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Youth Ministry Goals

By Paul Evans

1. Do whatever it takes to get teens to heaven. Paul wrote that he became all things to all people so

that some might be saved (II Corinthians 9:19–23). How well does this relate to your ministry? What could you be doing that might reach more teens in your schools and community?

Ministry has its own set of pressures. We have to worry about what the leaders, parents, and members will think about a program or event. By doing whatever it takes to get teens to heaven, you will endure your share of criticism about your approaches, but keep the goal in focus. Keep everyone involved aware that you are not using a certain technique just to be different, but to bring teens to Jesus.

2. Help teens develop a personal relationship with God. While second-hand faith is better than no faith, there's no doubt that first-hand faith wins the prize. Help teens develop a faith that says, "I believe in God, not because my parents say so, or because my youth minister or preacher says so, but because I have experienced and know God in my life."

3. Involve teens in daily Bible study and prayer. Instead of simply asking your group to read the Bible and pray daily, provide the opportunity and tools to make it possible. Develop a daily Bible reading schedule for your teens. Supply information on Bibles designed for youth so they can get a grip on the Word in a way relevant to them.

Form prayer groups of three that meet at school, or that call each other daily for prayer requests. Challenge your group to pray before getting out of bed and before going to sleep. Have teens set their watch alarms for a certain time each day to signal prayer time. Create as many tools as needed to get them into the Bible and prayer on a daily basis.

4. Build a Christ-like attitude and spirit into the youth group. "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus," Philippians 2:5. This means more than just asking, "What would Jesus do?" It calls for a clear-cut lifestyle of surrender. What is the attitude of Jesus?

· Attitude of a Servant (v. 7)

Youth Ministry Goals

- Attitude of Humility (v. 8)
- Attitude of Obedience (v. 8)

If every teen becomes a servant, how many things will get done? If every teen becomes humble, how much arguing will take place? If every teen becomes obedient to God, how much better could the youth conventions be? Of course, developing a Christ-like attitude in your group begins by displaying a Christ-like attitude in your life.

5. Develop quality leadership among the group. Jesus called His followers with, "Follow me." By the end of His ministry He had trained them to lead. Paul even said, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ" (I Corinthians 11:1). Give your teens the responsibility and let them lead. Dust them off when they fall down and encourage them to keep going.

Here are a few ways you can let teens lead: Devotionals, teaching class, heading up a service project, forming prayer groups, etc.

6. Parental support and participation. Believe it or not, There are some in your congregation who see youth ministry as a divider of parents and their children. Prevent this by creating a high level of parental involvement.

Have your parents teach for a quarter, host devotionals in their homes, chaperone trips, etc. Check out Group Publishing's 130 Ways to Involve Parents in Your Ministry for more great ideas.

7. Develop evangelistic teens. Redirect the vision of your group by training them to see each classmate, each neighbor, each family member, each clerk, each waiter, just fill in the blank, each _____ as an opportunity to share the Lord.

Jesus left the message in our mouths and lives. Help your group become evangelistic by creating an atmosphere that makes guests want to return. Go out to the school campus and meet kids on their turf. Be available, open and loving.

8. Establish positive relationships with other youth groups in the area. If we are not careful ministry can become a competition where the leader with the most teens wins. Because of that, we may be afraid to do things with other groups for fear that our teens might spot something "cooler" than what we provide. Don't forget #4 and build a Christ-like attitude by doing things with other groups like retreats or prayer nights. One of the easiest ways to establish positive relationships is by participating together in community events such as the March for Jesus, or collecting food and toys for needy families during the holidays.

9. Include teens as part of the congregation. Have you ever felt the perception that there is the church, and then there is the youth group? Integrate the group into the congregation by getting the teens involved in praying, scripture reading, or whatever format your church follows. Most churches let teens participate on youth days. But encourage your leadership to include teens on a regular basis, not just special days.

Youth Ministry Goals

10. Equip teens to go into all the world and teach the Gospel. While every teen has the responsibility to evangelize around them, a few feel the call to literally go into all the world. Prepare them for that future by encouraging and praying for him or her. Help sponsor teens on a yearly mission trip to gain experience. Provide contacts through special mission organizations to get teens involved. Who knows how many will come to know the Lord as a result of your ministry.

Paul Evans is the co-founder of Teen Life Ministries. If you work with youth go to

<http://www.teenlifeministries.com/thezone>

and join youth workers from around the globe in their quest

to reach teens for Christ.

The Ministry's Sound Agenda

By Chris Meehan

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A snapshot of the Ministry Of Sound: from its Elephant and Castle beginnings to becoming a world-brand.

Dance music in London has been synonymous with The Ministry of Sound since it opened its exceptionally hip doors, in 1991. It's ability to attract vast shoals of loved-up dance-heads to the shady shores of London's Elephant and Castle is the stuff of corporate dreams. To this day, it still pulls in 5,000 clubbers every sweat-swamped weekend ? for full-on cranial and physical recreation, at the hands of a Richter scale-measuring sound system.

This, then, is a huge predatory beast with an instinctive understanding of club culture. And, kraken-like, it dominates the lively seas of the London club scene – as the undisputed tentacled daddy. Its grip on the market has allowed its dangly limbs to stretch into recording, clothing, the media and various other lucrative Ministry spin-offs.

The Ministry's four sub-labels: Sound of Ministry, Ride, FSUK manufacture a spectrum of dance music to feed the full breadth of the global dance music market and its constituent segments. In tandem with this, its media operation has a nice syndication number on the go, these days, allowing 150 radio stations in 38 countries to galvanize the airways with pre-recorded Ministry output.

HQs in New York, Berlin, Sydney and London, of course, enhance the credibility of the world-brand being consolidated here. And, market penetration on a planetary scale continues apace, mirroring the rise of club culture as a common currency among near and far-flung youth ? say from: Beijing to Reykjavik, Mexico City to Mumbai. Ministry bars and clubs look set to be surfacing in a town near you in the not too distant future. What remains to be seen, though, is whether the quality of the product will be compromised in any way, now that the Ministry is clearly dealing in economies of scale.

Youth Ministry Goals

The latest issue in what has been a well-received series is *The Ministry's: The Annual 2005*. It features a tasty mix of the year's spiciest dance tunes, served up on two CDs. CD 1 is a frisky mix of the big numbers that have held sway throughout the British club scene. These include Armand Van Helden's *My My My*, *Call On Me* by Eric Prydz, *Soul Central's* *Strings of Life* and *Girls* by The Prodigy. CD 2 has a harder edge to it, and the diamonds in this package would have to be Judge Jules' remix of Michael Woods, *Delirium's* *Silence*, JJ's *So Special* and Kristine Blond's *Loveshy*. The limited edition box set has a bonus DVD, with plenty of piquant vid footage, as an extra condiment.

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This article was written by Chris Meehan who is the features editor
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