



Dear Partners in Christ,

At the last three Junior High Breakfast Clubs we focused on Romans 8:38-39, *"I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our LORD."* - NIV

As an illustration of the verses we had students glue two 2x4 boards together. The one board represents us, the second board God, and the glue is God's love for us in Christ Jesus. Having glued another pair of boards earlier which had set well, I put a harness on each board and asked youth to pull the boards apart. One of the gals tried first, then one of the boys, then two boys, then six boys at one time (some on the football team) all trying to separate the boards. But nothing separated the boards. **Nothing separates us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord!**

When I was in Jr. High, I heard my parents talking to my older siblings as they moved off to college. They said, "You always have a place to come home to. We may not agree with all that you might do, but you always have a home." I got the same gift, a gift of unconditional love; I have cherished the gift and passed it on to my own children.

Some of our youth have experienced significant relational losses: fathers who are in prison, mothers who have been separated by DHS, parents who have divorced, death of a grandparent, and the list goes on. I imagine all of us have experienced relational loss; I have. In light of these separations, it's easy to fear and believe that no relationship is secure. God's love in Jesus is unconditional and we always have a secure home in His love.

At Breakfast Club, after reading Romans 8:38-39 with one of our youth, one of our volunteers said to the boy, *"Do you know that God loves you?"* The boy in all honesty responded, **"No, I've never known that God loves me."**

What a moment to share God's love! Please pray for our youth that they will know the unfailing love of God in Jesus, and please consider becoming a volunteer who will share the love of God with our youth. Once we open our building, volunteers will be crucial and more will be needed!

John Engelstad – Austin Area Youth for Christ Director

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