



ISSUE 3 QUARTER 2 2024
GREAT COMMISSION
YOUTH MINISTRY
NEWSLETTER



**Great Commission
Youth Ministry**

YOUTH NEED TO BE NEEDED BY THE CHURCH

“Does your church really “NEED” its Youth? Do the Youth In your church really “NEED” your church?” This is the topic of a new book that I am writing. Do these questions sound silly? You might be quick to answer YES to both questions but be careful. My research reveals another side to these questions. The keyword is “NEED.” I am sure most church pastors and elders would say “Of course we need our teenagers.” And I am sure that most church pastors and elders would say that their church teenagers certainly NEED the church. But really?

(Read the full article on Page 3)

FOLLOW - UP TRAINING REPORTS & PLANS

Hawaii – Filipino Church Youth Worker Training – February 2024

- I continue to hold coaching zoom meetings monthly with these youth leaders and progress is being made. Please continue to pray for their leadership.

Ethiopia Kale Heywet Church New Youth BA Programs in Ethiopia

- Plans have been made to begin pilot programs and classes for the newly approved youth BA programs in a few Bible Colleges in Ethiopia. Please pray that these plans will be completed.

East Africa Training Trip

- Plans are still being finalized to travel to Kenya and Tanzania in October of this year, where I have been asked to come to conduct youth ministry leadership training coaching programs. I need to raise \$5000 to fund the trip and training.

Brazil – New Youth MA program in Word of Life Seminary in Sao Paulo, Brazil

- Final decisions are being made to invite me to come help develop the first accredited Youth Ministry program in an evangelical seminary in Brazil. Pray that plans and decisions are made soon. This project will cost \$2500.

If you would like to donate to these new training projects, please see the donation instructions.

ETHIOPIA KALE HEYWET NORTH AMERICA

A tentative date of August 9-10, 2024 has been set for the gathering and training of 25-30 strategic pastors and youth leaders from 7 states. The goal is to train workers to reach the youth of more than 1 million Ethiopians who live in the U.S. The conference is to be held in Washington D.C. However, around \$30,000 needs to be raised to fund the conference. Following the one-week-end, face-to-face conference, those who seek comprehensive training will commit to a one-year certificate training program. A two-year diploma program will also be offered. Dr. Roger Glidewell (Global Youth Ministry) will assist me with the conference. Please pray that the funding of the event.

VISION FOR MEXICO YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING

Working with my partnership organization, Global Youth Coalition, and my fellow trainer Roger Glidewell, president of Global Youth Ministry, I will be conducting a training conference with 15-20 evangelical youth leaders from several states in Mexico on Saturday, August 31, 2024. With our help, these leaders will be forming a Youth Ministry Mexico Country Coalition whose goal is to eventually provide quality church youth ministry leadership training in every state in Mexico. Please pray for the success of this critical training conference!

COALITION OF YOUTH MINISTRIES IN MEXICO AND
GLOBAL YOUTH COALITION
THEY INVITE YOU TO THE
FIRST TRAINING

**FORMING
YOUTH LEADERSHIP
FOR EVERY NATION**

August 31, 2024 -- 9am to 5pm
At the Word Vision Facilities, Mexico

SPEAKERS

RANDY SMITH
Director General of
GLOBAL YOUTH COALITION

PHIL BROWN
Director for Latin America
FIRST PRIORITY
Global Ministries

ROGER GLIDEWELL
Director General of
GLOBAL YOUTH COALITION

Requirement: **PASSION TO MINISTER TEENS AND YOUNG PEOPLE!**

Reports and registrations:
Facebook: **CMJM Truth and Life**
Poster: Rafael Rosas Machorro WhatsApp 55 19 082803

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH CENTRAL TENNESSEE TRAINING CONFERENCE

Plans have been finalized for my next U.S.A. youth worker training conference. The conference will be attended by local church youth workers in the central Tennessee area. The conference is being sponsored by Trinity Baptist Church in Manchester, TN, and hosted by one of my former youth ministry students at Boyce College – Tim Forsythe. Please contact me or Tim (931-952-5051) if you are interested in attending.

Please pray about becoming a prayer and financial supporter of our ministry. **Just a reminder, I do not take any personal salary from donations to GCYM, all gifts go to pay ministry training expenses.** My greatest need is to recruit several monthly donors (no matter how small the donation) to meet our growing monthly costs and save for big events and international trips. My goal is to secure \$500 in new monthly recurring donations. Please pray about becoming one of those new monthly donors or making a one-time gift to meet my new ministry project needs. See the donation information below to join our support team. If the Lord lays GCYM on your heart, go to the link:

<https://provisionbridge.org/great-commission-youth-ministry/>
or scan the QR code below and begin or increase your support.

Follow us on our website: www.gcyministry.com
or on our Facebook Page!

Thanks,

Dr. Randy Smith



YOUTH NEED TO BE NEEDED BY THE CHURCH - CONTINUED.

