

2007
Youth Resource Workbook

CED AME Zion Church

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GREETINGS

Greetings!

I am delighted to share with you resourceful information to help your youth ministry grow during this quadrennial. This disc has been created to assist youth directors, pastors, and youth workers to do some exciting things for the Kingdom. There are pages filled with strategies to build relationships, workshops, and youth programs. I call these pieces starter helps which will assist you in your work.

Also included are: problem-solving techniques, youth surveys, youth litanies, educational tips, and an extended list of resources.

Once again, I am delighted to share with you in ministry. I pray this disc/booklet bless your youth ministry. If you have any further questions and/or concerns contact me at my church office at (704) 865-0593 or e-mail us at pthrdg@aol.com.

Yours in Christ,

Reverend David A. Williams
National Director of Youth
,

BUILDING THE KINGDOM THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS

1. Relationships are the glue that holds churches _____.

“I am the _____, and my father _____ is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear _____ he takes away and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”
John 15:1-3.

2. How we _____ to one another is crucial if we are going to fulfill the _____ God has for us.
3. Healthy church relationships cannot be based on _____ of character or personality.

Matthew 7:7 says:

_____.

4. It is important for members to develop _____ within the church to cause it to be stable.
5. Church historian, Rick Warren said most people join the church because of the _____ but they won't leave the church as a result of _____.
6. The more friendships a person has in a congregation the more likely they are to become _____.
7. Most people drop-out because they feel like no one _____.
8. It is a _____ that you have to know everyone in your church.
9. The average church member knows about _____ people of the congregation.
10. Friendship in the church must be _____, _____, and _____.
11. In order for there to be true relationship in a congregation you must create _____ for people to meet and get to know each other.
12. Every member needs to be apart of a _____ where they can grow and develop.

13. Small groups provide _____ and _____
every member deserves no matter how big the church becomes.
14. The Class Leaders System is what we call our
_____.
15. Healthy relationships are based on our _____,
_____ and _____.
16. The word _____ means gift which means to give.
17. Relationships are built as a result of God's _____ in the
lives of people.

BUILDING THE KINGDOM THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS ANSWER KEY

(Scripture answers not included)

- 1) Together
- 2) a. Relate b. Purpose
- 3) Judgment
- 4) Friendships
- 5) a. Pastor b. Relationship
- 6) Stable
- 7) Cares
- 8) Myth
- 9) 67
- 10) a. Encouraged b. Planned c. Facilitated
- 11) Opportunities
- 12) Small group
- 13) a. Personal care b. Attention
- 14) Small groups
- 15) a. True value b. Honor c. Care for one another
- 16) Chrisma
- 17) Gift

BRING YOUTH MINISTRY TO CENTER STAGE

Too long we have made Youth Ministry a hidden part of the Christian Education or Missionary Department of our churches. At most there is a program here and there, but nothing really solid about Youth Ministry. Whether we want to believe it or not the focus on youth ministry must come to the Center Stage and become a very entral part of churches' strategy of making disciples. Disciple making is a process instituted by Jesus. St. Matthew chapter 28 is a call for Christians to go through the world winning others to the Lord. The effectiveness of Jesus to win others was through his strategy.

If we plan to change the lives of youth there must be some strategy developed. A strategy is defined as a careful plan or method. What kind of strategy do we have?

1. Handling questions about premarital sex.
2. Declining church loyalty with youth.
3. The desire to be spiritual but unchurched.
4. The dilemma of social support yet resisting too much infringement in personal space.
5. A yearning for something that transcends material success.
6. The exploration of different beliefs.
7. Every growing HIV-AIDS dilemma.
8. Apathy of forming training and educational pursuit.
9. Personality, reputation, and identity crisis.
10. The lack of self-consciences.
11. Ever growing reality of youth violence.
12. Our overwhelming material excess.
13. Self-gratification at an all time high.
14. Lack of respect for self and authority and figures.

YOUTH PROGRAM IDEAS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Hip Hop Summit

Youth panel of old school verses new school. Choose four youth ages 18 and under, choose four adults 35 and up to make up panel. Discuss the gap, differences opinions, and experience as it relates to black history.

Sample panel questions

- How would you handle the white only restroom situation?
- What do you think about segregated schools?
- If King was living today how would he view Black America?
- What African American from the 1900-1965 could be your hero?

Essay Contest

Youth write about contributions of African Americans and share their research with congregation.

