



CLASSIC

YOUTH MINISTRY

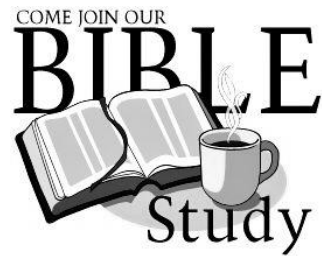
SECTION B



*Compiled and produced by
Tom Horton*

II Tim. 2:2

*"The things which you have heard from me
in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men
who will be able to teach others also."*



I Timothy 4:12

Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

Call me if you want to talk about any of this material or just youth ministry in general.

Tom Horton 206-954-4100



CLASSIC YOUTH MINISTRY

- Youth Worker Survival Tips
- Longevity in Youth Ministry
- Parenting Priorities
 & You Can Never Be
- The Transforming Tool of Retreats
- Visitation of Teens
- A Changed Life – Changes Lives
- Developing Student Leaders
- 12 Keys to Making a Difference as a
 Volunteer Youth Leader
- Youth Ministry on a Limited Budget

FIVE KEY QUESTIONS FOR ANY YOUTH PROGRAM

- 1. **What kind of young person** does the church want to deploy into the world at graduation?
- 2. **What kind of youth program** makes possible that kind of young person
- 3. **What kind of leadership team** makes that kind of youth program possible?
- 4. **What kind of youth leader** makes possible that kind of leadership team?
- 5. **What must happen in the life of the youth leader** which will make him / her that kind of a youth leader?

YOUTH WORKER SURVIVAL TIPS

THE TOP TEN LIST

By R. J. Thompson 1996

This "Top 10" list is divided among the following four broad areas:

➤ **KNOWLEDGE - What the effective youth worker should know.**

1. **The priority of disciple making** - Disciple making is the heartbeat of God. Jesus came to earth to model disciple making. All of Jesus' ministry was focused on disciple making. His final words to his disciples, contained in the Great Commission, give each of us as youth workers our purpose statement for youth ministry.
2. **The description of a disciple** - If we are trying to make disciples we, had better have a clear understanding of what a disciple looks like. What is the product that we are trying to develop? A simple definition of a disciple is someone who has the character and priorities of Jesus. If we cannot develop a clear definition of a disciple, we will not be able to design the program and structures we need in order to build disciples.
3. **The phases of disciple making** - We work with a mixed multitude of students. They are at many different levels of spiritual interest. A youth worker must have an understanding of the different challenges that are used to reach different students for Christ. We cannot minister to the non-interested student the same way that we minister to the committed Christian student, but we must understand that we need to minister to both of these students and everyone in between.

➤ **SKILLS - What the effective youth worker should do.**

4. **Create an environment for disciple making** - All disciple making is based on relationships. Growth as a disciple does not come without accountability and accountability doesn't take place unless there is a relationship that helps a student choose to be accountable. Youth workers must be able to build a relational foundation for future ministry. That is why developing an atmosphere of love and a positive group image are so important. This is also why youth workers need to move out of the church and into the community with an ongoing contacting ministry in order to build deeper relationships with students.
5. **Create programs or structures for disciple making.** If disciple making is built on relationships, then youth programs are just the structures we create to develop those relationships. With the non-interested or secular student, we need to build friendships. With the Christian student, we need to function as a teacher. With the ministry level student, we move to more of an accountability relationship. The program we design for our youth ministry must be different for each of these types of students.

➤ **CHARACTER - What the effective youth worker should be.**

6. **A servant/minister of Jesus Christ** - There is nothing more disappointing than a youth worker who has all the tools, the strategy, and the experience for youth ministry but is yanked out of the battle because of spiritual weakness.
7. **Dependent on God's strength and power** - We need to understand our ministry is, first and foremost, God's ministry. He is the chief shepherd. To the degree that we deepen our relationship with God, through the study of His Word and prayer, we will increase in our dependence on God's power in and through our ministry.

