

THE

SPRING 2018

CONNECTION



DECLARE

Features

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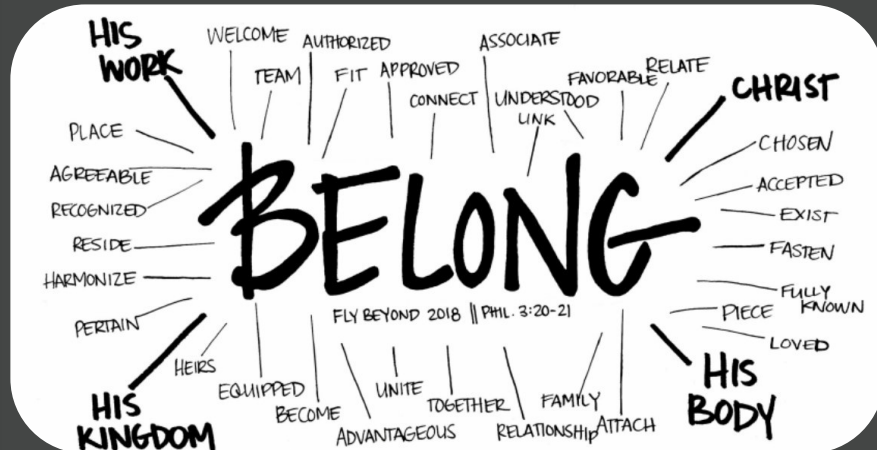
AFLC YM



AFLBS
Campus
Days



SL Trip



2018 FLY Beyond



AFLC
Annual
Conference



See You
At The Pole



FLY 2019

DECLARE

Leah Erickson | Eli Neufeld |
Seth Larson | Becca Jameson

The following four AFLBS students are in an advanced youth ministry class that AFLC Youth Ministries' Pastor Jason Holt teaches. Through the fall semester, these students along with a number of fellow students served as the planning team for the program of both the Association Retreat Center's Winter Retreats – SIDExSIDE and Sno Daze. Both retreats gathered under the theme "Declare." This experience got them thinking about settings in which they have been invited to "declare" Jesus Christ and Him crucified, to declare the content of who the Lord is, or have been on the receiving end of His message. They share their reflections here to encourage you as you demonstrate the truth and love of Jesus to those around you.

"To declare" is to openly align oneself for or against in a dispute. Today's teens are living in a society that is all about declaring who they are as a person. Additionally, many struggle with their declaration as a Christian and what they truly believe. Psalm 96 provides the ultimate direction to "...Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!" The command is to tell others of our great and wonderful Savior! So, how can this be done?

Psalm 96 points out some ideas of how to declare what is important. First, notice verses 4-5 state that God is to be feared above all gods. "...For all gods of the peoples are worthless idols." God created the heavens! He is the Creator and is not like the man-made gods of this world because He is not made -- He just was, is, and is to come. Second, from verse 10, the focus is on the familiar words, "The LORD reigns!" God is the King of kings who established the world and will judge our actions. He stands for the ultimate truth, judging with righteousness and justice. Lastly, verses 11-13 proclaim the most anticipated event: Christ's return. Creation will be glad and joyful, and will rejoice, roar, and exult at this marvelous event. This is the story to proclaim with certainty, and to declare for all to hear!

Leah Erickson

It was my senior year in high school and my brother Jacob and I were flying standby to Hawaii. Our first flight took off at 6:30 in the morning. It was going to go to Phoenix, but we didn't end up leaving until the next day at 10, because our flight got canceled. It was actually a really cool situation, because while I was in the airplane I was able to minister to three elderly ladies who were on their way to Hawaii for a girls week out. I started my conversation on takeoff asking them if they enjoyed flying. All three were terrified of the experience, so through that one little question I was able to do two things: guide the conversation into spiritual matters and ask them about their relationship with Christ. This conversation about spiritual things led to asking whether or not they believed they were saved. I was able to distract them from the takeoff and the flight, and even better, I could talk about Jesus!