Sample topical ideas

- The way I see it, in ten years Black America will be...
- I plan to change the world for my people by...
- A real covenant with Black America should be...
- I like Martin Luther King better than Malcolm X because...

Monologues

Youth transform themselves into African American ancestors, becoming their voice speaking to today's generation about their life, what it takes to make it, and the power of the black heritage.

Concert

Celebrate gospel music through hymns, contemporary gospel, and negro spirituals. Place emphasis on the transforming nature of music in the Black Church.

Play

Have youth script own play and act out, or perform famous play like "A Raisin in the Sun."

Quiz Bowl

Select four teams of five. Give each team history that will be covered during quiz bowl. Each team has two weeks to prepare for quiz bowl. Team 1 and Team 2 compete with one another while team 3 and 4 compete against one another. The winners between the two competitions then compete against each other for the champion title. Have your own KB2 challenge

Museum

Youth create various displays correlating with black history. Displays become a history museum with people to learn and observe.

Rainbow Tea

Youth, along with the help of their guardians, prepare culture rich dishes. Different tables are decorated with different color cloths and covered with different dishes. Everybody samples dishes from the different tables.

HANDLING CONFLICT

- 1.) To educate the person by explaining the reasons for the community standard.
- 2.) To bring the person's behavior into compliance with the spiritual standard.
- 3.) To have the person maturely accept accountability for his/her behavior.
- 4.) To help clarify the person values as they are related to the behavior in question.
- 5.) To assist the person in making a more positive self-directed choice that will better enable him/her to assume responsibility.
- 6.) To help the person consider in advance the consequences of his/her behavior.
- 7.) To determine with the person the reasons for his/her misconduct.

SEVEN STEPS TO SOLVE CONFLICT

1. Collect the facts
2. Study the facts
3. Draw preliminary conclusion
4. Engage in dialogue with parties involved about the facts
5. Draw final conclusion/statement methods for resolutions
6. Revisits facts if necessary
7. Follow-up

CURBING YOUTH VIOLENCE THROUGH YOUTH MINISTRY

The Magnitude of Youth Violence

- a) Taking the lives of youth ages 9-19 across the world especially in the United States
- b) A greater threat than disease or starvation
- c) Caused the United States Surgeon General to institute policy about saving our youth
- d) So wide spread and intolerant that many youth especially males may not reach age 16
- e) So massive that an entire culture has been created
- f) Religious and secular organizations uniting to reduce and prevent high crime rates

The Epidemic of Youth Violence

- a) Consist of robbery, aggravated assault, and forcible rape
- b) Violence at school consist of: homicides, nonfatal injuries, weapons of mass destruction, gangs
- c) Measured by official crime statistics complied by law enforcement agencies
- d) Survey from youth in which they talk in confidence about violent acts that they commit
- e) Many more violent crimes are committed each year that are never reported

The Question the Church Should Be Asking to Curb Youth Violence

- a) What proportion of youth are violent?
- b) What type of violent acts do they commit?
- c) Has the volume of violence changed over time?
- d) Are there differences by sex and race/ethnicity?
- e) When during the development does violence arise, and what forms does it take?
- f) What patterns are found in children over time and how long does it last?
- g) How many youth have access to fire arms?

The Programmatic Approach of the Churches to Curb Youth Violence

- a) Identifying youth that are behavior challenged and begin a strategy to help them grow in love, honor, and respect
- b) Devotions through youth seminars, sleepovers, workshops that deal with anger and aggression.
- c) One on one sessions with youth in confidence that assist youth to work through their pain
- d) Partner with social service, police department, and fire department for programming at your church

FIVE STEPS TO CEASING RUDENESS

A workshop to help youth get along with their peers

Ephesians 4:32

This is a workshop guide for an interactive session (1 hour). Begin session by asking youth to discuss a recent incident where they were treated rude. Ask them how did it feel? Then ask the group to share if they have ever been rude to someone? Ask them how did it feel and what was the response of the victim.

Teach these five key steps and allow students to read, discuss the scriptures, and apply them to the previous incidents shared in class.

- **Be polite**
- **Don't compliment someone by putting someone else down (proverbs 10:18-19)**
- **Think prior to speaking (James 3: 1-5)**
- **Be patient (Hebrews 10:35-36)**
- **Take personal responsibility**

**RECLAIMING THE BLACK MALE
YOUTH WORKSHOP**

Current World Definition of a Black Male:

A sorry black individual who is incapable of learning, a threat to the welfare of society, and a potential candidate for imprisonment in the next 10 years.