➤ **RELATIONSHIPS - How the effective youth worker should minister.**

8. **Team up with other adult youth volunteers** - None of us can multiply student disciples by ourselves. We can add disciples, but we need other people around us to impact a wider number and variety of students. The team approach to ministry is illustrated biblically with Moses and Aaron, Moses and Joshua, Jesus and the disciples, Paul and Barnabas, and Paul and Timothy. Everyone brings different strengths and weaknesses to a youth staff team. The more team members you have, means you can reach a broader segment of kids with more creativity.
9. **Team up with parents** - An effective youth worker realizes that parents must be a focal point in youth ministry. Youth workers and parents need each other. Each brings a different set of gifts and attitudes to their work with teenagers. No matter how hard we try to make it different, children are still largely the product of their homes. We must work with parents to help them be successful in raising their teenagers.
10. **Team up with pastoral staff** - According to Len Kageler in The Youth Minister's Survival Guide, the number one reason youth workers are fired from a ministry position is their failure to get along with the senior pastor. The effective youth worker needs to reach out and build relationships with the pastoral staff. Youth workers must continually communicate vision, programs, results and even complaints to their senior pastor. Far too often we youth workers think that it is the senior pastor's responsibility to reach out to us. If your future depends on your senior pastor, you better make sure that you take the initiative to cultivate that relationship and support.

1. THE UNWAVERING COMMITMENT OF YOUR SPOUSE TO YOU BEING A YOUTH PASTOR.
2. THE UNWAVERING COMMITMENT OF YOUR SENIOR PASTOR TO YOUR SUCCESS.
3. VISION: Preparing young people for a life of service.
4. MAINTAINING A POSITION OF “ALWAYS A LEARNER. Take advantage of as much TRAINING as you can possibly get.
5. THE UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE FUNDAMENTALS. Never allow the need for entertainment and activities to become an end in themselves.
6. THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MINISTRY TEAM:
Important factors are Delegation & Ministry Multiplication.
7. CONTENTMENT: To invest and expend one’s life in the lives of young people over an extended period of time for the advancement of God’s kingdom is the greatest investment you could make.
8. PRIORITY ON “BEING” RATHER THAN ON “DOING. God is developing a person, not a program. Character is critical to longevity.
9. NEVER ALLOWING THE MINISTRY TO EVER BECOME JUST A JOB.
10. MANAGING WELL WITHIN THE FOUR STRESS AREAS OF YOUTH MINISTRY:
1. The church leadership’s expectations, 2. Parental concerns, 3. The youth’s interests and demands, and 4. One’s own family’s needs and wants.
11. A CHURCH THAT VALUES YOUTH MINISTRY & THE YOUTH MINISTER in light of these 4 factors:
Conviction: Foundation for life and ministry.
Calling: Youth Ministry is ordained by God, and this is what He wants you to do.
Worth: To spend your life on youth is to spend it well.
Mission: To bring young people into life-changing encounters with Jesus Christ.
12. MAINTAINING BALANCE IN THE MINISTRY: Evangelism, Nurture, Discipleship, Training, Student Leadership

Leadership ADVANTAGES OF LONGEVITY

- Stability of program and leadership
- Time for relationship building – trust between youth – vol. leaders – parents – church staff
- Develops resources for all areas of ministry.
- Makes you and your ministry credible. Time and spirit tested - builds confidence
- Forces creativity and variety
- Provides setting for depth.
- Provides healthier environment conducive to growth.
- A growing love for young people: See them as your own, aware of God’s love for them.
- Establishes roots for storms and drought in the ministry.

