

MentoringMatters

Summer 2008

Christian Association of Youth Mentoring



Our vision is to create a movement whereby every church sees mentoring as an essential ministry to vulnerable youth in the church and a vital outreach to kids and families in the community.

Getting to the Summit

Have you heard of Robert Raikes? Maybe not, but he's the inspiration for you to head to the Christian Mentoring Summit 2008 in St. Petersburg.

Over two hundred years ago, Raikes saw the needs of "urchins" on the streets of England – the kids you read about in the Charles Dickens novels – the children working in factories along with orphans and homeless families. In 1780 he started the Sunday school movement to bring the hope of the Gospel to the most vulnerable children in the most prosperous nation in the world.

Fifty years afterwards, without the help of telephones, computers and the internet, 1,250,000 children attended Sunday school in England – one quarter of the country's youth population.

How can we create an enduring movement to reach 1.25 million youth?

We know that Sunday school, while ubiquitous, has veered far from the original mission. Although it serves a great purpose in training our children, what about today's "urchins" – the children born to unwed moms – the children separated from parents by divorce and our modern day orphans – kids in foster care and group homes?

We no longer have Dickensian poor houses. But the poor are still with us, and their children continue to greatly suffer. Our current "urchins" dwell in homes, neighborhoods and schools that suffocate the hope in their young lives. Yes, there will always be an Oliver Twist, who through intelligence, wit and the help of caring people rises above the oppression, but the overwhelming majority continue to perpetuate the hopelessness of their family and economic cycles.

Mentoring is a method that can reach these children and their families, whether they are orphans in group homes or the children of the single mom sitting in the pew in front of us. The question is, how can we create an enduring movement so that 1.25 million of our most vulnerable youth have a Christian mentor?

Like Raikes, we live in the most prosperous nation in the world – a nation that is also filled with needy kids and families. We also share the same Savior whose heart aches for them.

On October 26-28, we will meet in St. Petersburg for our Christian Mentoring Summit. You are part of this movement, a grass roots movement in churches and ministries throughout the country, to bring the hope of Christ to kids and families through mentors. Come to Florida. Bring someone with you. Together, we will move Christians to mentor our youth.



Christian Mentoring Summit
equipping the church...
to mentor the next generation

When: Oct. 26-28

Where: St. Petersburg, Florida

Why: To learn, grow and network so that kids can be transformed through mentoring.

How: For registration and details visit www.CAYM.org.

What else: Join us early, Oct 24-25 for our Christian Mentoring Institute – basic and advanced mentor ministry training.

Christian Association of Youth Mentoring

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