



AN INTRODUCTION TO YOUTH FOR CHRIST

OUR STORY

Since 1944, Youth for Christ has had a distinctive history of youth evangelism. In the early 1940s, during World War II, many young men, mostly ministers and evangelists, were holding large rallies in Canada, England and the United States. As the hunger for God's Word grew it became evident that there needed to be someone to coordinate this movement, providing leadership, strategy, and coordinating speakers, musicians and locations. Beginning in dozens of cities at the end of World War II, YFC quickly organized into a national movement. Billy Graham became YFC's first full-time staff member.

Starting with Saturday night youth rallies in the late 1940s and early 1950s, YFC's ministry methodology turned to Bible Clubs in the late 50s and 60s. It was in this period of ministry that the concept of teen to teen evangelism was birthed. Then in the middle sixties and early seventies Campus Life, a ministry to senior and junior high youth began to be the thrust of YFC ministry. Since that time there have been several ministry models that have been created; Juvenile Justice Ministries became an avenue in reaching at-risk and institutionalized young people, Parent Life exists to mentor and equip young mothers and dads with parenting skills as well as the love of Jesus Christ, City Life reaches out to the millions of young people in our major urban communities, partnering with the church and other organizations, YFC Core is designed to empower Christian students to take Jesus to their friends and campuses.

YFC/USA is a chartered program of Youth for Christ International and is now just one of over 100 countries who share in our vision of reaching every young person with the gospel. Today, over 1500 paid staff members and 15,000 volunteers serve in 1713 communities in the USA. As a part of the YFC/USA commitment to serve the world, Project Serve provides overseas short-term mission opportunities. In addition, well over 100 YFC staff members from the U.S. have ministry assignments with YFC programs in other nations as part of our World Outreach Division.

Throughout YFC's history there has been an unwavering commitment to youth evangelism and biblical Christianity. One of YFC's slogans over the past fifty years has been "Geared to the Times and Anchored to the Rock" - Although the message of the gospel will never change YFC will remain flexible to creatively communicate this message of hope, grace and love in the context of different cultural and community settings.

OUR OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Each YFC Ministry Site Coordinator is trained to understand these principles:

WHAT IS 3STORY® ?

YFC's relational approach to youth evangelism is guided by what we call **3Story®**. 3Story® is a way of life that guides followers of Christ to be good news while sharing stories of the Good News. Living a 3Story® life is best understood through the picture of three stories; God's, Mine and Theirs. The more these "stories" connect through true and authentic relationships the more Jesus' love is revealed.

God's Story - Abiding in Christ and understanding His great love story.

My Story - It's the story of who I really am, and why I really need Jesus.

Their Story - Discovering the stories all around me and connecting My Story with Their Story.



For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

THE ESSENTIALS

Our focus as a movement is on multiplying fruitful and sustainable Ministry Sites across the nation and around the world; because the Ministry Site is the point of contact between Youth for Christ and young people.

We believe there are five essential elements to establishing fruitful and sustainable ministry to young people.

1. WIDESPREAD PRAYER

We deliberately engage lots of Christians to intercede on behalf of the ministry site.

2. LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

We consistently pursue lost kids & engage them in life-long relationships with Jesus.

3. FAITHFUL BIBLE TEACHING

We accurately handle Biblical truth, regularly coaching kids to apply it in their lives.

4. COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

We intentionally work together with local churches, agencies and other partners to provide sustainable youth and family ministry.

5. ADULTS WHO EMPOWER

We strategically develop leaders to reach young people from every people group.



OUR VISION

As part of the body of Christ, our vision is to see every young person in every people group in every nation have the opportunity to make an informed decision to be a follower of Jesus Christ and become a part of a local church.

OUR MISSION

YFC reaches young people everywhere, working together with the local church and other likeminded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness in lifestyle, devotion to the Word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ and commitment to social involvement.

YFC'S STATEMENT OF FAITH

- ◆ We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
- ◆ We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- ◆ We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
- ◆ We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- ◆ We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
- ◆ We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- ◆ We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in Christ.

YFC's NATIONAL MINISTRIES

CAMPUS LIFE HIGH SCHOOL ministry combines healthy relationships with creative programs to help senior high young people make good choices, establish a solid foundation for life, and positively impact their schools for Christ.

CAMPUS LIFE MIDDLE SCHOOL offers junior high and middle school students opportunities for friendship, fun, and growth. Staff and adult volunteers find creative ways to build relationships and communicate the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

CITY LIFE helps young people in urban communities through teaching life skills, building relationships with caring adult role models, providing opportunities for positive peer group experiences, and sharing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

YFC CORE, student led ministry uses adult coaches to help students become authentic, lifelong followers of Christ who live out their faith in the context of their campus community, and naturally invite others to follow Christ with them.

JUVENILE JUSTICE reaches troubled young people through institutions, juvenile justice and social service agency contacts, connecting them with trained adults who help them make good choices and find healing and new life in Christ.

PARENT LIFE connects trained adults with pregnant girls and teenage parents in programs designed to help them make good choices and establish a solid foundation in their lives and the lives of their babies.

DEAF TEEN QUEST is designed specifically to build life-changing relationships with deaf and hard of hearing students.

UNIFIED UNDERGROUND reaches underground subculture youth of the anti-social or non-conformist persuasion with the Gospel of Jesus Christ nationwide.

YFC MILITARY helps young people as their parents serve in the United States Military.