YOUR definition of Black Male:

Who is man? (*Psalm 8*)

**God's Purpose of Man:
Dominion: *Genesis 1:24***

“And God said, let us make man in our own image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon thee.”

What is the purpose of the Black Male?

What is the potential of Black Male?

2 Tim 1:6

“Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by putting on of my hands.”

What is Potential?

Potential is the dormant ability, reserved power, untapped strength, unused success, hidden talents, capped capability. All you can be but have not become...all you can do but have yet done how far you can reach but have not yet reached what you can accomplish but have not yet accomplished. Potential is unexpected ability and latent power. (Myles Munroe, 91)

Wasted Potential of Black Male:

So much of the potential I the Black race is wasted because we have no patients. So much of us are in a hurry for so many things in life. Young black males could and can be anything they want to be!

What kills potential?

Unlimited Potential

John 1:1-2

In the beginning was the word, and the word was God, and the world was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life and the life was the light of men.

Who are your role models and why do we need them?

FIVE STEPS OF ACHIEVING SUCCESS USING YOUR POTENTIAL

1. **Set the course.**
Must decide what you want to do with your life.
2. **Find the route.**
Must determine if you need college, military service, etc.
3. **Gather the materials for the journey.**
Education, trade, etc...
4. **Begin to sail**
Start working toward your desire
5. **Stay focused.**
Continue to remain motivated concerning what you want to do?

List one goal you plan to achieve this summer and how you plan to do it.

GET ACQUAINTED QUESTIONNAIRE

Birth Month _____

The Color you look best in _____

Most disliked Veggie _____

Worst year of life _____

Favorite instrument _____

How do you like your soup? _____

Crickets, grasshoppers, or lady bugs _____

Your #1 Bible verse _____

Salt more than Sugar _____

How many books in the Bible? _____

Your dream spot vacation _____

Most watched television show _____

Best year of your life _____

Coffee or Tea _____

Morning person or evening person _____

The most you spent and or will spend on one meal at a restaurant _____

Rate Sleep 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Hours of the day you get your best work done _____

Most notable story to you in the Bible _____

One thing you like to change about you _____

One thing you would change about the world _____

Why are you here at The Ridge?

How many people do you know who are really a Christian? 1 5 10 20 25 50

How many people would you like to be Christian? _____

Write one salvation scripture _____

GENERAL YOUTH SURVEY

- 1) Who was the first person that introduced you to God and why do you think that they did?
- 2) Do you think that it is important to believe that there is a God?
- 3) How do you know that God is real in your life?
- 4) What is love?
- 5) Is love sex? Is sex ok for a person your age?
- 6) Do drugs effect your life and how?
- 7) How do drugs and alcohol stand up with God?
- 8) Have you ever been tempted with drugs? What did you do that very moment that it happened?
- 9) Do you and your parent have a great relationship? What makes it a wonderful relationship?
- 10) How do you define success? Does money and houses make you successful?
- 11) Do good grades make me successful?
- 12) What created racial tension? At what age do you think that racial tension starts? What does God say about racial tension?
- 13) If we could remove all the racial tension in the world what would we do?
- 14) The top ten things that cause peer pressure.

YOUTH RECOGNITION SURVEY

Please complete the following survey and return.

Youth Name _____ age _____
School _____ Grade just completed _____

Please check the boxes that apply to your child.

Youth had perfect attendance for the _____ school year
Youth achieved honor roll recognition
Youth received award for outstanding math performance or reading performance. Circle the correct one: Reading Math
Student received most improved status. Please name subject. _____.
Youth participated in a sport. Please identify sport. _____ Please circle the correct one: School or Community League
Youth received most valuable player. Which sport? _____
Youth participated in other student organizations. Please list below: _____ _____ _____
Please include any other youth achievements no already listed on this sheet.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

YOUTH SEX SURVEY

Gender: M _____ F: _____ Grade _____ Age _____

Please circle your answer to the following questions:

