



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

1 – “The Well” Launches

24 – Los Angeles Niche Training



I am convinced the three greatest needs among urban youth leaders across America today are for **connectivity, encouragement** and **training/resources**.

Connectivity – The demands on their time and the complexity of issues they face on a daily basis cause many youth workers to feel like they are drowning. However, by connecting with others through UYWI training events, these same leaders have the opportunity to share best practices, gain wisdom and learn from the mistakes and/or successes of others who are in the trenches battling similar issues.

Encouragement – The harsh reality is that working in the trenches of urban youth ministry is one of the most difficult positions to navigate emotionally, spiritually and relationally. The burnout rate is extremely high, and many recent surveys have projected the average lifespan of a youth worker to be around 18 months. One of the most successful strategies of breathing life back into burned out leaders is simply to create intentional spaces – such as those UYWI offers – where they can be encouraged and invested in spiritually, emotionally and relationally on an ongoing basis.

Training/Resources – Urban youth workers make nominal salaries, work with extremely limited budgets and do the best they can with scant practical training or tools. But UYWI training and resources can stop the perpetual cycle of ministry turnover that characterizes youth ministry. UYWI is committed to creating adequate training and resources delivered in a way that meets the real needs of those who are making a systemic difference in the lives of youth.

“As the only organization of its kind in the United States, UYWI is uniquely positioned to offer connectivity, encouragement and training that meet the needs of today’s urban youth worker. Our vision is to grow our capacity to offer accessible, affordable and practical resources that will change the urban landscape by changing the capacity of urban youth leaders.”

As the only organization of its kind in the United States, UYWI is uniquely positioned to offer connectivity, encouragement and training that meet the needs of today’s urban youth worker. Our vision is to grow our capacity to offer accessible, affordable and practical resources that will change the urban landscape by changing the capacity of urban youth leaders. Having trained more than 22,000 leaders in the last 5 years, we have positioned ourselves as the “go-to” organization for developing urban youth workers in many of the most troubled and at-risk urban areas across the US.

In this new season of UYWI’s Kingdom work, our goal is to partner with people and organizations of influence with a vision to plant themselves in specific communities and create systemic, not just programmatic, change. We will continue to strengthen our relationships, partnerships and networks throughout the U.S., while continuing to provide our unique menu of services.

Our fundamental vision is to partner with and train urban leaders with a priority in 250 of America’s at-risk zip codes.

There are four ways in which we intend to do so:

RELOAD – Our one-day training tour impacts leaders in more than 20 select cities throughout the U.S.

UYWI Certification Program – Our Certification Program is designed to partner with some of the most experienced and influential urban leaders throughout the U.S. Comprehensive leadership and practical youth ministry training will take place over the course of one year and upon completion, leaders will be better equipped to impact both their youth and their community.

The Well – This UYWI-exclusive, online resource program is designed to provide 24/7 access as a vehicle for connectivity, encouragement, resources and training. For a nominal fee, urban leaders will receive regularly updated resources, articles and content designed to equip them for efficiency and effectiveness in ministry.

National Conference – UYWI will host a 3-day, national event in Atlanta, GA in the spring of 2012. The intention of this particular event is to bring some of the best and brightest trainers in the country together to share “best practices” with emerging leaders throughout the U.S. who are battling in the trenches on behalf of urban youth on a daily basis.

Anthony Flynn - President / COO

THE WELL: LIFE-GIVING RESOURCES DELIVERED THROUGH 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY

The Old Testament patriarchs sought life-giving water from wells along their journeys. Israel thirsted for water from wells across Sinai. And a lost Samaritan woman found the gift of living water when she met Jesus at Jacob's Well in John 4.

But where do leaders go who are hungry for resources that will give life back to this dying generation of youth? Through a new UYWI initiative called *The Well*, youth leaders from across the country (and the world) will have 24/7 access to state-of-the-art online resources designed to encourage, equip and empower them for their ministry to youth.

The idea of *The Well* was born when several senior leaders of UYWI attended the Simply Youth Conference and realized, through multiple conversations with youth leaders, that the same issues facing urban youth (and their leaders) were alive and well in the world of suburban ministry. Then as they brought this insight to members of the Atlanta Think Tank, the concept for an online resource center that could reach leaders in a variety of ministry contexts took shape.

Many of today's urban youth workers are doing amazing things for the Kingdom, but at a high personal price. Like the Old Testament prophet Elijah, a lot of them are hitting the wall of deep discouragement and isolation. They desperately need to hear that they are not the only ones out there, that there are hundreds and thousands of other leaders who are still fighting the good fight. Through launching *The Well*, we want to help these leaders discover they are not alone, that they have more advocates working for them than enemies standing against them.

Milton Campbell - UYWI Southeast Regional Director

What makes *The Well* distinctive? Says Milton Campbell, who is heading this initiative for UYWI, "*The Well will allow us to go places we can't normally get to through our regular training events. Leaders who will never be able to attend a RELOAD can now access some of the same great training online through The Well.*" We hope to reach youth leaders who are about to call it quits, those who are looking for fresh ideas, or even a leader who can't sleep, but gets on *The Well* at 2:00 a.m. and finds the key he or she's been looking for that will move their ministry forward. Through *The Well's* electronic format, now we're not locked to a time and place to deliver key resources to leaders who need them."

