

YMI

REACH • DISCIPLE • EMPOWER

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

THE 5 PRINCIPLE TRAINING SYSTEM

One of the dreams of the Youth Ministry and Youth Network Teams is to be a catalyst to help train youth leaders around the world. The **5 Principle Training System** is based on the SHAPE initiative of the Church of God and includes the principles of Spirituality, Vision, Leadership, Knowledge/Culture, and Relational/Connectivity. This system was developed with the belief that these five principles apply across cultures. In January 2008, the principles were piloted with youth leaders in Africa.

The dream is for this system to be a tool that local, state/provincial, regional, and national youth leaders everywhere can use to teach and train the leaders in their groups. **The 5 Principle Training System materials can be downloaded free at www.chogy.org.**

This issue of *YMI* will provide an overview of the five principles; future issues will cover the principles in more depth.

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The 5 Principle Training System

YMT Members



Todd Lovelace

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UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

February 16–22, 2009

FUEL Week
www.fuelweek.org

February 27–
March 9, 2009

National Youth Ministry
Conference—Columbus, Ohio
conference.youthministry.com

June 26–July 1, 2009

North American Convention—
Anderson, Indiana
www.chog.org

Summer 2009

Leadership Summit—
For information, contact
Sandina at SShort@chog.org.

SPIRITUALITY

I just spoke with a sixteen-year veteran youth pastor whom I recently started coaching. I asked him what his goals were for our nine months together, and the one thing he said he desperately needs help with is leadership development. As I probed further, I began to sense his desperation. His heart's cry is to grow as a spiritual leader. I think this is a common feeling among many youth leaders. I know that I myself have struggled with it from time to time.

One of the most crucial areas in the 5 Principle Training System is spirituality. Youth pastors and teachers have a goal to help expand the kingdom of God, to be better leaders. Yet so often we get sidetracked into believing that the focus should be on developing skills—becoming better teachers or better counselors. The truth is that when we learn to understand ourselves and who we are in Christ and continue to grow in our intimacy with our heavenly Father, we will

benefit personally, but we will also become more effective spiritual leaders to those whom we serve.

Look at the pairings below. For each, which term best describes where your attention and energy are most directed?

- Natural leadership/
Spiritual leadership
- Self-confident/
Confident in God
- Knows people/
Knows God
- Makes own decisions/
Seeks God's will
- Ambitious/
Humble
- Creates methods/
Follows God's example
- Enjoys command/
Delights in obedience to God
- Seeks personal reward/
Loves God and others
- Independent/
Depends on God

Psalm 139:13-16 (NIV) says, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb...My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." God knows us well! Being intimate with him is not an optional activity. We must prioritize this relationship so that we don't get carried away by all of the external voices that exist in the world, in our ministries, and in our churches. We should never become so busy doing the work of ministry that we lose our own spirituality.



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360

Revolution

Download free materials
at www.chogy.org

pray for *3* friends

6 times a week

miss *0* opportunities

LEADERSHIP

I remember as a young youth pastor hearing a phrase from a John Maxwell cassette tape (yes, it was a long time ago): “Leadership is influence. Everything rises and falls on leadership.” What I didn’t know at the time was how accurate that concept was—or how important it would become for me.

Leadership is essential, and it makes a difference. Great leadership pours into others, and it has lasting impact. It models, teaches, and guides. Moses poured his life into Joshua. Jesus poured his life into the disciples. Paul poured his life into Timothy.

All leaders today made it to where they are by having at least one person, probably several people, who invested in them and helped them achieve. None of us got here on our own. Here are some important things to remember as you seek to improve your leadership:

· Every leader needs to be COACHED.

A coach, or mentor, is someone you connect with at least monthly who asks you the hard questions and the right questions. This person should be older than you both physically and spiritually and should be someone you respect greatly. He or she not only encourages your leadership but also prays for you, challenges you, holds you accountable, and is committed to speaking truth into your life. Paul is a biblical example of such a coach.

· Every leader needs TEAMMATES.

A teammate is someone you see as a peer. This is someone who understands you and cheers for you, someone you share life with and seek advice from. Look for at least two people who could be your teammates and whom you could connect with monthly for encouragement, support, and accountability. Barnabas is a biblical example of such a teammate.

· Every leader needs to COACH OTHERS.

To be a great leader you need to be reproducing yourself. Find others with great potential and ask them if they would be interested in a mentoring relationship. If yes, then spend time with them regularly. If no, keep looking. Model for them your relationship with Christ and involve them in your leadership. Teach, train, and encourage them, and give them chances to lead. Your influence will grow and the kingdom impact will increase. Timothy is a biblical example of someone who was coached.

Including these people in your life will increase your influence and undoubtedly make you a better leader!



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.

KNOWLEDGE/CULTURE

All of us in youth ministry hope to be able to relate to our students; we want to understand them and their culture. The 5 Principle Training System is designed to help youth workers gain knowledge, understanding, and wisdom for effectively relating to students and their culture. Gaining knowledge and wisdom is critical if we want to be effective in youth ministry.

Simply stated, knowledge is knowing—having practical understanding of some-

thing. In order to know something, you have to spend time with that situation. In order to know a person, you have to spend time with that person in relationship. Wisdom is the ability to take knowledge and apply it to life and ministry. Webster defines it as “a wise attitude, belief, or course of action”—basically, doing what you know is right to do.

