



A service of the
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Missouri Synod

Youth Supports

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

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- Motivated by Fear or Mission?
- Free youth ministry resources!

How we view
the future
determines
our actions in
the present.

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Motivated by Fear or Mission?

Just two weeks ago I began what is my second year of a three-year stint in a Masters program from George Fox University. The program is called Ministry Leadership. One particular class that I am taking this semester is called 'Missional Leadership' and one book that we have been reading is called *The Forgotten Ways* by Alan Hirsch. In it Hirsch discusses many provocative topics and points to discuss and ponder and then actually do. One particular idea that he writes about is the fact that the present does not necessarily determine the future, but rather how we view the future determines our actions in the present. In other words, if we decide that we want to communicate the gospel to 25 people who have never heard it before by the end of the year, then what we do will reflect that goal. Conversely if we decide that we are in a maintenance mode, then we are going to only do those things to maintain our ministry. Viewing life from this perspective really makes one consider their actions and goals.

Taking a look at Jesus and the disciples in the instance of the Feeding of the 5000, we see a good example of what I am speaking of here. Jesus tells the disciples to get the people some food. Their vision was to try and get rid of the people the sooner the better and not taking care of their needs. Consequently, they could not see how it could be done. Jesus then takes them for an awesome ride by showing them through the meager resources of one boy how the impossible can be done! If one stops to really consider this and honestly take a look at their own life or the ministry they are involved with, one has to admit that it is all too easy to get caught up in thinking like the disciples did. Some excuses I have used are, "We do not have the resources; we are overworked; we do not have enough time to do all the things we want." God has so much better plans for us than living day by day, or thinking we can only do so much because we think we do not have enough. God gives us dreams for a reason, and I firmly believe that God also is willing to provide the means necessary to accomplish those dreams. Just as Jesus showed the

Will it be worth it?
Most definitely yes!

Free resources for youth ministry!

Free newsletter from the Board of Youth Ministry!

disciples that when you trust God with your vision to do the seemingly impossible, He will provide a way to make that happen.

What are some of the things that are holding you back from your dreams or visions you have for ministry? Maybe it is fear; maybe in the past people have shut you down. Whatever the reason, I encourage you all to step forward in faith, trusting in the grace and the vision that He has given us. God is faithful in the things He is calling us to do. Will it be easy? Probably not. Will it be worth it? Most definitely yes!

—*Doug Weinrich, Minister to Youth, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Puyallup, WA*
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Find past issues of Youth Supports at:

http://www.nowlcms.org/educational_services//YouthSupports.aspx

Want Some Ideas for Your Youth Ministry?

The Board of Youth Ministry for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with a grant from Thrivent started a new electronic youth ministry resource available for free on the internet. Check out <www.youthsource.com/> The web page is not just for adults, but for youth too with a number of links to other great web sites. Pass it on to your own youth!

E-Newsletter from Synod Board of Youth Ministry

The Board of Youth Ministry for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a monthly e-bulletin with youth ministry information. To subscribe to it, go to <http://www.lcms.org/eneews/> and follow the directions.

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