

What's a Stew Minster?

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Last year Tripp Martin, youth leader at Northminster Baptist Church contacted me about our teen boys forming a basketball team. In years past Stewpot and Northminster each had a basketball team. However, this year the young men in Stewpot's after school program missed registration, and Tripp asked if we would like to combine the teams since Northminster's basketball team was already registered to play. We loved the concept and decided to create a joint team with teenage boys from Northminster and Stewpot. We didn't know how it was going to turn out. It had been a while since many of these young men had seen each other. The last time that most of them had been together was at Northminster's vacation bible this summer.

And what a great idea it was! We soon found out that the boys, with just a couple of times playing basketball together, looked like a real team. It looked as though they had always played together with the passes and movement on the court, and they never had an official practice. It was an amazing sight for anyone's eyes. At many of their games, you can hear Tripp's wife yelling in the background "GO Stew Minster!"

We had such a wonderful time last year that this year Tripp suggested that we do it again. So, this year we have formed a middle school and high school basketball team, which has proven to be equally successful.

A lot of times you can look at the youth and see a great deal of unfortunate events that have occurred in their life, and you pray for them. Just being part of this partnership and having the chance to watch our boys play together is always a blessing. I don't know if they know it or not, but they are teaching me a great lesson in the beauty of human nature.