

# YMI

REACH • DISCIPLE • EMPOWER

Youth Ministry Informer  
FALL 2010 • VOL. 15, NO. 3

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

## LIFE CHANGE

It's just the beginning. IYC staff and the nearly 5,000 students and their leaders have all returned home, but the journey is just beginning.

As I reflect back on the four days, I am amazed at what God did. LOVE was the theme, and we learned what it means to love God, love ourselves, love others, and love the world. It was incredible to see the thousands of students kneel and write to God. It was overwhelming to see the packed Emerging Leaders Gathering with the 550 students who may be discerning a call by God to a vocational ministry. The 60,000 meals packed for Haiti, the 236,000 pounds of food sorted for a food bank, hundreds of lives touched in the central Florida area by students who devoted themselves to working for three days to impact communities—life change happened!. The LOVE continues as we hear the numerous stories coming in of students who showed the LOVE of Jesus to those around them that are too numerous to list in this short article.

What we do know is that IYC is just the launching pad to send students back into their communities to LOVE those around them. The stories of

students whose lives have been revolutionized by God have been encouraging. IYC is just a launching pad to help students live out their faith once they get home. New evangelism teaching tools are available at [www.chogy.org](http://www.chogy.org), and students were sent out with a thirty-day devotional to help them on their journey.

For those who were there, our prayer is that the journey is just beginning. For those who missed it, our prayer is that you will be a part of the move as we strive together to raise up a new generation of Christ-centered leaders.

Together raising up a new generation of Christ-centered leaders,



Andy Stephenson, Ph.D.  
Leader of Youth and  
Family Ministries

Andy can be reached at  
[AStephenson@chog.org](mailto:AStephenson@chog.org).

*PS. Mark your calendars for IYC2012, July 4-7, 2012, in Denver, Colorado. Don't miss this time of life change!*

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LIFE CHANGE

### YMT Members



Tami  
Byrd

Eric  
Reeder

Chris  
Spitters

Andy  
Stephenson

Chip  
Taylor

### Current YNT members



Kyle Cooper (VA)  
Mike Fackler (OK)  
Adam Rentas (CA)  
Chris Spitters (MI)

Shane Friesen (KS)  
Michael Thigpen (MD)  
Mark Shaner (IN)  
Kim Schuessler (IN)

# SPREAD STW THE WORD

## SPREAD THE WORD REACHES A MILESTONE

At the International Youth Convention in Orlando, total donations to Spread the Word topped the half-million-dollar mark thanks to \$53,632.50 in offerings from convention attendees. Since it began in 2002, STW has provided tools for evangelism in twenty-eight countries and on six continents across the globe. Praise God for his faithfulness!

Ushers at the convention expressed what a moving experience it was to collect the offerings. Joe Bowman, an adult chaperone, said, "People were really digging deep, many giving \$20, \$50, or even \$100. Some had brought checks to give, and you could tell that they really planned and prepared for this. It was cool to see how eager people were to support Spread the Word."

Throughout the convention, missionaries were interviewed onstage and via Skype, giving them opportunity to share how STW funds have affected their ministries. Convention attendees were challenged to make STW a part of their ministries at home and not just something they support at IYC. Consider these ways to incorporate Spread the Word into your local youth ministry:

- Take a weekly offering in your youth gathering designated for STW.
- Ask students to give up the cost of a cup of coffee or a meal each week to give toward STW.
- Have your students collect spare change and send it each quarter to STW. Use piggy banks, have "Penny Wars," or collect a mile of pennies.
- Challenge your students to make pledges to give to STW. (Sample pledge cards available on the CHOGY Web site.)
- Already overwhelmed with various fund raisers for your ministry? Consider tithing 10 percent of your profits to STW.

For more information about Spread the Word and to find eighteen FREE teaching lessons, go to [www.chogy.org](http://www.chogy.org) and click on Spread the Word. You can also follow us on twitter at [www.twitter.com/chogy\\_stw](http://www.twitter.com/chogy_stw).