FACTORS WHICH ERODE LONGEVITY

- Lack of vision / Complacency
- Increased emphasis on entertainment/activity
- Change of perspective - loss of servant’s heart: From “I’m here for the kids” to “the kids are here for me”

- Immaturity, inexperience, failure, defensive spirit
- Stalled personal growth/compromise with sin.
- Entrenched attitude: My way is the only way.
- Failure in being transparent: head vs. heart.
- Youth ministry becoming just a job
- Competitive spirit
- Inadequate pay – church's inability to financially commit to longevity.
- Insensitivity of others - thanklessness - bitter spirit
- Failure to understand cycles in Youth Ministry – lean years do come when evaluating a ministry by the numbers of attendees.
- Inability to develop your style of ministry rather than just duplicating others.
- Change in lead pastor position – new pastor wants to choose his own youth pastor.

PARENTING PRIORITIES

Parents Pray every day for your kids.

Pray every evening with your kids.

Parents Protect: Fight for your children, the devil is doing everything he can to destroy them.

Parents Prepare: Parenting does not happen in a vacuum.

Parents Partner: Choose individuals, families & organizations that will support your goals for your child

Parents Permit: Rom. 14: 22b “Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.”

Parents Promote healthy choices, lifestyles, godliness.

PARENTING PROMISE

Proverbs 22:6 – “Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Parents Play: Build memories that your child will cherish.

Parents Provide love, security, acceptance, peace, kindness, etc.

Parenting Privilege: given by God, responsible to God.

Parenting Problem: Jer. 17:9 “The heart is more deceitful than all else...” Sin – yours / theirs

Parenting Purpose: Take advantage of teachable moments Determine critical questions, ask ‘What do you think...’

Parenting Plan: To fail to plan is to plan to fail.

Parenting Platform: You have a voice with your children, use it.

Parenting Perspectives: Biblical, eternal, consequential - all need to be developed in your children.

Parenting Principles: Faith in God, dependency on the Lord, Christian community, the Bible.

Parents Profile

How you demonstrate your faith, how you spend your time and money, what you watch on TV & the computer, the music you listen to, how you treat your spouse, how you react to circumstances all will significantly impact your children.

You Can Never Be...

- ...**too grateful** (to God and others who have been a blessing in your life)
- ...**too sorry** (when you hurt or fail someone who is counting on you)
- ...**too organized** (when it comes to doing the work of the Lord more efficiently or effectively)
- ...**too generous** (with your compliments)
- ...**too careful** (about the safety of others)
- ...**too happy** (for someone who has received a blessing that you did not)
- ...**too gentle** (when dealing with hurt feelings of another)
- ...**too cautious** (of Satan's attacks on your life)
- ...**too attentive** (to another who wishes to vent their frustrations or feelings)
- ...**too wordy** (when writing a love note to someone else)
- ...**too quiet** (when listening to God's voice)
- ...**too zealous** (when living your life in accordance with God's Word)
- ...**too early** (to a job that depends on you for its success)
- ...**too late** (to finally recognize a need in another's life and meet it)
- ...**too loud** (when warning another of danger)
- ...**too busy** (when working on a habit that needs to be removed in your life)
- ...**too broke** (to still give something of your life or possessions to another)
- ...**too wise** (when it comes to knowing what is right and doing it)
- ...**too slow** (to anger when somebody mistreats you)
- ...**too patient** (with another's blind spot)
- ...**too quick** (to listen to others)
- ...**too important** (that you ignore the little man's plight)
- ...**too common place** (to make a difference in our world somehow)
- ...**too full** (when you live in a world that is starving)
- ...**too alert** (to a customer's needs and wants)
- ...**too happy** (when expressing the joy of the Lord)

(RJ Thompson 4/97)

Use the *Basic Fundamental Questions* as a practice with young people rather than asking the pointed (only one right answer) question.

THE QUESTIONS ARE: What do you think ... ? or What do you feel about this ...?

RETREATS: A TRANSFORMING TOOL FOR MINISTRY

Check out "Retreats Unlimited" Chapter 10 in the Ministry Tool Box Book Volume I.

The Advantages of Retreats - Retreats can do what it takes six months to a year to do otherwise.

You Build Relationships with young people, other leaders and parents faster.

