

# YMI

REACH • DISCIPLE • EMPOWER

Youth Ministry Informer

FALL 2008 • VOL. 13, NO. 3

COMMITTED TO RAISING UP A NEW GENERATION OF CHRIST-CENTERED LEADERS

## CAPTURING THE MOMENT

IYC is a big deal. It involves a lot of work at Church of God Ministries, and a lot of work in local youth groups as leaders and parents raise funds, make plans, play travel agent, and take time off work to spend several long days and sleepless nights on the trip.

It can be easy to get caught up in the details of such an experience and focus on the event itself. Who will be the worship artists? Who will be the speakers? How will we get there? Will we raise enough money to make it? In the midst of all the details, our desire is to create at IYC a moment for life change.

Was IYC2008 a moment for life change? People tend to look at the statistics (primarily attendance) to answer that

question, and while we are certainly happy that so many people came, it's the stories those people are telling that provide the best answer. This issue of *YMI* is full of those stories. If you have your own stories to add, please let us know (details for how to do this are below). Even if you don't, begin planning now for a moment of life change at IYC2010 in Orlando, Florida.

Committed to raising up a new generation of Christ-centered leaders,



Andy Stephenson, PhD  
Leader of Youth and Family Ministries

Andy can be reached at  
AStephenson@chog.org.

## IN THIS ISSUE: IYC Reports

### YMT Members



Todd Lovelace   Eric Reeder   Ryan Shockey   Andy Stephenson   Chip Taylor

Hats off to Howard Megill for completing his term on the Youth Ministry Team. Howard will continue on staff at Kentucky Ministries and will still be involved with students—something he could *never* give up! Thanks, Howard, for your years of service!



Howard Megill

Now we put our hats back on for Eric Reeder, the newest member of the Youth Ministry Team. We'll give you all the interesting details of Eric's life in the next issue of *YMI*. For now, welcome, Eric!

### Current YNT members



Tami Byrd (IN)   Mike Hodges (AZ)  
Don Carson (MO)   Eric Reeder (WV)  
Bob Daniels (OH)   Mark Shaner (IN)  
Shane Friesen (KS)   Chris Spitters (MI)  
Kristi Hayes (VA)   Joe Webb (IN)



## WHAT DID GOD DO AT IYC2008?

Go to [www.IYC2008.org](http://www.IYC2008.org), where you can:

Read stories of IYC life change

Post your own IYC stories

View and download the *IYC2008-at-a-Glance* video

## BEYOND IYC

*Although IYC takes place every other summer, many states have annual youth conventions. Following is a report from Warren and Kim Shelton, state youth directors for Tennessee Ministries.*

The Tennessee State Youth Convention was held March 28–30, 2008. This marked our largest convention to date, with 844 attendees! This included people from two congregations who had never sent students to convention before. Clarksville First Church of God brought three students, and all three made decisions for Christ! This is just one of many stories; God truly blessed our gathering and changed lives. Students were released from depression and suicidal thoughts, many dedicated or rededicated their lives to Christ, and others were called to various ministries.

Phenomenal speakers Reggie Dabbs and Keith Elias (former New York Giant and Indianapolis Colt) brought hard-hitting messages that challenged students and adults to combat society's voice of conformity by breaking away from fear and being the voice for their generation—not the echo. Reggie challenged each of us to share the gospel and our personal relationship with Christ with at least one person. Jeff Deyo led us in unbelievable worship. He not only shared musically, but he also spoke of the desire for worship and the importance of worshiping God in our own way—focused on God and not the opinions of those we are with.

Following the convention, Reggie Dabbs spoke to approximately three thousand students at five area high schools. He also spoke at Tusculum College along with several college-

age students who have committed their lives to minister to teens around the world. Reggie shared about the issues of isolation, depression, and desperation that many young people face, using actual student posts from his MySpace page. His moving, and at times humorous, presentations tackled difficult issues head on. Dabbs was joined by Keith Elias. On April 2, the Greeneville Community Outreach Rally was held with over seventeen hundred in attendance. Included were Dabbs's personal testimony and some moving "live videos" vividly portraying Jesus' defeat of sin and freeing us from the chains that prevent us from coming to him. Response cards from the event indicated fifteen salvations, ninety-one rededications, and seven called to ministry.

