



A service of the
Northwest District
of the
Lutheran Church -
Missouri Synod

Youth Supports

A resource to encourage and empower youth leaders for the expansion of the Lord's kingdom.

February 2001 - Volume 2, Issue 2

- **The A to Z's of Relational Ministry - Part 1**
- **Alaska Servant Event Possibilities**
- **List of people and resources available to you!**

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1 Thess.
2:8

“Hey,
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The A to Z's of Relational Ministry - Part 1

Dear partners in ministry,

What a tremendous gift our Lord has given to us with His incarnation! Christ's coming has changed everything... and His life, death and resurrection continue to change lives today. As we work with kids in ministry I'd like to challenge you to see yourself as the hands and feet of Christ, being the incarnation of Christ for kids today. In order to reach kids with the gospel we would do well to remember the words of 1 Thess. 2:8 — “We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.”

On our own we can do nothing but through Christ we can do all things. I hope and pray that this list of A to Z's will be encouraging and insightful as you carry out relational ministry with those whom God has placed in your midst!

Peace in Christ,

Dave Crisi, DCE

Trinity Lutheran, Hillsboro, Oregon

- A: Always. Incarnational or relational ministry has always been around. “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” (John 1:14) Jesus was doing it 2000 years ago. Jesus built relationships with people, specifically the twelve.
- B: Bridge. The bridge between kids of today and Jesus Christ is the tool of relationships. This starts with us, as we are the incarnational tool for Christ to reach kids. “And the secret of the Gospel is this: Christ in you.” (Col. 1:27)
- C: Cokes. This is the cheapest way to spend time with any kid. “Hey, wanna grab a coke?” Go to McDonald's or to a store, or hang out at a park... however you do it this is a winner.
- D: Demanding. Relational Ministry is the most demanding type of ministry one can do. In relationships, (1) Nothing will ever be complete, relationships are on-going. (2) No one will ever have all their answers, no matter how good of a Youth Event you put on.
- E: Enthusiasm: So maybe you don't always know what you are doing, or if you can still relate. Be enthusiastic! Don't let the kids in on the secret. God uses cracked vessels. Enthusiasm covers a myriad of mistakes.
- F: Focus: A magnifying glass can start a forest fire. Focus in any ministry can make a world of difference. Don't spread yourself thin in your relationships, have a focus. Freshmen girls, boys hoop team, these three from the choir.

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Alaska
Servant
Events!

Jesus focused on 12, out of the 12 He poured seriously into 3 (Peter, James and John), and of that 3 He invested His life into 1 (John).

G: Growth. Sometimes we are content when we have kids showing up to events, or if we "know" they are good kids. With our Christian kids especially, we need to be about growth, don't let the kid who has the potential to be a 12 cylinder engine run on 5. Challenge, question, and "spur one another on."

(Parts 2 and 3 of this article will be coming up in the next two issues!)

Alaska Servant Event Possibilities

Last month's issue of Youth Supports encouraged you to get your youth involved in a servant event and listed some options for servant events. Here's one more option for you to consider in an exciting part of the world! - ed.

The Alaska Mission Committee has a need for 900 volunteers to help with servant events each year. The servant events include VBSs, confirmation camps, Christian athletic camps, and hammer and nail projects.

Contact: Sandi Schauer, 907-688-5395 or e-mail: Kenschau@aol.com

For long-range servant events (3 months or more) contact, Pastor Ken Schauer, 907-688-5395 or e-mail: Kenschau@aol.com

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The Department of Youth Ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has several Internet resources available to you.

A monthly E-Bulletin about national and regional events throughout the country. To subscribe to the Youth Ministry E-Bulletin send, to MAILSERV@crf.cuis.edu, the message: SUBSCRIBE E-BULLETIN

To unsubscribe send, to MAILSERV@crf.cuis.edu, the message: UNSUBSCRIBE

To find out about Bible studies, song books, and other resources available from the Department of Youth Ministry, check out the DYM Web site: <http://cs.lcms.org/youth>.

Youth Ministry Consultants in Your Area:

The Northwest District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod has trained individuals in each major geographical area of the district in order to help you with your youth ministry. Please call the Dick Weniger at the district office at 503/288-8383 or email him at <dickw@nowlcms.org> for the Youth Ministry Consultant in your area.