“Does your church really “NEED” its Youth? Do the Youth In your church really “NEED” your church?” This is the topic of a new book that I am writing. Do these questions sound silly? You might be quick to answer YES to both questions but be careful. My research reveals another side to these questions. The keyword is “NEED.” I am sure most church pastors and elders would say “Of course we need our teenagers.” And I am sure that most church pastors and elders would say that their church teenagers certainly NEED the church. But really?

In my youth ministry training conferences and seminary classes, I have always said that the “Greatest Need of a Teenager” is to be needed by someone. Not just loved, wanted, appreciated, accepted, respected, or cared for, but “needed.” The best definition of “needed” that I can find is that of the Marian-Webster dictionary which simply defines “needed” as “necessary.” This is not just my opinion, but that of many adolescent psychologists. And it is true for Christian and non-Christian teens as well. One of the sad discoveries by all those I know who have written about why Christian youth leave the church and/or their faith after high school is that those who left did not feel truly NEEDED by the church and felt they were never really asked or challenged to make a serious contribution to the church mission and vision. As a result, when they leave high school and get out into the “world,” they begin looking for someone or some “CAUSE” that truly takes them seriously and truly NEEDS them and makes them feel necessary. And interestingly the research also reveals that those relatively few who did not leave the church, or their faith testified that one of the big reasons for staying was that they felt that their church made them feel not only needed but demonstrated that by allowing them to take serious ministry and leadership roles in the church.

The consequence of not feeling “needed” or “necessary” by the church may result in the church youth thinking and feeling that they, in turn, do NOT NEED the church... and then begin to wonder if God needs them or wants them and begin to say to themselves, “Do I need GOD or Want Him?”

Wherever I have been around the world teaching on this topic, I look for a married couple in the room. I have always found such a couple in more than 25 countries. When I identify the couple, I address the wife and say to her, “What would happen to your marriage if one day your husband approached you and said, ‘Dear wife, I love you, respect you, care for you, appreciate you, and provide for you. You can stay in my house and have all the money and things you need, but I just want to say that I really do not NEED you any longer.’” After telling the wife this, I ask her how long she thinks the marriage would last after hearing this from her husband? In every instance the wife’s response is “not very long” or “it would be over instantly.” If the husband or wife believes or feels that they are not needed, the relationship is in trouble and will likely end. Likewise, if the Christian youth in our churches are made to “feel” like they are not “needed” by the church, then when they can make their own decisions, they will likely leave their church, or worse leave or put their faith on the shelf. Sad but true. And remember “perception” is 95% of reality! If the church sends the signal by their actions or lack of action that the youth are not really “needed” but are simply loved and tolerated, then those feelings turn into beliefs that will eventually cause them to act on those feelings. They will begin to believe that “if the church does not need me, then I don’t need the church.” And worse they will start to believe that if God doesn’t need me or “want” me then I don’t need or want God. Indeed, God does not “need” anyone, but in respect to God, better than needing us, He WANTS us, and therefore He CHOOSES to “need” us and make us feel NECESSARY in his ultimate plan for the Great Commission.

YOUTH NEED TO BE NEEDED BY THE CHURCH CONTINUED.

It has been said that perception is 95% of reality! What does it mean to feel needed by God, who has been described as not needing anyone? I am also writing a book on the teenagers in the Bible to whom God gave incredibly serious tasks and ministry duties. Yes God wants, loves, and chooses to “need” teenagers. I am up to 37 such teenagers so far. Many Bible scholars now propose that as many as 10 out of the 12 disciples of Jesus were teenagers when Jesus recruited them! If God the Father and Jesus chose to use teenagers in serious ministry positions, why doesn’t the church? Anne Frank, the Jewish teenager who hid from the Germans in the Netherlands and died in a German death camp at age 16, referring to the Jewish people, wrote in her diary, “It must be awful to feel you are not needed.” An anonymous person is quoted as having said, “Tell me when I am no longer needed, and I shall GO.” It is a difficult thing to feel unwanted. But to feel “wanted” and yet not “needed” is hard to bear and can lead to feelings of rejection in one’s heart. Let’s truly make our youth in our church feel and BE needed! If they are truly needed then we as a church will give them the opportunity, training, position, support, and encouragement to demonstrate that they are in fact needed to move the church forward in its vision and mission. We the church must come to the conclusion that young people can indeed make a significant contribution to “their” church.

If you want to know more (sources, references, documentation) or make comments about this study and topic, email me at Youthman1@aol.com and ask for more information on how youth feel about being needed by the church, and what we can do to make them not only “FEEL” needed but “BE” needed! Too many times, we in the church do ministry “For” and “To” our youth, but not “WITH” our youth. Youth not only WANT to be part of the church ministry team but if we want them to stay with the church, they should be considered VITAL to that team. God LOVES youth, USES youth, and CALLS youth to critically important ministry, and SO SHOULD THE CHURCH!