We can't wait to see what God will do next!

## UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

October 10–13	Youth Specialties Conference	Sacramento, California
October 11	Silver Ring Thing	Wilton, Connecticut
October 12	Silver Ring Thing	Fairfield, Connecticut
October 22	Silver Ring Thing	San Marcos, Texas
October 31–November 3	Youth Specialties Conference	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
November 8	Silver Ring Thing	Grand Rapids, Michigan
November 16	Silver Ring Thing	McKeesport, Pennsylvania
November 21–24	Youth Specialties Conference	Nashville, Tennessee
November 22	Silver Ring Thing	Irmo, South Carolina
December 27–30	National Inspirational Youth Convention	Columbus, Ohio

Web sites for more information: Silver Ring Thing—[www.silverringthing.com](http://www.silverringthing.com)  
Youth Specialties Conference—[www.youthspecialties.com](http://www.youthspecialties.com)  
National Inspirational Youth Convention—[www.niyc.org](http://www.niyc.org)

## A MOMENT WITH LONG-TERM IMPACT

At IYC2002 in Denver, I remember a new program called Spread the Word. Each student was asked to sacrificially give \$20 at that convention, and I think we took up a few offerings that week that were to go directly to STW. At that time I was twenty years old, somewhere between a counselor-in-training and just an older student. Our group members didn't bring much money, but I felt compelled to give nonetheless. Now, six years later, I have graduated with a youth ministry degree and am serving a small church in Kentucky. I was privileged to bring three students with me to IYC2008 in San Antonio. As a part of our trip we decided to go on the STW missions

experience in Piedras Negras, Mexico. To be completely honest, I didn't make the connection until our final night there. We were participating in a rally put on with Spread the Word funds that had been designated for Mexico. Thousands upon thousands of people came to hear the Word of God. While we were there that night, they sang a song that said to God, "People from every nation and tongue, from generation to generation, we worship you!" At that particular moment, as I was listening to thousands of people praising God in both Spanish and English, it struck me that many years ago I gave sacrificially to a cause I knew little about and now here I was,

receiving the fruit of that sacrifice. God has surely blessed me through this experience, and I will continue to give my time and my finances to support the amazing ministry of Spread the Word.

—Kati S. Davis  
(as told to Ryan Shockey)



*Ryan Shockey is the Spread the Word coordinator for the Youth Ministry Team. He is currently on staff at Highland Park Community Church in Casper, Wyoming. He can be reached at [rwshockey@hccc.cc](mailto:rwshockey@hccc.cc).*

## THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

During our recent trip to the 2008 International Youth Convention of the Church of God (more fondly called IYC), we were able to celebrate God's love for us and a student's love for his friends.

This story began a few years ago when David, a middle school student at the time, took up the 360 challenge. 360 Revolution is a strategy of intentional investment in friends who don't know Christ. The challenge is to invest in 3 friends, to pray for them 6 times a week, and to miss 0 opportunities to reflect Christ's love to them.

Well, David decided to take this challenge seriously and began investing in others. He invited some friends to the middle school program at church. They liked it and began coming each week. Then these friends

invited some friends, who eventually invited some friends, who then in turn also invited some friends. Before long David had his entire soccer team coming to church, which would eventually lead to more than sixty new students coming to youth group. Many of them accepted Christ and were baptized.

David has since moved with his family to Georgia, but he had the opportunity to attend IYC2008 with his friends from his old church and tell the story of what God had done. While at IYC, David and one of his friends from his soccer team, Steven, accepted and confirmed a call to full-time vocational ministry.

It seems unbelievable that at a young age a boy would know God's love and say yes to caring about his friends. In the name of God, David loved his

friends, and these friends loved others, and more than sixty students were impacted. But God's love didn't stop there. God went on to call at least two of these students to devote their lives to full-time ministry, which in turn will impact hundreds of people.

That is how God's love is. It starts with just one and ends up spreading to so many people that we can't even count them all. It has brought fresh meaning to the IYC theme scripture of 1 Corinthians 13: "But the greatest of these is love."