You:

- Get acquainted quicker
- Become aware of needs faster
- Develops trust
- Share experiences (build on experiences)
- Establish lines of communication
- Remove preconceived ideas that youth may have of Christianity and Christians

Retreats Provide Multiple Christian Experiences

- Many lesson times - small group - large group
- Prayer opportunities
- Firesides - singing - sharing – testimonies
- Counseling - direct and informal
- Christian Fellowship
- Practical Theology - forgiveness - caring – sharing - witnessing – unity
- Models of the Christian life
- Creates a youth persons awareness of their need for a closer walk with the Lord.

Best Return for the Effort

- Higher percentage of conversions of non-Christians
- Higher percentage of converts followed-up
- Higher percentage of converts/follow-up people involved in church
- Provides good leadership training opportunities and evaluation

A Vision for Retreats -- (Some "how to do Retreat" ideas)

- Develop retreats around personal interest and abilities.
- Develop retreats around attractions and events – Go- carts, Water-skiing, etc.
- Develop retreats around goals and projects
- Work Camp – Missions trip - Leadership Camp, Spiritual Life Camp, Evangelism Camp
- Advantages Outweigh Problems and Hard Work

The kids are worth it - Retreats are for the kids

- What you are creating. Retreats provide you the opportunity to duplicate the style of ministry which was practiced most consistently by Jesus. Time, shared life experiences, teachable moments, actual lesson times, and traveling experiences all contribute to making the reality of God an everyday occurrence.

The Essentials of Retreats - 5 Key Essentials

- Good Food (plenty of it) - Good Cooks (adequate help)
- Excellent Lessons (meaty content)
- Prepared lessons and booklet study guide
- Small group discussions - large group wrap-up
- Good Leadership - 1 to 4 ratio if possible, at least 1 to 7.- helper - practical/physical leaders / counselors - sleep with kids - do small group / one-on-one times
- Good Plan in Light of Facilities/Retreat Attraction
- KIDS - a real essential for a quality retreat is to determine what your numerical limits are; like what is your high and low head counts necessary for the retreat.

Some Helpful Hints to Successful Retreats

- Pray and Plan Well
- Start Small - develop retreat capabilities and skills - Confidence comes as you build on past experiences and as you see the faithfulness and the blessing of the Lord.
- Always have a Plan B - be flexible and ready to change plans
- Have simple and clear rules and responsibilities.
 - ❖ Pre-determine disciplinary steps/stages
 - ❖ Make sure leaders know how the discipline process works
- Excellent communication between leaders and helpers
- Delegation of responsibilities
- Leadership roles clarified
- No lone ranger approach here - have a team ministry attitude
- Eliminate as many surprises and anticipate the unexpected
 - ❖ Have a nurse or a good first-aid person
 - ❖ Predetermine who will take people to the hospital
 - ❖ Throw in a few surprises yourself, like a mid-night stroll through a cemetery (you can talk about where people go when they die) or letting the kids sleep in an extra 45 minutes one day
- Good P. R. - retreats are a good reason for visitation, most parents want to know who it is that is taking their teens on the outing.

VISITATION OF TEENS

Regarding the Home and Parents:

- Remember who you are representing God - His reputation, His church (the body and the building) and the ministry. Therefore, dress, act and speak fittingly. You don't have to wear a tie but be neat and clean and use good manners. Guard yourself from ever providing parents (family members) reasons to excuse (1) their own actions and/or (2) hinder the teen from getting involved.
- Be observant - You learn a lot about the teen from his home environment. Is the house kept neat or messy? Does the mother rule the roost? Does she work? Does the teen share a room or have home chores? Is the father an alcoholic? Etc.
- Meet the parents if possible. Introduce yourself and state why you are there. If possible, share with them something about the youth activities. Find out where they work and what their interests are. Find out also if the teen you are visiting is the oldest, youngest or only child.
- Be sensitive to the attitude of the home.
 - ❖ Are they glad to see you? Are they interested in what you have to bring?
 - ❖ Is there home tension?

