



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

YouthTransitionNetwork.org

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Seniors connect in '07 for '08 school year!

902 contacts were made between high school seniors and college ministries in '07. **Page 1**



Leaders respond to training sessions

Training sessions at the Ivy Jungle and Refresh '08 were well received. **Page 2**



YTN & M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust host Preparation Roundtable

A Preparation Roundtable with 38 leaders considered the

merit of a "National Preparation" Week for youth ministry. **Page 2**

Written By: Jeff Schadt

Seniors connect in '07 for '08 school year!

High school seniors are motivated to make connections to college ministries.

YTN is encouraged by the initial results of our joint effort to transition students. In spite of limited marketing resources, we saw 902 connections made between high school seniors and college ministries during the four months of '07 that LiveAbove.com was live.

In many ways we find these contacts to be amazing, given that they represent students who are headed to college in August and September of this coming year! These students were exposed to the need to connect through the YouTube video trailer, Be Prepared Sessions conducted by youth pastors, Campus Ambassadors staff members and YTN, along with churches playing the full Be Prepared video for their upperclassmen.

Even more encouraging are the responses we have seen from local collegiate leaders to these student contacts. We have clearly seen the heart these leaders have for our youth in the emails we have witnessed and received. Two such emails are below:

From: Lee Davis
Date: Thu, 5 Dec 2007 15:04:36 -0700 (PDT)
To: Ally
Subject: Re: Your request for information

Ally,
Good to hear from you.

We have a very active Campus Crusade for Christ group at WOU. We have over 100 involved. We meet every Tuesday night at 7 pm in the student union. If you are coming to WOU to visit the campus, please let us know, and you can meet students involved.
Sincerely,
Lee Davis

Ally heard about YTN when her church received a copy of the Be Prepared DVD they requested online.

The second email is from the director of a Campus Ambassadors ministry.



College Students Say There are Three Main Differences Between Their College and Youth Ministries

From: Ryan Miller
Date: Thu, 25 Oct 2007 15:04:36 -0700 (PDT)
To: Jeff Schadt Subject: Re: Thank You! (& God Tube Link added)

Hi Jeff -
I just thought I'd let you know that since you posted the YouTube video we've gotten 9 new contacts through the site! Excellent idea and execution. We're following up with the names this week and hope to help all of the students find a ministry home with us or another ministry.
Grace and Peace -
Ryan Miller

We have found that when students are able to take a peek into the future, through the transition stories of current college students, they reevaluate the course of their life and become motivated to make a connection. This is dramatically enhanced when high school students hear how college students view their college ministry experience as different from youth ministry. The top three reasons college students tell YTN that college ministry is different than youth ministry may surprise you, as it did us.

1. All the students who attend a college ministry want to be there.
2. The ministry leaders will help you with real issues you are struggling with.
3. You no longer feel anonymous, but rather feel a sense of purpose

We are finding that it is easy for parents to spend so much time and money helping our students get through the SAT's, applications, financial aid, registration, housing and assembling all their material needs, that the spiritual component of the transition is often forgotten. When I stop and consider the popular Master Card commercials: \$20 for sheets, \$100 for a microwave, \$2,000 for registration, piece of mind: priceless, and then look at the email to Ally, what I see is see the priceless piece of mind for a parent or grandparent of knowing their child is connected to good people before they leave home.



Ministry Leaders Respond to Training Sessions

YTN was invited to conduct workshops at Ivy Jungle and Refresh '08 for collegiate ministry leaders. These sessions focused on exposing leaders to the transition issues including, understanding YTN, the transition site and how to connect with youth group graduates.

The attendance and response confirmed what we saw with collegiate leaders in Arizona. The local college leaders have a heart for our youth and sense a significant need for a better way to connect with them. They are excited about the resources and infrastructure YTN is bringing to help them make the connection with youth group graduates.

An even stronger response came from helping these leaders understand the mindset of youth group students that can easily be misread / misunderstood when collegiate leaders attempt to connect with our youth on campus. They stated that this understanding and the advice related to connecting with youth group graduates was illuminating and very helpful.

One example of this response was from a regional director with the Navigators who requested the entire presentation to cover with the staff in his region. He believed it was important to helping his staff be more effective at connecting with and touching the hearts of students from church who arrive on campus.

We have been blessed by the leaders' gracious and reflective responses to some of the very challenging things we are uncovering from our discussions with Christian high school students.

YTN and M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust Host Preparation Roundtable

YTN would like to recognize and thank the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust for hosting the meals and a number of the leaders in attendance for the roundtable! The roundtable brought together 37 leaders to discuss the preparation of high school graduates. Ministries attending included:

- Association of Christian Schools Intl.
- The Navigators
- Focus on the Family
- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
- Campus Crusade for Christ
- Baptist Collegiate Ministries
- Youth for Christ
- National Network of Youth Ministries
- Reformed University Fellowship
- Summit Ministries
- Probe Ministries
- Worldview Academy
- Campus Ambassadors
- Chi Alpha
- College 101
- College Prep Seminars
- UrbNet

The first day contained a great deal of discussion related to the issues that are snaring our youth and how we need to connect with, prepare and transition them given these factors. A number of themes repeated themselves in the discussions among the leaders: significant relationships with adults, relationships with fellow Christians, the burden of guilt so many students carry today, worldview and lack of significant involvement were among the top issues identified.

We concluded the day with significant research reports from Dr. Kara Powell from Fuller Seminary, and Brian Raison from Ohio State covering the transition of Christian as well as secular youth. Kara's research showed that, for Christian students, the ones who were most protected in high school

tended to go the wildest in college. According to Brian's research among secular youth, they indicated they were most unprepared for the alcohol and freedom they experienced following leaving home.

Day two, we began the brainstorming process related to a National Preparation Week. Many different possible messages and elements were discussed.

A consensus existed that a preparation week should be declared. The timing of the week seemed best situated early in November. Many ideas were broached about how to assemble such a week and what should be included in it. The leaders indicated that the week should contain a series of possible ways for people to be involved that could range from a few minutes to a whole series on preparing youth. Some of the elements discussed included prayer emphasis, encouraging a graduating student and implementing preparation at their home church. We also discussed a preparation conference where top speakers would bring the best preparation materials to the table in a nationally webcast conference that youth leaders, parents and Christian schools could access for their students.

The Executive Advisory Council of YTN is reviewing all the input in preparation for YTN's National Meeting on March 3 and 4th. We will assemble a recommendation, background information and supporting data for leaders to examine and revise as we work together on a plan for moving forward for the '08-'09 school year.

Notes from the meeting and a summary of the research reported during the Preparation Roundtable are available by contact hbodine@youthtransitionnetwork.org.