



Youth Missions International



Case Statement

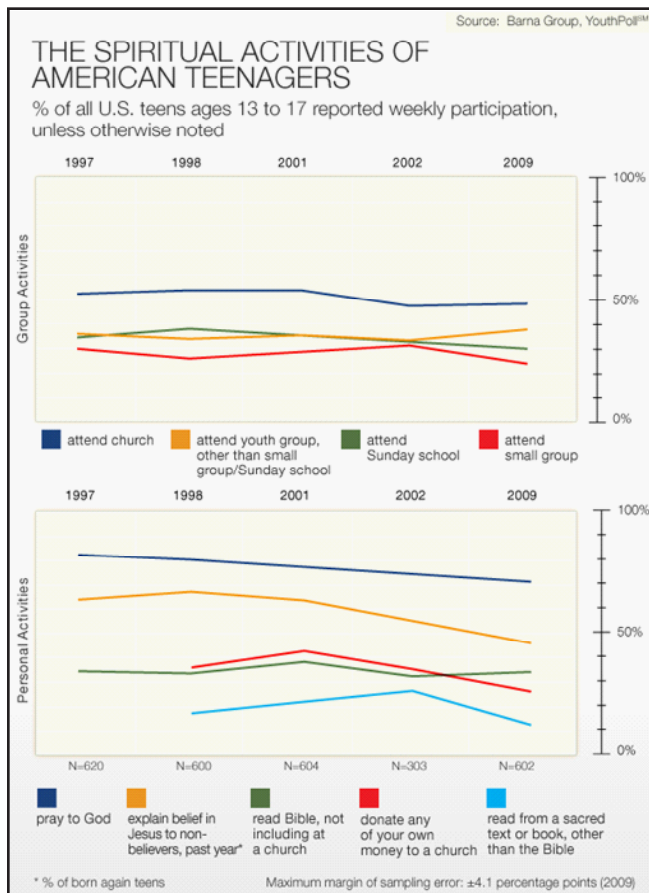
More than a mission trip.

www.ymimissions.org



The Opportunity

A 2006 study by the Barna Group (Ventura, California) found that 60 percent of U.S. twenty-somethings who were involved in a church during their teen years, failed to translate that involvement into active spirituality during early adulthood. David Kinneman, director of the research, offered the following insights about the data:



- Teen ministry in the United States needs an overhaul because it's not producing sustainable faith beyond high school.
- Young adults' disengagement during the "college years" and beyond suggests that youth ministry is failing in both discipleship and faith formation.
- The number of attendees, sophistication of the events, or the "cool" factor of the youth group can not be the determining factors of success in youth ministry.
- A successful youth ministry needs to produce teens with the commitment, passion and resources to pursue Christ intentionally and whole-heartedly after they leave the youth ministry nest.

A second Barna Group survey conducted in December 2009 found that today's U.S. teenagers are much less inclined to share their faith in Christ with non-believers. Among born again Christian teenagers, those who said they had explained their beliefs to someone else with different faith views within the last year declined from nearly two-thirds (63%) in 1997 to less than half (45%) in 2009. Based on the research, it appears Christian teenagers are taking cues from a U.S. culture that has made it unpopular to make bold assertions about faith or aggressively evangelize.

This reluctance of U.S. teens to evangelize and their growing disengagement from active spirituality as they enter young adulthood are what Youth Missions International is seeking to address by training youth and providing mission opportunities where they can share their faith with unbelievers—opportunities that will strengthen their relationship with Christ and awaken a life-long passion for serving God and sharing the Gospel. The YMI experience is more than a mission trip. It is designed to bring about real, sustainable change in how young people view their faith and seek to put that faith into action throughout their lifetime.



Our Vision and Mission

Youth Missions International envisions a worldwide network of youth training organizations that empower young people to spend their lives passionately living and sharing their faith in the global communities they serve.



By training teens and young adults and then challenging them to lead evangelistic ministry, YMI is providing opportunities for youth to experience the power of God as they share the Gospel both at home and around the world. Our training, preparation and ministry leave an indelible imprint on the lives of YMI participants and they emerge confident, mission-minded leaders with an awakened passion for serving God and putting their faith into action.

Youth Missions International is seizing the opportunity to fill an international void by replicating our ministry in countries all over the world. We seek to plant sister organizations on six continents, giving indigenous missionaries a proven program for developing the next generation of Christian leaders.





Our Response

Youth Missions International has developed a program that provides high-level training both before and during a mission experience—training that leads to a real, sustainable change in how young people view their faith and seek to put that faith into action for the rest of their lives. More than a mission trip, the YMI experience is the training ground for a life focused on serving God and sharing the Gospel.

Trainings

Youth Missions International has developed a four-day training program for individual youth and a weekend training program for youth groups that focus on five key areas—evangelism, leadership, team building, cultural awareness, and cross-cultural ministry. This high-level training equips young people to effectively lead ministry in the mission field and emphasizes the importance of putting faith into action not just for the duration of their YMI ministry experience, but for a lifetime.

YMI also provides summer internships for college-age young adults, giving them on-the-job training in youth ministry and the extraordinary opportunity to realize their vision for integrating vocation and faith.