Tami Byrd is a member of the Youth Ministry Team and the youth pastor at South Memorial Drive Church of God in New Castle, Indiana. She can be reached at [tami@smdcog.org](mailto:tami@smdcog.org). She helps facilitate communication between STW and those on the field.

*Do you have students who are sensing a call to ministry or missions who are high school seniors or college students? Have them visit our intern academy at [www.internacademy.net](http://www.internacademy.net) or [www.chogy.org](http://www.chogy.org) for STW internships around the world.*

### FEATURED RESOURCES

New 360 thirty-day challenge lesson material. Four weeks of free lessons to help your students share the LOVE of Jesus around them. Download at [www.iyc2010.org](http://www.iyc2010.org) or [www.chogy.org](http://www.chogy.org).



**ONE MEAL DAY**  
Feel the Hunger

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**October 20, 2010**  
One Meal One Day Campaign  
[www.onemealoneday.com](http://www.onemealoneday.com)

PREVIOUS ISSUES OF YOUTH MINISTRY INFORMER CAN BE ACCESSED AT [WWW.CHOGY.ORG](http://WWW.CHOGY.ORG). SEE THE TAB ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE.

# LOVE NEVER FAILS!

As I stood in the back of the auditorium on our second night together, I experienced a moment I will never forget. Reggie Dabbs was finishing his message and he put out a bold and unusual challenge when he asked kids to stand who were thinking about, struggling with, or contemplating suicide. I remember that moment as I felt a lump in my throat and had a flood of questions run through my mind.

Then the moment came for kids to stand. I was sitting in the middle of my own student ministry group when a girl directly behind me and a girl directly to my left both stood. They were both from our student ministry, and I had no idea they were dealing with this issue.

I went over to pray, hug, and cry with one of them. I felt so much. And there was so much I felt that I didn't understand and couldn't process in the moment. I

just know it seemed like a long time ago when student ministry was about "chubby bunnies" and "Kum Ba Yah." Times are obviously much different. The enemy is playing for keeps, and he is trying to destroy what God has made for good.

This young woman had fallen away from God over the last year and hadn't been to church much. I tried to text her or contact her on Facebook as often as I remembered, but I just couldn't seem to reach her. One day I saw her on her high school campus; she had heard about IYC and asked if she could go. I was shocked that she would even want to. She would have no money but would be sponsored by a church scholarship.

She would later tell me with tears streaming down her face that she hadn't come to youth group because she felt so guilty about wanting to commit suicide. But today she is experiencing God's grace,

a youth group's love, and a new hope. Praise be to God!

When I reflect back, I am blown away at the truth that love never fails. The love of God expressed in a teenage friend who invited the young woman to come. The love of God expressed in an adult who gave a scholarship to an unnamed kid. The love of God expressed in a man named Reggie. The love of God expressed in the many who prayed, planned, and prepared for God to work however he wanted. The love of God expressed in students who promise to walk beside a friend who was lost. Love certainly never, ever fails!



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).

**NOTE: Thanks, Chip, for delivering a challenging message to LOVE others on Saturday night at IYC.**

## IYC2010 EMERGING LEADERS—"I'M SERIOUS"

During IYC2008, the Emerging Leaders Gathering was formed and took place in San Antonio, Texas. With hundreds of students accepting God's call to ministry and missions, emerging leaders began to rise up. No one could expect and plan for what would happen at IYC2010. On Friday, July 16, Reggie Dabbs challenged students with a message about loving and accepting yourself, including the call God has on our lives. The next morning, on Saturday, July 17, the IYC team planned for three hundred to four hundred students to attend the Emerging Leaders Gathering, not realizing that within the hour students would be lined up through the hotel and air walls would need to be torn down. An estimated 550-plus students flooded into

our small gathering, committing themselves to God's call, serious about his plan for their lives.

This was not about a great speech or emotionalism but about students who are serious about changing their world. For over an hour, students processed with other emerging leaders from their region about what their individual calls look like. Within each region, a champion was there to support, encourage, and begin to mentor these students.