*Chip Taylor is a Youth Ministry Team member and the youth pastor at Bayside Community Church in Safety Harbor, Florida. He can be reached at [chip@baysidechurch.net](mailto:chip@baysidechurch.net).*

# THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

When I reflect upon IYC, many thoughts come to my mind, as I'm sure they do for you if you have ever been to IYC. Prior to 2008, the last IYC in San Antonio was in 1992. Guy Doud challenged us to a whole new level of being lovers of people. I left broken and in tears but knew it was a Jesus moment.

At IYC2002 in Denver, I was blessed to lead the Silent Walk. I watched from the platform, alongside Chris Tomlin, as God moved powerfully among his people in worship and the Communion service. Wow—our God is so awesome!

My favorite memory of IYC2008 actually happened *before* the start of the convention. One of my responsibilities this year was the preconvention prayer walk. I personally walked that route at least three times before the official walk began, never fully understanding how long it

would take for a large group of people to make the walk while focused in prayer. Because the prayer walk takes place before the official start of convention, we have no idea how many people will attend. That morning, we were pleasantly surprised to have a near-record number, an estimated seventeen hundred to eighteen hundred people. Starfield (the worship leaders) was great to work with, and the SLT (Student Leadership Team) members were their usual awesome selves, but I was not sure we were going to be able to direct that many people in a prayer walk around the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center. As the last of the students (who all were incredibly focused and prayerful) were dismissed from Ballroom C, I walked out into the upstairs lobby—only to be met by the students from the front of the line, who were finishing the prayer walk. It dawned on me that for a brief moment, these students and

adults who were a part of IYC 2008 were “reflecting” God by completely surrounding and encircling the Convention Center with prayer. That was a God moment for me.

I would like to say “thanks” to everyone who has taken any part in making IYC a moment for life change. Thanks for seeking God for your students and yourself, for showing up, for being obedient, and for being salt and light. It has been the biggest privilege and blessing of my life to be so closely involved with IYC over the years. Here's to many more memories of life change along your journey.

*Howard Megill is completing his term as a member of the Youth Ministry Team. He serves*



*as the state youth leader for Kentucky Ministries. He can be reached at [howard@kycog.org](mailto:howard@kycog.org).*

# 360

*Revolution*

pray for *3* friends

*6* times a week

miss *0* opportunities

# Warner Press YOUTH RESOURCES

To order printed materials, contact Warner Press at 1-800-741-7721 or visit [www.warnerpress.org](http://www.warnerpress.org).  
To order *the Journey*, go to [www.thejourney.net](http://www.thejourney.net).

## BRIDGES Youth Series

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**Youth Walk** is a hybrid—part devotional, part magazine. The bulk of each *Youth Walk* consists of "devos"—chunks of writing about how the Bible, God's Word, applies to our lives. The devos are numbered but not dated, so that spending time with God moves beyond a daily requirement to a genuine encounter with God through God's Word. Plus, the other stuff (feature articles, artist interviews, and real-life student stories) gives insight into what it looks like to have a real faith that only comes from a relationship with the very real God.

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**Youth leaders** can use *Youth Walk* as curriculum for Sunday school, mid-week activities, or small groups.

## the Journey

*an extended conversation about discipleship*

[www.thejourney.net.org](http://www.thejourney.net.org)

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We have spent a lot of time updating and expanding [www.chogy.org](http://www.chogy.org). This youth ministry Web site now has even more tools to support you in your work, including:

- Current and future events calendar
- Free curriculum, including 360 Revolution and Spread the Word
- Contact information for individuals across North America who can provide training and coaching for you and your volunteers
- A compilation of recommended books, curriculum, conferences, Web sites, and other useful resources
- Ever-growing lists of teen services opportunities, fundraising ideas, and message outlines
- Links to Church of God colleges across North America
- Current and archived issues of the *Youth Ministry Informer (YMI)*, a free regular newsletter containing youth ministry tips and news.

[WWW.CHOGY.ORG](http://WWW.CHOGY.ORG)

COMMITTED TO RAISING UP A NEW GENERATION OF CHRIST-CENTERED LEADERS

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