for the week of 12/19 from Billboard.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Albums</u>	<u>Radio Play</u>
1	Adele – 25	Adele – Hello
2	Justin Bieber – Purpose	Justin Bieber – Sorry
3	Pentatonix – That's Christmas To Me	Selena Gomez – Same Old Love
4	One Direction – Made In The A.M.	Alessia Cara – Here
5	Taylor Swift – 1989	Ellie Goulding – On My Mind
6	The Weeknd – Beauty Behind The Madness	Drake – Hotline Bling
7	Carrie Underwood – Storyteller	Meghan Trainor – Like I'm Gonna Lose You
8	Fetty Wap – Fetty Wap	Shawn Mendes - Stitches
9	Michael Buble – Christma	Elle King – Ex's and Oh's
10	Various Artists – NOW 56	The Weeknd – In The Night

# JANUARY 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Sunday School @ 9:30 am  Youth Group @ 6:00pm	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Sunday School @ 9:30 am  Youth Group @ 6:00pm	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Sunday School @ 9:30 am  Lock-In @ 6:00pm	18 <b>MLK Day</b>  Lock-In Pick up at 6am	19	20	21	22	23
24 SS @9:30 YG @ 6  31 SS @9:30 YG @ 6	25	26	27	28	29	30

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOSH

Hi Parents,

With 2016 upon us, big things are in store! Pretty much the entirety of this spring, we will be focusing on evangelism in youth group! As a former pastor of mine said, "We are plan A, there is no plan B." We have been commanded in Matthew to take the Gospel message to those who need it. Who better than those kids in our schools? And who better than our teens, their peers?!

This next year will also bring many changes to the format of things. We are striving to make things more intergenerational. We need more mentorship/discipleship for our youth. Ultimately, I am seeking to help better equip you as parents to disciple your kids. That's not to say you aren't already but I understand that frustrations that come with it so I want to make sure I'm doing the best I can to supply you with resources and information to help! Here's to a great year in 2016!

In Him, Pastor Josh