As emerging leader champions, we are serious about walking alongside these students. Each name will be relayed back to the local church so that each individual

can be contacted and mentors found for each one. These students took the first step; it is now our responsibility to meet them where they are to challenge, encourage, and mentor them. After watching hundreds of students accept their call, we believe that a new generation of Christ-centered leaders is truly rising up to lead the church and will lead well. Please continue to support and pray for these students as they begin to rise up and take their place in his kingdom.



Mark Shaner is a Youth Network Team member and the youth pastor at East Side Church of God in Anderson, Indiana. He can be reached at [mshaner@eschog.org](mailto:mshaner@eschog.org).

# GOD IS USING STW TO CHANGE LIVES AROUND THE WORLD!

IYC is all about life change. Spread the Word (STW) is all about spreading the gospel through tools for evangelism around the world. Both happened this past July as almost two hundred students from around the United States converged on Orlando for the pre-IYC2010 STW mission trip. The students were split among three sites, working with two church plants/restarts in Orlando and one in Titusville, Florida.

Students worked to spread the word in the communities through work projects and the canvassing of the communities with water bottles and flyers promoting evangelistic outreach events. Each of these STW sites was designed with the idea that students would come alongside each church and help extend its reach into the community. God worked in powerful ways at each of these sites.

Here is one story of how God called a student to ministry during the STW mission trip before IYC:

Our STW mission trip was to Titusville, Florida, where we partnered with New Venture Church, a church planted around three years ago. Our group helped put on a massive outreach event for families in the area. More than eight hundred community members showed up the night of the event, and hundreds of lives were touched by the efforts of our students and leaders. Following the event, we went back to the church's headquarters for a pizza party. After pizza, we began to sing a couple worship songs. During one of the songs, I

felt a tug on my heart to go up to the altar and spend some time in prayer. I was a little scared to hear what God had to say. I was fighting the tug to go to the altar through the whole song. I told God I just wasn't ready yet. Finally, after another song, I went to the altar. I knew what he was going to say to me. I think he had been trying to tell me for a while, and I kept pushing it aside, believing it wasn't for me. I heard God speak "youth ministry" into my heart. I kept thinking, "No, God. There's no way I can do that. I can't handle that call. I'm not equipped for that." During that prayer time, God told me that I could do it, that I was supported and loved, and that he would equip and use me if I let him. So, I'm still pretty unsure of what that looks like for me, but I know that I'm going to be impacting teenagers' lives for the kingdom for the rest of my life, and nothing excites me more than that!

God is always at work. He worked in so many lives during the pre-IYC STW mission trip, and he continued to transform lives during IYC.

Here is a story of life change that happened in a student's life at IYC along with the close to five thousand students and leaders during one of the services:

God spent the entire time during IYC preparing and softening my heart for what he was going to reveal to me. He spent a lot of time humbling and making me patient during the first portion of IYC. I have always had a heart for Uganda, Africa. I've always

wanted to go there somehow and help the people. I never wanted to be a missionary though. I didn't want to have that title, and I didn't feel worthy of it. On the last day of IYC, Marilyn Laszlo came to speak to us about loving the world. Obviously, with my passion for Uganda I felt a connection to her message. After her message and during our worship time, God revealed a bit of his plan to me. God spoke to me and said he knows the passions that are in my heart because he is the one who put them there. Then he said that I needed to stop trying to make my own way. He said that he has a plan and that I needed to surrender and trust him. Then, as tears were rolling down my face, he asked me, "Do you really think you could be happy serving me any other way?" That was his way of telling me that I needed to be a missionary. He knew that I wasn't going to be fully satisfied doing it any way but his way. I was scared, excited, and peaceful all at the same time. Now I'm just waiting and listening for what God has in store for me.

We are all praising God for working in the lives of people through IYC2010!