Eli Neufeld

DECLARE

When I was a junior in high school, some friends and I went to New York with the intention of doing street ministry with a larger organization called Spread Truth. I really enjoyed this mission trip, but especially one day. We were in Harlem and we had a prayer station setup. We had pamphlets and some of the pamphlets had blown away due to wind and we didn't think anything of it at the time. About 3 hours later we stopped in to eat at a restaurant, and the lady across the table had one of the pamphlets that had blown away. On the cover of this particular pamphlet that she was holding it said "God gives Grace." We noticed after a couple moments of looking at her that she was crying. After seeing this, we walked over to her to investigate and ask her how she was doing. We let her know that we were the ones handing out the pamphlets and asked if there was anything we can do for her. She told us that her daughter had cancer and she just today heard that her daughter's cancer had miraculously gone away with no reason behind it.

The story hits me for many reasons, but my favorite part of it is realizing how much I didn't do. God was the one that made the pamphlet fly away and fall into her hands. But if we hadn't been there declaring the gospel on that street with those pamphlets at all, it would have never found her, and she would have never accepted Christ that day.

Seth Larson

I was done. Done with everything – school, people, my broken car, and bills. At this moment, I was done with work. I was in the middle of an intense staring contest with the clock when one of my students interrupted.

"What should I draw, Miss Becca?"

I took a deep breath, forced a smile, and said the first thing that came to my mind. "Draw something that will make me happy," I invited.

He pondered this for a moment, then began to draw feverishly. The end result was a smiley-faced, yellow caricature with a rainbow t-shirt, arms open for a hug, and written in large letters over the figure's head it read "God." He gave the picture to me and left. I was speechless. For me, this was not just a child's picture of God. This was a bold declaration of where my hope comes from. A call to once again turn my eyes back to God and find my strength in Him.

We hold ourselves back from spreading the gospel. We see all of the pain and suffering in the world and we have the very thing that they need – hope. This hope is only found in Jesus Christ, but we freak out thinking that we have to do things just right or have some perfect formula we will make a fool of ourselves and God. But God can take care of Himself. We are not called to do or say anything groundbreaking. We only need to be ready and willing when God provides an opportunity. In this, our lives will always declare the hope provided in Jesus Christ as the boy's drawing did for me.

Becca Jameson

FLY FEATURE

By Andrew Kneeland

I love infomercials.

I'm fascinated by miracle sponges, super knives, and amazing blenders, and I'd bet I'm not the only one. We live in a world that loves infomercials. Our world loves telling us what we need, what we want, and what we absolutely cannot live without.

But as the world clamors to tell us what we want, Jesus tells us that He is everything we need.

If you don't know where to go, Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." If you are hurting, Jesus says "I am the good shepherd." If you don't think life is worth living, Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life." God summarizes Himself to Moses by saying, simply: "I Am."



The 2019 FLY Committee has chosen "I AM" for the convention theme, with the theme verses of Isaiah 45:5-6. Our prayer is that the FLY Convention won't be just another infomercial, but a chance to know the God who actually is everything we ever need.

In these verses in Isaiah, God is talking to Cyrus and preparing him for his mission to rescue the Israelites

from captivity in Babylon. God says, "I am the Lord, and there is no other." There is nothing else – no other religion, no other idea, no other god – that can accomplish what God can accomplish.

Cyrus' rescue of the Israelites from Babylon sets the stage for Jesus' rescue of all His people from their sin. No one but God can offer forgiveness, life, and salvation.

God longs to be known, and we pray that He will be known through the 2019 FLY Convention. We pray that you will know God as the great "I AM," as everything you could ever want or need. We need the great I AM to be our fortress of stability and assurance in this unstable and uncertain world.

God speaks of equipping Cyrus for the work of letting people know about Him. We pray that this same goal is accomplished at FLY 2019. We want you to know salvation through Christ. And we want to equip you to share about Christ.

