

# Youth & Family Service Team Report

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June 2012

## History

The Youth and Family Service Team has served to advance healthy teen and family-based ministries in our churches since 2006. At its inception, the committee planned the first Youth and Family Conference in Boston in 2007 under the leadership of chairman John Porter, evangelist in the South Florida Church of Christ. He and its twelve members coordinated the Boston conference in 2007, the 2009 ICYFM (International Conference of Youth and Family Ministry) in Chicago, began a resource website at [www.liveit2giveit.org](http://www.liveit2giveit.org), and worked with leaders from other service teams to facilitate healthy communication.

## Current Youth & Family Service Team Members

Africa: Southern	Dave Pocta	*chairman
British Isles	Adrian Hill	
Canada	Kevin Hoecke	
India	Roger Mathew	
Mexico	Roberto Arroyo	
U.S.: ACR	Doug Lambert	
U.S.: Heartland	Maurice Hooks	
U.S.: Los Angeles	John Mannel	
U.S.: Midwest	Curt Ammons	
U.S.: New England	Phil Arsenault	
U.S.: New York	Damon Curtis	
U.S.: Southeast	Mike Block	
U.S.: Southwest	Shane Engel	
U.S.: Texas	Derik Vett	
Ukraine	Ura Kovtoniuk	

## Conferences

The Youth & Family service team coordinates an international conference every odd numbered year (Boston in 2007, Chicago in 2009, L.A. in 2011). During the even numbered years, we have encouraged the geographic regions to host conferences that worked to facilitate the development of youth and family ministry in their respective areas. For example, in July 2010, the Johannesburg Church hosted a Youth & Family Conference for church leaders and families, having over 700 in attendance.

The attendees of the International Youth & Family conferences have grown significantly.

2007 Boston	400 attendees
2009 Chicago	700 attendees
2011 L.A.	1000 attendees

2011 has been the year of global expansion. From the inception of the service team, most of the conferences had taken place in the USA.

### Youth & Family Conferences Hosted in 2011

Los Angeles (International Conference)  
London (European)  
Lagos, Nigeria (14 Nigerian churches)  
Bali, Indonesia (For SE Asia churches)  
Johannesburg (For southern Africa churches)

### UPDATED REPORT FROM Johannesburg from June 2012

The Southern African family of churches had an amazing third annual family conference for the in Johannesburg in June 2012. This year our attendance increased to 950 and we saw a Jo'burg record attendance on Sunday of 2200.

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE for 2013

We are excited to announce the New York City church will host the next ICYFM (International Conference of Youth & Family Ministry) in conjunction with the 2013 Delegates meeting and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the New York City church.

The dates will be as follows:

Wednesday, 11 September	Delegates Dinner
Thursday, 12 September	Delegates Meeting
Friday, 13 September	Delegates Meeting (morning and afternoon) ICYFM Opening (evening)
Saturday, 14 September	ICYFM
Sunday, 15 September	30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service NY Church Youth & Family Conference

### Youth & Family Ministry Survey

The Youth & Family Service Team conducted a survey at the beginning of the year. We asked the churches to help us collect some basic information that will help us understand how things are going around the world with our ministries. The survey collected the following information:

Number of Teens Grade 9-12 (Ages 15-18)  
Number of them that are disciples  
Number of teens that graduated from teen ministry in 2009  
Number of them that were disciples (still are disciples)

61 churches responded to the survey. The cumulative data for these churches showed:

Percentage of teenagers that are disciples (aged 14-18)	<b>33%</b>
Percentage of teen graduates that were disciples 2010	<b>64%</b>

## Healthy Youth & Family Ministry Characteristics – DOCUMENT

The Youth & Family Service Team submitted the following document to the delegates in Budapest in December 2011. It was voted on and accepted.

The document reads as follows:

God's salvation plan has always involved families. At the beginning of the Hebrew Canon in Genesis 17:7 God promised Abraham,

"I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you."

As the church began in Acts 2:38-39, the promise was echoed,

"Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Our churches should reflect God's heart for the generations. God's will is that faith should be passed on to our children. While the name Youth & Family Ministry is fairly new to our family of churches, the concept is not. We have always desired our children to have deep, meaningful relationships with God. The shift is purposeful in recognizing the importance and influence of the family in the spiritual development of our children. The family has always been God's primary vessel. The church works alongside the family to assist in spiritual formation and discipleship.

Obviously each church is different. We have different needs and resources. We will have different schedules and methods, but we can look at common traits that should be in place for any healthy ministry. There are some tangible measurements to determine a church's effectiveness, such as the number of teenagers that are disciples. But there are many intangibles that are important as well. We have listed some critical characteristics herein:

1. Christian parents who are committed and involved in the spiritual lives of their teens.
2. A strong teamwork between the church leaders, the Youth and Family leaders, the parents, the teen workers, and the teens.
3. Parents being regularly equipped by the church leadership through both discipling and training.
4. Teens being discipled and matured in faith, character, knowledge, and use of God's Word.
5. The majority of the kingdom kids (those who have grown up in the church)

being converted and staying faithful through their later teen years.

6. Teen disciples successfully transitioning into campus and/or single ministries where they continue as faithful and giving disciples.
7. Teens of non-members and their families being influenced by teen disciples and their families, studying the Bible, and getting baptized.
8. Strong spiritual relationships with the other teens, campus students, and adults across the church.
9. A strong connection to other Youth and Family Ministries in sister churches, to the International Conference of Youth and Family Ministry, and to HOPE Youth Corps.
10. A dynamic, fun, and spiritual youth ministry!

## **World Discipleship Summit**

The Youth & Family Service Team has had the honor of planning the teen track of the World Discipleship Summit in San Antonio. We are excited about having 1800 teenagers registered. We have over 200 teens coming from outside of the USA and many of them will be sharing and praying in our classes.

## **Conclusion**

We are honored to serve on this service team. We welcome input, suggestions, and ideas. Please feel free to contact any of us and we can bring your questions and concerns to the group.

May God bless our families!

Submitted by:

Dave Pocta

Chairman, Youth & Family Service Team