In ministry, we want to take knowledge of the Scriptures and apply it to our lives while doing all we can to relate biblical

truth effectively. It is important for us to know the culture we minister in and be able to relate the truth of the Word of God effectively to the people within that culture. In order to do that, we must have a growing understanding of that culture. We need to be students of it. The more we understand the culture in which we minister, the greater our effectiveness can be.

One reason that youth ministry is so exciting is that student culture is constantly changing. It’s tough work to keep up,

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but it's worth the effort. Romans 12:2 in *The Message* says, "Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking." Isn't that what happens? Many of the students we minister to are living very "well-adjusted" to their culture. They are consumed by it, not even thinking about it. As youth workers, we need to be intentional in helping students think about how they are living and the choices they are making. Surviving cultural influences is possible. If we can mentor students to be "in but not of" the world, we should celebrate that victory!

I always try to encourage my students to think. I want them to discover the truth of the Scriptures. We must encourage students to grow in their own faith and knowledge of God, to grow in their own understanding of what the Bible teaches in order to be able to survive in their culture.

Youth workers love to pour into the lives of students. We love to mentor, to do all we can to raise up a generation of Christ-centered leaders. We can do this better when we take the knowledge of the Scriptures and the wisdom we have gained, combine them with an under-

standing of student culture we have developed by spending time with students, and invest ourselves in helping them to move deeper in their own understanding of God, the Bible, and faith.



Eric Reeder is the newest member of the Youth Ministry Team. He is the youth pastor at Liberty Street Church of God in Parkersburg, West Virginia, and serves as the West Virginia state youth advisor. He can be reached at ereederi2j@juno.com.

the Journey www.thejourney.net.org

Where Young Adults Find Direction for Life

Young adults are seeking spiritual direction on the journey of life and faith. But times have changed.

Today's technology means that we can access an infinite amount of resources for the journey anywhere, anytime. We still need direction, but we need discipleship tools that are flexible, tools that work. We need a new way to find spiritual direction.

The Journey is where the journey of life and faith and the technology of today intersect. It's a Web-based *postmodern* resource featuring direct links to Scripture, commentaries, music, artwork, history, and much more.

Each edition of **the Journey** explores issues that are timely and relevant to the journey of life and faith. It's formatted to provide you with the discipleship tools you need, when you need them, for as long as you need them. It's designed to help young adults *discover* authentic relationships, *develop* a mutually supportive community, and be *deployed* for practical outreach and service.

Come join **the Journey**. Log on to www.thejourney.net.org.

Kevin Stiffler, Editor

To try **the Journey** online, go to www.thejourney.net.org and click on "Sample the Journey for free."



RELATIONAL/CONNECTIVITY

Each of us has particular needs in life. The physical needs of food, water, and sleep are basic for all of us. Each of us also has spiritual needs—the need for redemption, the forgiveness of sin, and the unconditional love of God. And we really do need each other—in life and particularly in our walk with Christ. We were created to serve God and minister to him, but we are also here to serve our families and others.

There are some key relational needs that each of us has to some extent or another:

- Acceptance
- Affection
- Appreciation
- Approval
- Attention
- Comfort
- Encouragement
- Respect

- Security
- Support

When we understand which of these relational needs are important to us personally and which are important to the others in our lives, our relationships grow deeper and we become more effective at serving one another.

Author Gary Chapman believes there are five primary ways that we meet the relational needs of others and have our own relational needs met:

- Words of affirmation
- Spending quality time together
- Gifts
- Acts of service
- Physical touch

Psalm 141:5 (NLT) says, “Let the godly strike me! It will be a kindness! If they

correct me, it is soothing medicine. Don’t let me refuse it.” Having a godly truth teller in your life is one of the most important things you can do for your ministry. We all know of prominent leaders who have fallen because of the lack of godly direction and input from others.

The 5 Principle Training System provides some great tools for understanding and meeting relational needs, including building relationships where the truth is spoken in love.



Kevin Stiffler is the youth curriculum editor for Church of God Ministries in Anderson, Indiana. He also edits *YMI* and the youth ministries Web site (www.chogy.org). He can be reached at KLStiffler@chog.org.

VISION

I am one of the mechanically challenged citizens of this world. To put it in politically incorrect terms, I am mechanically stupid. I have a hard time working on anything that has to be put together (just ask my mechanically gifted wife). Usually, without step-by-step directions that include pictures, I am toast. Thank goodness for pictures.

Many of us do ministry without a clear picture of where we are headed. Those of us who do have distinct plans often can’t describe what the end result is to look like. What do we want our students to know once they are out of our youth

ministries? How do we hope they will live?

A clear vision is essential to healthy student ministries. The vision section of the 5 Principle Training System includes biblically based concepts to help you develop a vision for your ministry. It will help you and your team work together to identify what you really value, think through where you want to go, and chart a course for how you are going to get there.

Our prayer is that the 5 Principles will help all of us as together we raise up

a new generation of Christ-centered leaders.

“And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit” (Ephesians 2:22 NIV).



As the as the leader of Youth and Family Ministries at Church of God Ministries in Anderson, Indiana, Andy Stephenson heads up the Youth Ministry Team. He can be reached at youth@chog.org.



We have spent a lot of time updating and expanding 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

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