



Youth & Family Service Team Report

February 2014

Snapshot

The Youth & Family Service Team is primarily concerned with advancing a family-based ministry model and helping to supply resources to help the families of the International Churches of Christ to be spiritually successful. This has primarily been accomplished by training leaders both at an international level (International Conference of Youth & Family Ministry) and at a local level at geographic conferences. Resources have been made available through the www.ICOCFamilies.com website and www.GetGroundedForLife.com.

The ICYFM has been held four times in the USA, every other year starting in 2007.

The plan is to hold the ICYFM in India in December 2015 and Mexico City in 2017.

The USA will continue to address youth & family ministry needs through local geographic conferences.

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. The members then coordinated the 2009 ICYFM (International Conference of Youth and Family Ministry) in Chicago, began a resource website at www.liveit2giveit.org, and worked with leaders from other service teams to facilitate healthy communication.

The second term of the service team advanced the youth & family model around our churches including the development of the Ten Characteristics of Healthy Youth & Family Ministry (see below) and the development of local youth & family conferences in different locations globally including Johannesburg, SE Asia, Lagos, etc.

The team recently hosted the 2013 ICYFM (International Conference of Youth & Family Ministry) in New York City. This conference was hosted at the end of the annual delegates meeting to allow leaders from around the world to participate. The conference ended on Sunday at the 30th anniversary service of the New York City church.

Current Youth & Family Service Team

The World Discipleship Summit in San Antonio, July 2012, marked the end of the second term of the Youth & Family service team. Dave Pocta was re-elected as chairman and started assembling a third team. The current group represents new global representation. The structure of the service team is built around the needed development areas identified to advance youth & family ministry in our churches. This includes a few new areas this term that have not previously been included.

Ministry Development

Dinesh & Caroline George, Bangalore, India

Robert Carrillo, San Diego

- Partner with subcommittee on Evangelist's Service Team.
- Identify youth & family health in each of the 30 geographic regions.
- Advance the ministry practices outlined in the *Ten Characteristics of Healthy YFM*.
- Develop a scalable model for Youth & Family ministry model

Parent Development

Phil Arsenault, Boston

In partnership with the Elders Service Team

- Evaluate current parenting material and determine gaps
- Develop plan to help father engage

Children Development (and Kingdom Kids)

Beth Pocta, San Antonio

In partnership with the Women's Service Team

- Create and advance a communication point for Kingdom Kids programs globally.

Pre-Teen/Young Teen Development

Lisa Comrie, Durban, South Africa

- Identify key people around the world involved in this ministry
- Gather resources

Teen Leadership Development

Ruben DeAnda, Los Angeles

Damon Curtis, New York

- Develop teen leadership ideas, plans, and opportunities for our churches.
- Develop teen Bible Talks in the high schools

Communication Development

Mike Block, Orlando

Kent McKean, Northern Virginia

In partnership with the Communications service team

- Website www.ICOCFamilies.com, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media.

Resource Development

Cesar & Jennifer Lopez, Los Angeles

Francisco Bedoya, Asuncion, Paraguay

- Coordinate and develop materials from around the world to share on the website.

Progress Development

Teck Ming, Singapore

- Partner with subcommittee on Evangelist's Service Team.
- Develop measurement tool for youth & family ministries.

Conferences

The Youth & Family service team coordinates an international conference every odd numbered year (Boston in 2007, Chicago in 2009, L.A. in 2011, NYC in 2013). 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 2012, the Johannesburg Church hosted a Youth & Family Conference for church leaders and families, having over 900 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
2013 NYC	1000 attendees

2011 was the year of global expansion. From the inception of the service team, most of the conferences had taken place in the USA. Now, there are nearly ten local youth & family conferences that take places around the world.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE for 2015

Chennai, India

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE for 2017

Mexico City, Mexico

Cooperation with Other Service Teams

One of the most significant developments recently is the working relationship with the other service teams. The Youth & Family Service team is working closely with the evangelists and elders to develop ministries around the world and to develop a measuring tool for growth and progress. We are working with the teachers to coordinate and share resources that will strengthen families. Dave Pocta, chairman, will be attending the elder, evangelist, teacher meeting in Miami in April 2014 to facilitate even closer working connection with the Youth & Family Team and these other groups.

Meetings

The first official meeting of the new Youth & Family Service Team was held in

Johannesburg, South Africa in April 2013 in conjunction with the Southern Africa family conference. The second meeting took place in NYC before the 2013 ICYFM. Some of the members will meet in Miami in April 2014 and the rest will meet in Singapore in August 2014.

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

Team Members

Cesar Lopez (LA, USA)

Dave Pocta (San Antonio, USA)

Damon Curtis (NYC, USA)

Dinesh George (Bangalore, India)

Kent McKean (Northern Virginia, USA)

Lisa Comrie (Durban, South Africa)

Mike Block (Orlando, USA)

Phil Arsenault (Boston, USA)

Robert Carrillo (San Diego, USA)

Ruben DeAnda (LA, USA)

Teck Ming (Singapore)

Francisco Bedoya, Asuncion, Paraguay

Healthy Youth & Family Ministry Characteristics

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!