The Well will offer the following: downloadable monthly resources (live

webinars, downloadable resources, powerpoints), access to UYWI's Certification Program (for Atlanta & Los Angeles participants only, but coming soon to other cities in 2012), discounts on UYWI-hosted trainings, coaching from national youth ministry leadership experts (Larry Acosta, Lee Wilson, Fred Oduyoye, Anthony Flynn and others), online group youth ministry coaching, discount pricing for ongoing youth ministry coaching, teaching topics ideas, reproducible teaching resources and many other rewards and incentives.

The Well will make exponential Kingdom impact a reality. Online webinars and downloadable materials will make it possible for one youth leader to train his or her whole team, putting feet to UYWI's goal of "training leaders, who train leaders, who transform youth." Milton Campbell says, "By creating *The Well*, our goal is to say to urban leaders, 'We are your fans; we believe in you. Here's a resource to help you stay in the game of transforming the lives of kids who are often forgotten.'" UYWI President and Chief Operating Officer Anthony Flynn agrees. "In establishing a resource like *The Well*," he says, "our goal is to create an intentional space for burned out or discouraged leaders where we can pour life back into them, helping them regroup and return to ministry as 'more than conquerors' fully equipped for battle."

In September UYWI will launch *The Well* as an online community that meets the needs of urban leaders across the country, including encouragement and equipping from some of the most innovative and experienced urban youth ministry leaders of our day. UYWI will offer *The Well* for \$19.95 (in a special introductory offer) for the first 300 leaders who subscribe. Afterward, the cost will increase to \$39.95 for first year. Though that's a bargain price for all that *The Well* will offer, some urban youth leaders still won't be able to afford this resource. Please consider making it possible for us to offer a select group of deserving leaders a scholarship membership to this amazing resource. **Your gift of \$120 will make it possible for 3 leaders to go from just surviving to thriving in ministry. \$400 will transform the ministries of 10 urban leaders in cities across America.** To give life-giving resources to an urban leader today, go to www.uywi.org/donate or use the enclosed reply envelope.

Says Milton Campbell, "Many of today's urban youth workers are doing amazing things for the Kingdom, but at a high personal price. Like the Old Testament prophet Elijah, a lot of them are wiped out by deep discouragement and isolation. They desperately need to hear that they are not the only ones out there, that there are hundreds and thousands of other leaders who are still fighting the good fight. Through launching *The Well*, we want to help these leaders discover they are not alone, that they have more advocates working for them than enemies standing against them."

The IMPACT YOU are making: Testimonies from Boston & Atlanta Specialty Training

I must admit I came in thinking we were going to receive suggestions on how to handle our inboxes and email or something along those lines. What I left with was much more valuable than I ever imagined. The exercise of accounting for my 168 hour week alone was worth the trip. Armed with new insights and a now with a plan in hand, I have already begun to make changes to make time for the 'moments.

Joyce Holmes - Elizabeth Baptist Church

The Maximizing your Time seminar has helped me to learn the importance of utilizing every minute and reallocating my time so that I can more effectively pour into the lives of the youth and volunteers that I work with daily. It's an awesome seminar to attend.

Coretta Moore - Mountain Ministry, GA

The youth leadership training was a good time of refreshing for me as a youth minister. Being in urban ministry, a common issue is general tiredness in youth ministry. I love working with young people, but sometimes I need those extra reminders and encouragements as to why I do what I do. The youth leadership training did a great job of pointing to the need for Jesus in everything we do. Overall, the training was refreshing and helped me to look at youth ministry with the eyes of Jesus, focusing on how I can bring his name into every event and conversation.

Rebekah Kelleher - Abundant Life Fellowship, MA

The Maximizing Your Time seminar inspired me when I found out that my personal life has been encapsulated into a package and packed away into a corner and now it's time for me to unwrap it and begin doing What God has called me to do. This is a tremendous opportunity to learn and I was truly blessed by the training.

Carol Ford - New Company Christian Ministries, GA

The training was absolutely wonderful! My husband and I were so blessed to participate. The Boston Niche training was very inspirational and it offered a refreshing outlook on being with Jesus and helping others. Thank you!

Megan Kirk

The workshop was excellent. The curriculum was interactive and it really challenged me and brought out a lot of things that will help the Foundation of Youth Center and bring it to the next level of what God has is calling us to. Maximizing Your Time Seminar was something that all of us can share with our board and staff and maximize our time through it. It's truly a blessing what the UYWI team is doing.

Aaron Harris - Foundation Youth Center, GA

You Are Invited

If you live in the Los Angeles area, please join Larry Acosta for a day or half day training on "Building a Thriving Youth Ministry" and get a glimpse of how your investment is being leveraged to bring training to youth leaders.

RSVP to cynthia@uywi.org or 714.425.6158.

DATE: Saturday, September 24th 2011

TIME: 9am - 3pm

VENUE: Biola University

13800 Biola Ave. La Mirada, CA 90639

Banquet Room next to cafeteria



Optional Online Giving Available!

If you would like to give your gift electronically, please visit our website at www.uywi.org/donate/ for more details, or email cynthia@uywi.org. Thank you for your prayers and support. Your gifts and prayers are what sustain the work of training, equipping, and empowering urban leaders who disciple at-risk youth in our cities.