- 1) How sexually active are you?
Completely Active Slightly Active Not at All
- 2) If you are sexually active, how long?
All the time Some of the time None of the time
- 3) Sex is on my mind?
All the time Some of the time None of the time
- 4) Do your friends pressure you to talk about sex?
All the time Some of the time None of the time
- 5) After I have sex, I feel guilty?
All the time Some of the time None of the time
- 6) Have your parents taught you all you need to know about sex?
All I need to know Some of the things Nothing
- 7) My church has taught me
All I need to know Some of the things Nothing
- 8) Videos like on MTV and CDs like 112 have introduced me to sex?
Completely Slightly Not at all
- 9) Are you ashamed that you are committing fornication?
Completely ashamed Somewhat ashamed Not ashamed
- 10) Do you believe that your sexual behavior could lead to HIV-AIDS?
Completely believe Somewhat believe Not at all
- 11) Do you think that you have the ability to overcome your complete desire with your flesh?
All the power Some of the power None
- 12) Do you think that you are addicted to sex?
Completely Somewhat Not at all

- 13) Have you been involved with sex because you were forced to?
All the time Some of the time Not at all
- 14) Do you think that immoral sexual behavior breaks Gods laws?
All the time Some of the time None of the time
- 15) Do you think that abortion is right?
All the time Some of the time None of the time
- 16) Are you a virgin?
Completely Somewhat Not at all
- 17) Do you think that is fair to forbid you from having sex?
Completely Somewhat Not at all
- 18) Do you believe in Oral Sex?
Completely Somewhat Not at all
- 19) Have you ever performed oral sex on a person?
Completely Somewhat Not at all
- 20) Do you believe in multiple sex partners?
Completely Somewhat Not at all
- 21) Are you willing to perform oral sex on a person even if they don't perform it on you?
Completely Somewhat Not at all
- 22) Have you been taught how to flee fornication?
Completely Somewhat Not at all
- 23) I began having sex at the age of
9-12 13-15 16-18 19-21
- 24) I'm proud to say that I am a virgin, meaning I have not had any sexual intercourse in my life?
Completely Somewhat Not at all
- 25) Do your parents know that you are sexually involved?
Completely Somewhat Not at all

SO YOU ARE AN EVANGELIST

What is the work of an evangelist?

Is it strictly a ministry to the unsaved (those outside the church)?

Yes ____ No ____

Is it also a ministry to the saved (those within the church)?

Yes ____ No ____

What are the characteristics of an evangelistic?

The NT writers speak of a group of men known as “Evangelists” who have a very specific place in the Church of Jesus Christ, who must possess certain qualities, who have specific responsibilities & functions, and who have been given authority by the Lord to perform their duties.

Name some qualities: Acts 21:8 refers to “Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven” (see Acts 6:1-6)

1. _____ (hint: people speak well of you)
2. _____ (hint: people look to you when you do this)
3. _____ (hint: a part of the Trinity “Father, Son...”) Acts 6:3
4. _____ (hint: reading your bible daily will help you) I Tim. 4:15
5. _____ (hint: stay away from temptation...)
6. _____ (hint: loving clothes or things too much)
7. _____ (hint: don't be scared) II Tim. 1:8; 2:15
8. _____ (hint: be nice) II Tim 2:24

LITANY FOR COMMISSIONING YOUTH WORKERS

- LEADER** "O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).
- CONGREGATION** "Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him" (Psalm 127:3)
- LEADER** Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14). And Paul said that we are to bring up our children "in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1).
- CONGREGATION** God has decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which He commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children (Psalm 78:5-6).
- LEADER** It is a great and serious responsibility that the Lord has given us in regards to our children.
- CONGREGATION** The commandments that God gives us we will impress on our children. We will talk about them when we sit at home and when we walk along the road, when we lie down and when we get up (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).
- LEADER** To instruct God's children, we as a church have Church School, Catechism, Cadets, Early Teen Ministry, and Young Peoples' Rap Session. We have these programs because we don't want children who are a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts are not loyal to God, whose spirits are not faithful to Him (Psalm 78:8). We have these programs because we want children who love the Lord, are committed to Him, and are faithful to Him. Do you who have been appointed for youth ministry promise to be faithful, loving, and true in your teaching and leading? Do you promise to be an example in word and in deed for our children and youth?
- YOUTH WORKERS** Before the Lord we promise: We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done (Psalm 78:4); in our teaching we will show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned; we will be examples to all the saints in everything (Titus 2:7-8).
- LEADER** Why do you make such promises? What is your God-ordained goal or purpose?
- YOUTH WORKERS** God would have us instruct and teach the children so that, by grace, they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands (Psalm 78:7).

