



**YOUTH
GROUP**
★ *News* ★

October 2016 - by Kristi Duensing, Youth Director

Hello! Fall is right around the corner, and isn't it beautiful? Our God is so grand, we can't even imagine what he's going to do next for us. Our Sunday School is starting off with a great devotional book called "First Love", and is really helping us to think about God's FIRST love for us, and how we share that love with others. During Sunday School class, we each spend time journaling in our own book, as we go through this study. Thank you for praying for our youth. We have a group of 17 this year, and are looking forward to our fall fund-raiser this year, which is a Hamburger Feed, followed by our 3rd Annual Color Run/Walk. We are changing the routes this

fall, making it more fun for people of all ages. The proceeds from this fund-raiser goes entirely to Jennifer Kasimila, from Tanzania. Compassion suggests you sponsor these children until age 22, which will be in the in the year 2020. She currently receives \$38.00 per month from the Jr. High and High School Sunday School classes. The total amount of money we need to raise is about \$1,800.00 over a 4-year period. We often receive letters often from her, and we can tell that she is really trying to break the poverty cycle. She wants to work in the medical field someday, and is working hard with her homework, so that she can reach her goals.

Here is what Compassion International (the organization who connects sponsors with children living in poverty) tells us this about her: Jennifer lives with her father and her mother. She is responsible for carrying water, buying or selling in the market, and caring for children. Her father is sometimes employed, and her mother is sometimes employed as a farmer. There are 3 children in the family. For fun, Jennifer enjoys running, playing baseball, singing, and bike riding. She attends church activities, Bible class and choir regularly. She is still in primary school where her performance is average. As I read this, I think to myself....primary school? Isn't she a little old for primary school, since she is 18 years old today? How sad. We sometimes complain about our government, or authorities. Well, this really puts things into perspective, doesn't it?

Please remember Jennifer in your prayers. Our support helps her to receive the assistance she needs to grow and develop. She lives in an AIDS-affected area. In Africa, the disease has impacted the entire continent, creating a generation of orphans, and vulnerable children. God can use us to help ease the pain of a child in desperate need.

A project like this, I believe, really helps our Youth understand what poverty looks like, but also lets them understand how incredibly blessed we are living in this country. God gave us what we have today, because we can be His hands and feet to others, by sharing with those in need.

YOP Activities: October 5th, 6:30 p.m., Supper at YOP house; Oct. 16th Noon Hamburger Feed & Color Run / Activity Night at 7:00

Isaiah 1:17 says, *"Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow"*. Yes, we CAN be the hands and feet of Jesus!

Blessings to you, Kristi Duensing, Youth director



Welcome Freshmen! Bonfire night at Kristi's, September 18.