



DUSTY'S STORY:

In my 10th grade year I met Miriam who invited me to her youth group. There I was blown away at the fact that the youth pastor and other adult youth leaders spent time with me and got to know me. I didn't understand at first why adults would spend their own time on teenagers, but I soon learned that they believed that youth have value and are worth investing time in. Before I knew it I was totally plugged in and playing drums on the worship team. Soon after, in my early twenties, I was on a mission trip to Mexico when I felt the leading of God's spirit giving me a passion to do full time ministry. Lucky for me, it turns out that same girl who once invited me to her youth group shares my passion for young people. So I had to marry her as soon as I could and we've been doing ministry ever since.

Dear Friends,

We are excited to write to you to say "hello" and to tell you about the great things happening right now in our lives. This last year has been filled with change for us, to say the least. A year ago we were living in downtown Puyallup, serving and attending at Bethany Baptist Church, and both working full time. Today we now live on a 200-acre former dairy farm in beautiful Orting, the town of two stoplights. We are involved in starting a new church there named *Reunion Church*. Miriam is back in school full-time finishing her bachelor's degree in Spanish. Now Dusty is remodeling homes and on staff with *Young Life*.

HOW WE GOT HERE:

Last spring we heard that our church was starting a new church in Orting. It was brought to our attention that they needed a youth guy. Almost immediately we felt the pull to do the job. We soon discovered that *Reunion Church* had a smart plan for youth ministry, which was to team up with a non-church ministry, *Young Life*. We believe a partnership between *Reunion Church* and *Young Life* is a great way to cater to students at every stage in life. *Young Life* provides a fun environment to explore God and ask questions while *Reunion Church* is a place that people can continue growing deeper in their relationship with Him.

WHAT WE ARE DOING:

From the short time that we have been in Orting we have seen it is clear there is a big need for youth investment. We are beginning with building relationships and providing a safe place for teens to belong. Starting this summer, we are hosting sports nights, bonfires, bbq's, flashlight tag, and attending summer camp. In the fall we plan to continue the fun with club.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

□ **PRAY:** We believe that prayer is essential in life and in any ministry. Please pray that God will open doors to meet students and use us to minister to them and their families' needs in Orting.

□ **SERVE WITH US:** We can always use more hands. Are you or someone you know interested in being *Young Life* leaders? Come on out! We would love to have you.

□ **GIVE:** Our desire is to have Dusty's schedule completely free to work full-time with youth. To do this we are asking people to consider making a gift to our ministry in Orting. A full time position with *Young Life* requires around \$3500 a month. Giving varies from one-time gifts to monthly commitments and everything helps.

Thank you so much for your support. We will give you a follow-up call within the next few weeks to answer any questions you might have. We look forward to updating

MIR'S STORY:

As an 8th grader I made a big decision in my life. At basketball camp I decided to give my life to God. Of course, at fourteen years old I didn't know all that would entail. But I got involved in the youth group at a church and was impacted significantly by the adults and other students there. The following summer on a mission trip, after a long session of prayer and worship, I felt God's call to do full-time ministry. When I graduated high school I began an internship with the youth department. Since then I have volunteered as well as worked on staff with junior high and high school students.

CONTACT US!

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MYSPACE:
Young Life Orting

~Dusty & Miriam Ellison

you on all God is doing in Orting!