

HOLLIDAY ADVENTURES

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FAMILY UPDATE

Emma graduated in May from the University of Florida. She's in MI for a Summer internship before beginning grad school back at UF this Fall!

Edline graduated from the Paul Mitchell Cosmetology School and now works at salon.

Edithe is doing well with the Army Reserves and Florida Atlantic University. Jaclyn begins a new job in NYC in June while still pursuing acting.

Caribbean Winds are Blowing!

For over 20 years, we've been ministering in Haiti with Pastor Wiljean Compere and Open Door Church. The past 10 years, I've been praying for God to open the door into other Caribbean islands. We've seen opportunities in the DR and Belize, but not much else... until now! In January, I met Imran Richards, who leads the Sports Movement for the Caribbean. They're ministering in 31 of the 32 island nations of the Caribbean, and have invited us to partner with them. In February, I trained in Barbados. Then in March, we had leaders of their's from Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados & Guyana join us for the Global Summit in Turkiye. And in October, we'll train leaders at their Caribbean Disciple-Making Conference.



Doug with former student, youth pastor Pete Sutton... and Jeff Wallace of SLU, speaker Brad Lomenick, and Greg Stier of Dare 2 Share at the Youth Pastor Summit in Chicago.

Youth Pastor Summit

We began talking over a year ago with the team at *Student Leadership University* about helping them pull off a *Youth Pastor Summit* event in Chicago. Sonlife's long history in the Chicagoland area would prove strategic in helping find the right location for this event along with local networks and partnerships to get the word out. The *Youth Pastor Summit* began in Orlando 25 years ago. Eventually it spread to other cities: Nashville, Dallas, Southern California. They'd never done an event in the midwest... until now.

Greg Stier of Dare 2 Share and I both spoke in the morning. It was a one-two punch on advancing the gospel and multiplying disciples among the next generation. I shared in my talk about Jesus' journey with His disciples. His call to them was relational, intentional and missional. As I shared Jesus' story, I also shared my own. When I was just 15, one of my youth leaders, Rich Van Dillen, asked if he could disciple me. I said "yes." While we spent a lot of time in the Bible, I don't remember much of what we studied together. What I do remember was Rich's life. I was in awe of his Bible. It looked like a rainbow of colors were exploding from the pages. Rich taught me how he studied the Bible, and soon I got my own highlighter pens. I learned how to love and study God's Word for myself. I learned from Rich how to talk to God in prayer. I learned from Rich how to share my faith as he took me to the mall to witness.

The event was hosted at Compass Church, where one of my former students, Pete Sutton, serves as youth pastor. Pete has now been a

DOUG HOLLIDAY MINISTRIES



Global Disciple-Making Summit / Turkiye

While visa issues with some countries caused us to fall short of our goal of 120 nations represented at the Global Summit in Turkiye, our week was nothing less than historic! 260 leaders from 96 nations were able to attend the gathering. There were several moments where joy-filled tears flowed. A worship team was assembled from across the globe. Worship songs were lifted up in English, Hindi, Spanish, French and Swahili. Marisa joined me for the trip as my Sonlife Admin, and she also helped with running slides during the program.

We toured Ephesus, Pergamum, Hieropolis, Sardis, Laodicea and Miletus. At each location, we heard from various leaders who taught on the expansion of the movement Jesus started. What a privilege to lead off the on-site teaching by speaking at the ancient ruins in Ephesus. I spoke of the church in Ephesus being the third mission hub of the early church, after Jerusalem and Antioch. It was in Ephesus that the Apostle Paul trained the disciples daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus (Acts 19). The result of these two years of intensive training? All the Jews and Greeks in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

What a joy for me to connect with many friends from across the globe I'd not been with in years!

youth pastor for 26 years! It was a powerful moment for me as Pete shared after I spoke that I was his Rich. I was the reason he was in youth ministry. It was during a Fall retreat 32 years ago, when Pete was just 15, that he felt called to be a youth pastor. He wanted to be like me, his youth pastor. Pete had never shared that story with me before, but hearing me share my Rich story brought back the memory for him. I was so humbled! What a privilege to be used by God to invest in the next generation!

It was a busy stretch of ministry. All five *Youth Pastor Summit* events happened within a six week span. I was at four of the five, only missing Nashville because I was in Colorado for Dare 2 Share's *Gospel Advancing Summit*. Our Sonlife team connected with hundreds of youth leaders over the past six weeks. We're praying that God will raise up many more like Pete, called to make disciples among the next generation.

Gospel Advancing Summit / Colorado

A highlight for me at Dare 2 Share's Gospel Advancing Summit was bringing my neighbor, Carson, with me. Carson, 17, was the only high school student at the *Summit*. I brought him along to invest in his life and have him share his story with the leaders. Carson is fired up about Jesus and making disciples!

During my talk, I shared my story of being discipled by Rich when I was just 15 years old. Like Carson, I was fired up for Jesus and wanted to share Him with my friends. I shared from the Gospels how Jesus developed His disciples like Rich had done with me. Then, I brought Carson onto the stage and asked him about his relationships with people who didn't know Jesus. Who was he reaching out to? Carson reached into his pocket, pulled out his phone, and began reading a list. Name after name of non-christian friends he was praying for and sharing the gospel with! I asked Carson to tell me about just one of those conversations, and he shared how he presented the gospel with his friend Dan the man :) I then asked about his friends who had trusted Christ. How was he continuing to help them to grow? Carson shared how he meets with a different friend every day of the week over lunch to disciple them.

Carson's life is a powerful example of how God wants to use this next generation to advance the gospel and change their world!



Carson and Doug sharing at the Gospel Advancing Summit in Estes Park.