- LEADER** What can we do to help you in this work?
- YOUTH WORKERS** We ask for the prayers of the congregation for apart from God we can do nothing (John 15:5). And we ask for the congregation's support and encouragement.
- LEADER** Do you, the congregation, promise to pray for, to support and encourage those involved in our youth ministry?
- CONGREGATION** Before the Lord we promise: We will pray for those involved in youth ministry; we will support them in front of our children; we will work with and cooperate with them so that their work will be a joy and not a burden (Hebrews 13:17).
- LEADER** Boys and girls, young people, these here are your teachers and leaders. We expect you to listen carefully to what they say, to obey them, to learn from them.
- ALL** "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

LITANY FOR THE JOURNEY

How beautiful are the feet of those...

Who walk with a sense of purpose and reality
Who walk unafraid to be challenged and to change
Who walk with an understanding of people and an open faith
Who have the courage to tread unknown paths

How beautiful are the lips of those...

Who speak aloud the Gospel of Justice: The gospel of the poor
Who question deeply why poverty exists and why there are poor
Who dare to choose imagination and live creatively our Kingdom partnership

How beautiful are the feet of those...

Who have the courage to walk through darkness asking questions about human rights
Who are to be compassionate leaders - inclusive of the poor and understanding of them
Who are willing to enter into humble partnership, open to the question "Can we deliver humbly to the outsider?"
Who knows that we can do it together

How beautiful are the lips of those...

Who proclaim aloud that the Church must never hesitate to be the voice of those who have no voice
Who recognize the voiceless in our land... the sound of all our people who are dispossessed
Who give hope to the frightened when they are frightened themselves
Who celebrate the goodness of the human person in every race and color and walk of life

How beautiful are the feet of those...

Who walk in compassionate love
Whose way proclaims a spirituality of action
Who walk a partnership of justice, peace, love and friendship... creating the Kingdom here and now
Who know that because this is sacred, each step we take is holy

LITANY OF COMMITMENT

Leader: In a world torn by the social upheavals of poverty and change, we quickly forget the most vulnerable among us.

People: God, help the children

Leader: We long for children to be free from fear and free to live in faith

People: God, help us to help the children.

Leader: May our congregation be a Safe Haven for all children.

People: May we know the children in our community by name.

Leader: Use us to give voice to the children in our community and throughout the world

People: To protect them from the ravages of racism, hunger, violence, and poverty

Leader: Lord, deepen our commitment that children are central to the life of this congregation.

People: Help us to see life through a child's eyes.

Leader: We know that being a Safe Haven for Children will bring with it challenges for this congregation, that children bring with them a kind of holy chaos

People: God, teach us to celebrate the noise and activity and fun that children bring.

Leader: Thank you, God, for giving us children.

People: May we be a Safe Haven for them. In your most holy name.

All: Amen

EASY STEPS TO TEACH SALVATION

Romans 10: 9-10

- I. **Confess** (agree with God) that we are sinners. It takes only one wrong doing to make us a sinner.

Romans 3:23-“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

1John 1:9- “If we confess with our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us of our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

- II. **Forsake** (turn away from) your sin. Make a conscious decision to live your life in obedience to God’s plan. God made this possible by Jesus dying on the cross. It can only be done by His grace (kindness you cannot earn nor do you deserve).

Proverbs 28:13- “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”

Psalm 119:30- “I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on your laws.

- III. **Accept** (embrace) God’s Forgiveness. Once you accept God’s forgiveness, you are no longer under condemnation. God’s forgiveness is complete. He will not hold your sin against you once you confess and forsake your sin.

Psalm 32:5- “Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’- and you forgave the guilt of my sin.”

Romans 8:1- “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

- IV. **Commit** (put into action) a daily plan. You are a new babe in Christ. This simply means that you new born in the body of Christ. In order for you to grow and become strong (mature) you have to spend time with God on a daily basis. This includes praying, reading your Bible, and by all means hook up with other Christians who will be an example for you to follow.

STUDY SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

1. Select or prepare a place especially for studying or doing homework.
2. Schedule time for studying.
3. Gather essential materials: the homework assignment, the textbook, pencil, paper.
4. Work with a study partner, or join a study group.
5. Define key terms or vocabulary.
6. Identify the topic - define it, illustrate it, and discuss its importance.
7. Examine and compare it - in literature, history, and current events.
8. Utilize a Summarizing technique:
 - a. Take out material that is not important to understanding.
 - b. Take out words that repeat information.
 - c. Replace a list of things with a word that describes the things in the list.
9. Underline and high-light key information in class notes.
10. Become a self-directed learner
 - a. Set goals for your learning
 - b. Practice, practice and practice skills
 - c. Self-assessment-evaluate your progress and ask for teacher feedback.
11. Become a reader – readers experience higher academic success.