God isn't just another checkbox in your search for fulfillment or contentment. He's not just another infomercial; He is the I AM. He is everything you ever need.

Please be in prayer for the FLY Convention. It's not too early to consider attending. Also, be in prayer about who you might invite to attend the FLY Convention in Estes Park, CO from July 1-6, 2019.

Visit www.flyconvention.org for updates!

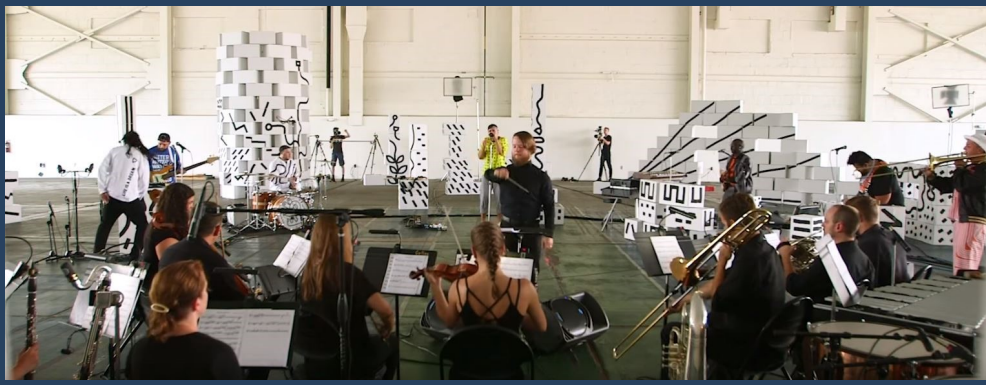
Andrew is the Second Vice President of the 2019 FLY Committee



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MUSIC:

Kings Kaleidoscope
"Playing with Fire" (Live in
Between) ft. Propaganda

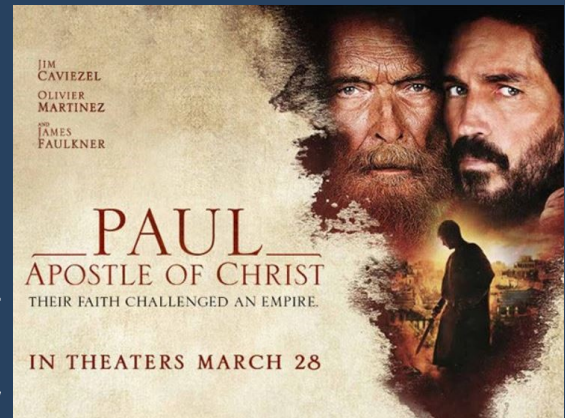


What do you get when you mix 1 gal. of creativity, 6 cups of musicianship, 3 tablespoons of hip-hop, a dash of percussion, a healthy dose of horns...oh yeah, and an orchestra? Kings Kaleidoscope. The band of six to ten members that is very difficult to set labels on and equally hard to predict what the next sound will focus on has released a single entitled, "Playing With Fire." The band brought in Christian hip-hop artist Propaganda for the track, which elevates this tune as the lyrics explore racism, hatred, and turning to trust the Lord through it all. If that intrigues you, take a listen.

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MOVIE: "Paul: Apostle of Christ"

The actor famous for playing Jesus in *The Passion of the Christ* (Jim Caviezel) returns playing Luke. Veteran actor James Faulkner portrays the aging apostle Paul. From a glimpse at the yet to be released project through its trailer, I am hopeful for a compelling story that fits the biblical accounts and inspires audiences right before Easter. Author/Theologian Gene Veith offers a brief blog on it here.



AFLC Youth Ministries exists

to Win teenagers to Christ through the Gospel,
to Build them up in God's truth and God's love,
to Equip them to live their faith and share their faith
with others, which results in the multiplying of
maturing teen disciples of Jesus.



Rev. Jason Holt, National Youth Director

Mrs. Chris Rasmussen, Youth Ministries Administrative Coordinator

Mr. Daniel Keinanen, FLY Convention Coordinator

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