

What started as a typical trip to the Teen Leadership Conference (TLC) at Baptist Bible College in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, turned into a revival for the young people from West Cannon Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

"God chose our group," says Jenny Meier. "He did a huge work in all of our hearts."

Youth pastor John Nixon agrees. "It's the closest thing I've seen to revival among our kids," he says. "They recognized sin in their lives, confessed it, and were broken over it. It was a tone that came over the group."

## Revival

Pastor Nixon describes it this way: "One night after the service, our group went out and sat on the grass. The kids would sing a song, then they would pray. When they prayed, their hearts' cry was sorrow over sin and the desire to be used by God. We continued praying and singing together for an hour and a half."

In a conference well-known for its challenging speakers, inspiring worship services, and workshops encouraging leadership and ministry, the West Cannon youth group's experience was one-of-a-kind. It wasn't dramatic or showy. The kids didn't draw attention to themselves.

"A lot of us woke up to sin in our lives," recalls Meier. "It was a time in our youth group when if something hadn't happened, the group might have fizzled out. We didn't really have any core student leaders then. But a lot of people who were at TLC that year have become leaders, even in college."

## Renewal

That revival extended far beyond the boundaries of TLC and even West Cannon Baptist Church. Bree VanderJagt, part of the TLC revival, organized a bonfire at her family's home. The young people gathered there to pray, to cast off remnants of their sin, and to renew their dedication to God. Into the fire went CDs, clothing, and even books that the teens felt were part of their sinful lives—now a part of their past. They experienced a renewed interest in spiritual things, a stronger sense of how God wanted them to live.

"It gave me a whole new perspective on modesty and totally changed the way I dress," Jenny shared. "Now I take into consideration how guys struggle with self-control. I consider the kind of music I listen to and the words that I say."

That revival on the lawn of BBC—the challenge of that conference and the fire of faith that followed—still burns in the hearts of the teenagers who were part of it.

"I'm still living what I learned," said Jenny. "The impact of that conference is still with me." **RF**

*If you would like to learn more about the Teen Leadership Conference and how your youth group can attend, visit [www.bbc.edu/tlc/](http://www.bbc.edu/tlc/).*



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