TEN FACTS ABOUT COLLEGE

You are paying for an education!

Because you are paying for your education, your objective for enrolling in college is to obtain a degree. Grades should be top priority.

Time Management is Imperative!

College assignments can take a toll, and often people have to work while in school. Managing your time is a must.

Freedom!

There aren't any guardians sitting around telling you what or what not to do. You must use good judgment for various situations.

Money is a need; not want!

When you receive money save it, do not squander it on the unnecessary. Books for classes can cost as much as or more than \$700 for one semester.

Your name is all you have, protect it!

There is so much to get into in college, but remember that everyone remembers a name and it becomes a connotation, what do you want to be known for?

Flip flops are required!

Please pack several flip flops. The community shower is a part of college life, wear flip flops.

STD's are real!

STD's are international, meaning they are on your campus. Protect yourself. Health services on your campus can assist you with testing, contraceptives, and questions.

Everyone is NOT the same!

You will meet many people with different personalities, a variation of characters. Consider the fact that everyone is not the same, everyone does not have your best interest at heart, everyone is not your friend, and everyone has a different agenda. Do not be naïve.

It's good to own a flash drive!

So many assignments, almost all professors prefer typed papers. Investing into a flash drive can be one of your greatest investments.

Prayer will carry you through!

Your personal relationship can either strengthen while you are in school or deteriorate. Meditation with God will help you in many situations you will encounter. Your dependence on God will empower you and allow you to achieve the impossible.

Observe the National Day of Prayer as Youth Activity

The intention of the National Day of Prayer was always that it would be a day when members of all faiths could pray together in their own way. It would involve Christians, Jews, Muslims, and all others, of any faith or of no organized religion, who had a religious faith and wished to participate.

On April 17, 1952, President Harry S. Truman signed a bill proclaiming the National Day of Prayer into law. It was in 1972 that the National Prayer Committee was formed. It went on to create the National Day of Prayer Task Force, with the intended purpose of coordinating events for the National Day of Prayer. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill into law decreeing that the National Day of Prayer should be held on the first Thursday of May.

How to Make it Happen

- Let Youth plan an event to encourage their peers to pray
- Let the event include youth in the city not just youth in your church
- Give a gift- ribbon, arm band, to signify the event
- Provide music for the event to incorporate worship
- Allow youth the opportunity to pray for area that challenge youth on a daily basis

Let Us Pray:

Dear Lord we ask that Today you will allow us to embrace unity for the cause of humanity and allow who you are to be seen in the world. Amen

Litany for Youth by Youth on the National Day of Prayer

We pray for those whose lives closely touch our own that they may always be in our hearts and have joy and happiness in their lives. We pray for those who trespass against us that their sins may be forgiven.

Bless us all, O Lord, and hear our prayer.

We pray with thanks for families, neighbors, teachers, teammates, and all those in our community who support the well being of others, especially the sick and the needy.

Strengthen them, O Lord, and hear our prayer.

We pray for those who suffer the loss of family, friends and neighbors that they may be comforted by those who love them. Help restore peace and harmony in their hearts. Let them discover Your love through the care and support of others.

Comfort them, O Lord, and hear our prayer.

We pray for our school, teaches, and leaders. We pray for all who assist persons to improve their quality of life to the ends of the earth and for all who seek the Truth.

Strengthen them, O Lord, and hear our prayer.

We pray for all the leaders of the world that they may make wise choices for everyone and that they may lead us to honor one another and serve the common good.

Guide them, O Lord, and hear our prayer.

We pray for your wonderful creation, the Earth, and its streams, trees, mountains and plants. We pray that the animals of the Earth may freely enjoy these resources.

Guide those who manage the world, O Lord, and hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died and for the people who miss them. May all find peace and strength in You.

Bless all of us, O Lord, and hear our prayer.

We pray for those who do not understand or have not found Your love, that they may seek a deeper knowledge of You. May Your love find those who need You most.

Guide and bless them, O Lord, and hear our prayer.

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