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YouthsurgeAustralia

PrayerUpdate

VOLUME 2. ISSUE 7

AUGUST 2008

Youthsurge is a youth ministry organisation committed to **remodelling, rethinking and resourcing**

youth ministry in the local church so it can be as effective as possible in fulfilling the

Great Commission amongst teenagers.

The Long Road Ahead for Youthsurge

In this morning's mail was yet another brochure advertising the *biggest and best* youth ministry event. I was about to bin it when I realised the value of hanging onto it...for a little while anyway. As I held this brochure I was reminded again of the long road ahead for Youthsurge and it's vision to change youth ministry in Australia (and beyond).

The brochure was attractive, 'youthy', promised a day where you can *go crazy and have heaps of fun*, and get free stuff (although you did have to pay a hefty price to attend). What was missing was any mention of anything Christian.

For decades Christian youth ministries have been relying upon entertainment, activities, hype, fun, madness, in order to connect with the non-Christian teen to evangelise them. It's the old bait and switch; draw them in with one thing then hit them with your real agenda when they arrive. I think that in Corinthians 4 Paul would call it deception, and that those who practice it have lost heart in the power of the gospel.

Youthsurge's vision is to transform youth ministry culture in Australia in such a way that it is not ashamed of the gospel. Our desire is to cultivate a revolution of strategy and practice in youth ministry so that local church youth ministries are unashamedly Christian as they proclaim the gospel and display Christ. We want to see youth ministries building communities of young disciples who are committed to knowing and loving each other, and knowing and loving the Lord Jesus. We envisage these youth ministries will have young disciples growing in biblical understanding, increasing in service and commitment to their local church, spurring each other on to love and good deeds, and staking everything in this world on the world that is to come.

The old way of evangelism by entertainment is very much entrenched in youth ministry culture in the Western world so we are expecting it to take a long time to change the tide, but we are committed to it never the less. Youthsurge's vision is that by the year 2100 75% of churches in Australian will have vibrant communities of young disciples of the Lord Jesus.

Will you partner with us as we seek to impact youth groups and young disciples for the Lord Jesus?

Many blessings,
Steve Jeffrey
National Director



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GiveThanks

- ★ The feedback from churches has been that **Launch** in North Queensland had a great impact upon the 23 leaders in training (teenagers in Grade 10-12) who attended in early June. The team of 5 from Toongabbie Anglican did a fabulous job in leading all aspects of the camp, and Steve's 5 talks from the later chapters of Hebrews were well received. This is the first **Launch** that YS has organised but there are plans for WA, South Qld & Nth Qld in 2009.
- ★ The first ever **Toowoomba Surge and Training Conference** last weekend was very positively received, as was the 1/2 day children's ministry training led by Natalie in **Dalby** on Sunday.
- ★ Steve spoke at **ASPIRE 2008** (the youth ministry conference for the southern region of Melbourne Anglican Diocese) last month. Apart from the three talks and 1 training session he had many opportunities to discuss youth ministry with those in paid and volunteer capacity. The biggest encouragement was those who had already brought change to their ministry from a previous meeting back in November 2007.
- ★ Behind every **Surge** program is a team of creative people thinking through each aspect of what happens when groups meet together. YS is very thankful for the work of Jon Thorpe, Luke Thomson, Sarah Smith, Mark Boyd & Danny Mitchell.

AskGod

- ★ YS would value your prayers over the next few weeks as we are in the process of chasing up a **possible distributor for our resources based in the USA**. This distributor is a large organisation that sells globally. We are very excited about the possibility and what it could mean for the ministry.
- ★ **Plans for 2009** are starting to take shape. Apart from the Launch camps already mentioned we are looking to get better 'bang for buck' in QLD by running 2 weekend conventions (Nth & Sth) in 2009. Pray for wisdom for Steve as he thinks through with the team the best way forward for influencing youth ministries in other areas of Australia where YS is operating. Pray that we won't just be busy but that we might be effective with our limited resources. Pray too for patience as we begin to work through the difficult process of coordinating, advertising, and programming many events for 2009.
- ★ This month the **YS team** will be running the following: Brisbane Surge & Training (1-2), Hills & Sydney North Surge (8), Darwin Surge & Training (15-16), Perth & Macarthur Surge (22), Sydney South Surge (29). Pray for the team as they organise, meet people, travel, preach and train. Pray too for the youth & leaders you they will speak to and work with.
- ★ YS Press is just starting the long production process of **new youth ministry resources**. Editing has begun on a new bible study booklet for teens, and graphic design and typesetting for a teen devotional booklet. Pray for patience throughout the process
- ★ YS is in the process of looking at **staffing for 2009**. We are pleased that Danny Mitchell will be continuing as Student Minister. There is also a possibility of two more Student Minister's joining the team. Pray for wisdom for Steve & the YS Board as they budget and assess the needs of the ministry over the next couple of years.

Thank you again for your partnership