Regarding the Student:

- Prepare yourself.
 - ❖ Pray specifically for God's blessing on the particular teen and family. Also, pray that the response would be good and that you come across positively.
 - ❖ Have purpose in your visit - presentation of activities, prayer for needs.

To Meet the Family

- The visit - Introduce yourself and smile if parent or older member of family answers the door; if younger child ask for the particular teen you are visiting. If the teen is at home, explain why you are visiting. Don't just explain it to the parents unless that is your purpose. If the teens are not home, excuse yourself and promise to return. Depending on timing, ask to meet parents and other members of family. to see their home and yard, learn their hobbies, but be sure to express genuine interest. Before leaving, ask to pray with the teen (parents are welcome, but if asking teen for specific prayer requests, it might be awkward). Afterward, thank the Lord for the visit and bring specific items to Him that you learned from the visit.
- Keep a journal of all your home visits. (Even consider taking a picture of the student with family members in their home.)

I am part of the “Fellowship of the Unashamed.” I have Holy Spirit Power. The dye has been cast. I’ve stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of His. I won’t look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame vision, mundane talking, chincy giving and dwarfed goals!

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits or popularity. I don’t have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by presence, lean by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, diluted or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won’t give up, shut up, let up or burn up till I’ve preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up and stayed up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know and work till He stops. And when He comes to get His own, He’ll have no problems recognizing me. My colors will be clear.

Author Unknown

A Changed Life – Changes Lives

(some additional thoughts from Tom Horton)

SOMETHING SUPERNATURAL HAPPENS!!

As youth workers continue their walk with God, transformation occurs within. When a young person shares life experiences with a person who is actively in the transformation process, something supernatural takes place in the young person’s life. I can’t fully explain it; I just know from experience it is true. When you keep yourself spiritually active with the Lord and involved with young people, you will affect them eternally. Sharing your life exposes young people to the work of God in process; therefore, it is imperative that you find ways to share life together with young people so that they will be exposed to the reality of God in you and the other leaders (kind of an overwhelming thought, don’t you think?).

Remember - The youth leader’s goal is to bring young people into life changing encounters with Jesus Christ. When that happens they will never be the same again and neither will you. Consequently, youth leaders need to be transparent in their personal transformation process as a primary Christian role model for young people. The life-changes that the Lord makes in a leader’s life is a means God uses to impact a young person’s life. **As you follow the Lord others will follow you.** Never forget that fact. It is just that some of us are a little ahead in the line than others, that’s all (Mark 1:17, 8:34). Therefore, we must never forget that we are still “Learners” ourselves, just like the young people that we work with. God will even use young people to teach us much about life in Jesus. Life is a school and as long as we are on earth, class is in session.

(Eph. 3:14-19; Phil. 2:13.)

Ministry Principals I’ve heard that are true:

- ❖ Youth workers need to earn the right to be heard.
- ❖ With youth, as much is caught as is taught.
- ❖ Young people need adult role models.
- ❖ Never try to be a peer friend with youth; they want you to be an adult friend.
- ❖ Kids don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.
- ❖ With so much of youth ministry being relational, leaders need to be spiritual big brothers and sisters.
- ❖ Rules without relationships lead to rebellion.

Be a Memory Builder

-- Seek to give your young people positive memories of their times with you and with God's people. Such memories provide the youth worker with a framework for future ministries and life-long relationships. My experience has proved this true so many times that it is impossible to overstress this point. Good memories are gifts that you are able to give to young people and other adult leaders as well. Conversely, bad memories build walls so strong that it takes a Joshua experience to overcome them. Wise planning for effective ministry will have memory building as an important factor to it. Take pictures and videos, record events as often as you can. Young people love to see themselves this way. Put pictures up on the youth bulletin board and in the youth room so that young people can look at those pictures over an extended period of time. The bonus is that God will give you some great memories too.