Eric Reeder is a member of the Youth Ministry Team. He has served as the youth pastor at Madison Park Church of God in Anderson, Indiana, since 2009. He came on the

YMT while he was serving in West Virginia. Since he came on the YMT representing the Northeast region, this region will continue to be his primary focus. He can be reached at [ereeder@madisonparkchurch.org](mailto:ereeder@madisonparkchurch.org)

## JUST A FEW STORIES FROM IYC

### CASSIE

IYC was so amazing. This was my second IYC, and I got so much out of it this time. It's made a huge difference in my life. If it weren't for IYC, I wouldn't be the person I am today. I've learned that by showing others God's love, it makes everything work smoother and I find myself smiling a lot more than before.

### SETH

This morning IYC offered everyone the opportunity to choose two out of about sixteen different youth conferences, or breakout sessions. I went through the list and saw several very interesting topics, but I eventually chose one called "We Need Each Other," which talked about how everybody needs to have friendships and mentors, because without fellowship with other Christians, it makes one's spiritual life much more difficult, and another called "Why do I need a Chaperone?" which talked about how to make a successful Christian relationship the way God intended.

After I went to my first session, I went and talked to a few friends until it was time to go to the next one. The room it was in was labeled "W110b," so I walked around and tried to find it. I thought I had found it when I found a room that had "W110" in it's name, but unfortunately I didn't realize that it was "W110a," which was a completely different conference called "Mission Possible," which talked about living out God's work as a mission.

I feel like God definitely was involved with my little "mistake," because I feel like the knowledge I found in that session benefited me so much. It's really funny and awesome how God works, isn't it? He wanted me in that room, so that's where I ended up.

### DEVAN

After the silent walk on Saturday night, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior.

### KIM

We went to a neighborhood and picked up trash around a few homes and busi-

nesses. We talked with one gentleman who remembered IYC being in Orlando ten years ago and was thrilled that we were there around his store! A lady who came by asked if we were with Community Action. We explained who we were and why we were there. Her response was, "God bless you! This neighborhood needs it!"

### JEFF

We went to an area of homeless in downtown Orlando. We gave them water, food, and care packages. We also spent time talking about God and listening to their wonderful stories of how all they need is God! It's amazing that their love of God is more important than anything material. Our youth learned a lot from them. One man (Miguel) was given a Bible after we learned his was stolen while he slept. He cried and was so happy for us for taking the time to talk. The best experience I have ever had. God is good.



Thinking about a summer missions trip? Check out the great servant leadership trips that our friends at Lead222 offer at [www.lead222.com](http://www.lead222.com) under the training opportunities tab.

## START TO PLAN NOW FOR IYC2012, JULY 4-7, 2012, IN DENVER, COLORADO.

### UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

December 27-30, 2010 NIYC is in Chicago, IL—[www.niyc.org](http://www.niyc.org)

March 4-7, 2011 Simply Youth Ministry Conference, Chicago, IL (youth worker training)—  
<http://conference.youthministry.com>

July 19-23, 2011  Leadership Summit, Anderson, IN (the goal is to alternate between a CHOG campus and Washington, DC, every other summit)—[www.chogy.org](http://www.chogy.org)

July 4-7, 2012 IYC2012, Denver, Colorado

## THANK YOU! . . . THANK YOU! . . . THANK YOU!



We thank Mark for his service to the Youth Ministry Team over this last year. Mark was one of the early YMT members, 2001-2003, and then came back on this last year. We are so grateful for his service to the YMT. Mark will stay a part of the Youth Network Team helping us with his wisdom.



Howard has taken a new position as area administrator for the state of Missouri. We are so grateful for Howard's service over the years to the team as a YMT and YNT member and are excited for him and his new position.



Matt has taken a senior pastorate at City Spring Church in Noblesville, Indiana. We are excited for Matt and know God will use him there. We thank Matt for his service to the YNT.

## WELCOME!



Chris Spitters is the newest member of the Youth Ministry Team. Chris has been a member of the Youth Network Team (YNT) since 2004 and is a veteran in youth ministry. He has been a youth pastor at his current church at St. Joseph, Michigan, for twenty years. We are excited about what Chris brings to the YMT. Chris has been the director of our high school band at IYC for the last two conventions.

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