Ministry Opportunities

YMI partners with churches, organizations and indigenous missionaries worldwide to provide meaningful, culturally relevant ministry opportunities for youth. As they share the Gospel in unfamiliar surroundings, YMI mission teams learn to trust in and depend on God in all their circumstances. And as they experience the power of God working through them to bring people into relationship with Him, the impact on their faith is life changing.

Youth Missions International's goal in the mission field is to serve our partners, adapting our ministry to meet their needs in the communities they serve. We offer our partners several ministry options including SEEDS—Simple English for Everyday Situations, sports, music, school and park ministries. In choosing to meet the needs of our partners rather than our own, we motivate them to continue the community outreach our YMI youth helped initiate. The end result is a high quality ministry that is exponential and sustainable.

Worldwide Network of Youth Training Organizations

Youth Missions International plans to train the next generation of Christian leaders not just in the United States, but also around the world. We designed the YMI program in such a way that it can be adapted to meet the needs of each country's unique culture and used to train and motivate indigenous youth to serve their local church and the surrounding communities.



The YMI Impact

Training/Sending Youth

In our short, three-year history, God has enabled YMI to create a proven-process for developing mission-minded Christian leaders using high-level training and meaningful ministry opportunities. To date, YMI has conducted 20 training camps in six states, training 250 youth from 14 different states. And, we have sent over 200 youth group members and individuals to both domestic and international mission fields.

Integrating Vocation and Faith

YMI has provided eight summer internships for college-age young adults with a vision for integrating their vocation with their faith. Two of our former participants interned for YMI and are now employed as our Latin American Specialist and Church Relations Director respectively. A third former participant is currently interning for YMI developing our YMI sports ministry program while studying for her college degree. She plans to embark on a career using English as a Second Language (ESL) to share the Gospel in Brazil. God gave a fourth former YMI participant a vision for using music to bring people to Christ. He is interning with our organization this summer, developing a music mission program. Upon graduating from college, he plans to work for YMI to further develop and expand the music mission program for implementation around the world.

Sharing the Gospel

In addition to the impact our ministry is having on the teens and young adults in the United States, YMI is making an impact worldwide. Over the past three summers, our YMI teams have shared the Gospel with non-believers in 11 countries on five continents, generating 1,600 professions of faith—an average of eight professions of faith per YMI participant. Hundreds more have heard the message of salvation and now have a relationship with the local church community.

Connecting the Church with its Community

Both at home and abroad, YMI is helping churches effectively connect with the communities they serve. As a result of our YMI ministry in Ukraine, God was able to give the local church a vision for children's ministry. In Brazil, YMI helped give the local church in Atibaia a vision for reaching their community through sports. They have since hired a youth and sports pastor to run weekly sports ministry for kids on the streets. As a direct result of this ministry, God has brought many of the street kids into a relationship with Him and they are now part of a church community that loves and cares for them.

Planting Sister Organizations

God has given the indigenous missionary we partner with in Atibaia and São Paulo a vision for establishing a YMI sister organization in Brazil using sports to share the Gospel. As a result, 'YMI Brasil' was founded in March 2010. Four additional missionaries also have a vision for YMI in their countries—Peru, Japan, South Korea, and Mozambique.



A Personal Story

Scott Hallmann is what many would consider to be a typical Christian teenager. Raised in a Christian home in Olympia, Washington, he attended a Christian high school and was very active in his church youth group. "When I was in high school, my faith was just something that had been passed down to me from my parents," explained Scott. "They were Christians, so I was Christian. But it wasn't personal. It wasn't real. I guess you could say I was just giving my faith lip service at that point in my life."

Scott attended a Christian scholarship camp one summer where he was introduced to Youth Missions International. A year later, he signed up for a YMI trip to South Korea. There, he and his team used the YMI SEEDS curriculum—Simple English for Everyday Situations—to share the Gospel.

"The Korea trip was huge for me!" Scott exclaimed. "You hear stories about God doing amazing things. But when you actually get to see it for yourself, it's incredible! In the midst of conflict, God used us to bring the kids we were ministering to into a relationship with Him. It was awesome!"

"The YMI training and ministry in South Korea helped me realize what it means to be a Christian," Scott continued. "You've got to put your faith into action and share it with others. My YMI experience really made me want to share my faith more and got me thinking about doing missions full time."

Now a sophomore at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA, Scott finds himself looking for opportunities to share his faith on campus. As he explains, "Now, when people ask me why I don't drink, or why I don't have sex, I do more than just say it's because I'm a Christian. I use it as an opportunity to really explain and share my faith. I don't shun somebody just because they do and say things I don't agree with. I've learned to engage them in conversation and it's much more effective."

A member of PLU's ROTC program, Scott will be serving eight years in the U.S. Army following graduation. He sees his active duty as another great opportunity to share his faith with fellow officers and troops. YMI's mission is to empower young people to continually live and share their faith in the global communities they serve. Scott has certainly been empowered to do just that. His faith is awakened and he now has a passion for sharing it with the world around him. Scott spent six weeks in Korea this summer as part of YMI's college-age program, working closely with the indigenous missionary We are excited to see where God leads him in the months and years that lie ahead.