Value Shared Experiences

-- Most youth leaders fail to understand the significance of having shared experiences with young people. What I mean by "Shared Experiences" are those experiences that you have with young people that you share with them on a retreat or camp, going on a mission trip, etc. These are memories that they have with you and because you were there with them you know what commitments they made, you are able to build on those experiences as a wise spiritual builder of young people. (So many times the commitment young people make while at camp without their youth leader is not followed up at home for the sole reason that the youth leader was not there to share in that experience with the young person.)

Teachable / Impressionable Moments

– Look for and take advantage of moments when a young person may be open to a word that could have a significant impact on their life. On long trips I would have a folding chair placed next to me while driving the bus, then I would systematically ask young people up for a chat. I would take a few kids with me to check out a camp or look for new equipment. Once while going across the continental divide, I made a big point of how a decision that may seem insignificant may end up thousands of miles apart. Every youth leader must try and be alert to times when God may give you an opportunity to drive home something of spiritual significance from a moment in a day in the life of youth ministry.

Attitude is either your greatest asset or your greatest liability. Influencing a person's life is the most important business there is and you are on the front lines.

Hear the words of Chuck Swindoll: "The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of one's attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company ... a church ... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past ... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude ... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you ... we are in charge of our **'Attitudes'**."

Developing Student Leaders (check out chapter 9 in the “Ministry Tool Box” book volume I)

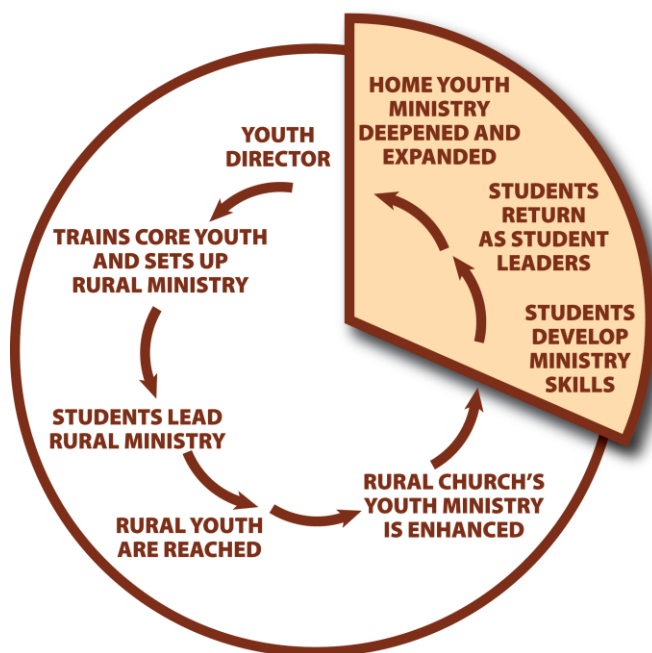
Preparing Students for a life of service through a Rural Mission Experience.

WHAT is a Rural Mission Experience?

A Rural Mission Experience is a **low cost, high impact**, 5 to 7 day creative rural mission trip any Youth Director can use for the more committed youth of his church. A Rural Mission Experience is a unique peer-to-peer ministry opportunity that can give students significant ministry experience. By serving in a rural church a platform for developing student ministry confidence is established. Youth Directors can bring about the spiritual depth and develop the ministry skills they desire for their own young people.

WHY should I do a Rural Mission Experience?

A Rural Mission Experience will provide your students with the **highest level ministry experience** equipping them for a life of service. While on a rural mission trip, your students will be challenged, stretched spiritually, and taken out of their comfort zone as they develop ministry skills through this hands-on ministry experience. Young people will encounter Jesus Christ in life-changing ways as they address the youth ministry needs of a rural church. They also will learn and put into practice ministry skills which will equip them to be more effective back home as campus missionaries and give them a clearer vision for a life of service, all the while enhancing the youth ministry of the local rural church.



WHO, WHEN, WHERE, & HOW

Tom Horton, a veteran youth leader of over 50 years, desires to assist youth leaders in realizing this opportunity for developing their students' ministry skills. Tom, who served as youth pastor for 28 years at one church, developed this Rural Missions Experience strategy early in his ministry. He states that these rural mission trips were the single most effective training strategy he had during those 28 years. He is currently the Director of Rural Church Youth Ministries and an Associate Coordinator for the Northwest region of the National Network of Youth Ministries. While he was the youth leader at the church in south Seattle Tom went on and led 29 of his own rural mission trips. Since 1996, Tom has developed this ministry while helping to setup over 1000 Rural Mission Trips. Each mission involved a larger church youth group with at least one rural church. If interested, Tom can be reached on his cell phone at 206-954-4100 or through E-mail at ruraltom@juno.com – check out the web site at www.ruralchurchym.org -. If needed, he can arrange the most conducive rural setting for your Rural Mission Experience. You can plan for either a spring break or a summer mission trip. He also has materials available that will further explain how a Rural Mission Experience can work for you. In addition, Tom has materials that you could use in the training of your key young people that will prepare them for any ministry experience. These materials and Tom's services are free.

THE PRIMARY PRINCIPLES OF A RURAL MISSION EXPERIENCE

A typical one week mission includes:

PEER-TO-PEER EVANGELISM

4 nights includes food, activities & testimonies
Monday through Thursday

SERVICE PROJECTS

4 days – representing Christ & the local rural church
Monday through Thursday

(Some teams may include a children's program such as a Back Yard Bible Club
or a Daily Vacation Bible School.)

Think about it, when you produce student leaders you are entering into the spirit of
Matthew 9: 37, 38, - "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers
are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.'"

12 keys to Making a Difference as a Volunteer Youth Leader

To make a difference a Youth Leader needs:

#1 –to be different

Transformation must be evident –

"A Changed Life will change lives"

Be a Good Role Model I Cor. 11:1

Value **Relationships** they are **key** to youth ministry

Develop a context for relationships!

Develop your ministry style.

Character qualities a must: "BE" in order to "DO"

#2 –to work smarter not harder

Plan with purpose & balance. Have some clearly defined goals.

From veteran youth leaders discover resources that work.

Establish **Partnerships** that help.

#3 –to minister from conviction.

Establish a Philosophy of Ministry Ezekiel 22:30

Current trends verses timeless principles.

Minister from the heart (*refer to the 5 life changing principals on the Love of God listed under Leadership*)

Quality versus Quantity

#4 –to be biblically based

Entertainment versus teaching - Creativity a necessity

Develop a safe environment

#5 –to be a learner

Take advantage to training opportunities.

Ask a youth leader veteran to mentor / coach you.

#6 –to minister from what they have

Plan a program within the context of your liabilities and limitations.

A vision for value and worth in that which seems small and insignificant.

Discern common points of reference which you have or which you could develop with young people.

#7 –to be dependent

On the Lord - John 15:5

On others to pray – recruit senior citizens to pray

BELIEVE: In the significance of one believing, available Christian worker

#8 –to be Spiritual risk takers

Plan in a way that you expect God to show up.

God is not hindered by that which seems to Hinder us.

#9 –to take advantage of available Resources

rbc.net is a great free Bible-centered resource,

Check out their “Discovery Series” booklets.

Solicit useful proven resources from a kindred spirit youth ministries.

#10 –to serve students

Never forget you are involved with students to serve – never think that students are to serve you in some way.

#11 –to be aware of the pitfalls in the ministry

Understand that most adults think youth ministry is just kids having safe fun – don’t become bitter.

You will not be paid what you are really worth – don’t become bitter.

Most often youth ministry is a thankless job – don’t become bitter.

#12 –to focus on discipleship

Determine how to develop Students as Leaders

thus preparing Students for a life of Service

Youth leaders must “Be” in order to “Do”.

I am convinced that: ***A Changed Life >> Changes Lives.***

Goals without a plan are, in reality, are just wishes.

YOUTH MINISTRY ON A LIMITED BUDGET

- *The best* and most practical **free resource** is another youth leader that you respect and have access to. **I cannot stress this point enough!!!** Their wisdom and insight from firsthand experience over the years is invaluable. Plus they may have some used curriculum you could have. Consider this, try partnering with a larger group in another city; this can be a great low cost ministry opportunity for your group.
- Make your ministry **an answer to prayer** by recruiting the elderly in your church to be involved in the ministry by praying for individual students, leaders, and events.

PLAN WISELY FROM WITHIN THESE POTENTIAL MINISTRY ARENAS & RESOURCES.

A. ACTIVITIES – Use a school gym, garage or barn as a setting for an after-school event.

- Partner with a larger church across town.

Sports - Young people enjoy playing a variety of athletic activities that you can use as a door for effective ministry. Any sport (beginning with your favorites) would provide an opportunity to build relationships with young people and provide a setting for things of a spiritual nature to take place.

Other Activities - What is true of any sport is also true of other activities like camping, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, eating, video games, table games, snow and water skiing, surfing, skateboarding, paint ball, Frisbee, and Christian concerts. They all could be platforms that God has given to escort us into ministry experiences with young people.

School - School games, graduation ceremonies, school concerts, and even volunteers to assist in school functions. For a youth worker, visibility in public places where young people are is very important. It expresses to them interest and value while giving the youth worker an easy way to meet parents, teachers, coaches and school administrators.

Home -- Use your home, if possible, as a focal point for ministry. Many young people don't know what a Christian home looks like. (Often it is helpful for youth leaders to share their own home experiences as a young person when talking to young people in order to build common points of reference.)

Outings - If you like to go places to see and do things then take a few young people along with you. Plan a retreat a little bit like a vacation with a group of kids and you will be surprised at the results. (Just remember that the retreat may be a vacation for the young people but it is not a vacation for the leaders.)

B. LESSON MATERIALS - Developing lessons from your personal life experiences and personal devotional times can be a great resource.

➤ **HERE IS A TREMENDOUS RESOURCE:**

Go to www.rbc.net then check out the materials listed under "Resources – Discovery Series." There is a wealth of **FREE biblically sound materials** you can download or order under the topics of: Biblical Studies, Christian Beliefs, Christian Living, Christian Ministry & The Church, Christianity & Culture, Contemporary Issues, Evangelism & Missions, Life Struggles, Marriage & Family, Relationships, Spiritual Growth, Ten Reasons to Believe, & When Life Hurts. Order enough booklets for each student & leader, then read through the material in small groups a few pages at a time.

C. RETREATS - Take your students places (Spiritually & Relationally) that you cannot duplicate at home. Instead of sending your students to camp go to a church member's cabin, a group site at a State Park, or another church located somewhere suited for a retreat then use as a lesson plan a booklet from rbc.net (listed above).

Feed them well and share with them how God gives the best fun.

**FOCUS ON WHAT
YOU CAN DO NOT ON WHAT
YOU CAN'T**

God is doing things I cannot see for reasons I do not fully understand.



Effective Ministries run on the tracks of Relationship & Strategy

Make your ministry an answer
to prayer by
DEVELOPING A
PRAYER FOUNDATION
FOR YOUR
YOUTH MINISTRY

The ability to work with young people is a gift from God which must be prayed for and must never be taken for granted. Therefore, recruit people to pray that the Lord will grant you favor with youth people. Then you and your ministry will be the answer to someone's prayer.

Something to think about - RURAL MISSION TRIPS are a low cost and high impact STUDENT-LED MISSIONS opportunity that any youth ministry with substance can do. Going deeper with your students is key to having a wider community ministry – www.ruralchurchym.org