

WELS CYD Update

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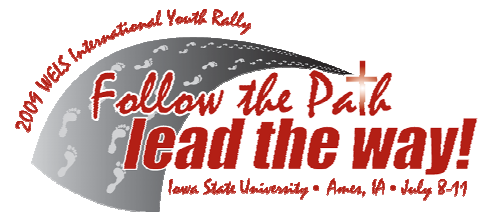


Winter 2009

“Follow the Path, Lead the Way” Details Shared

Before the holidays, the 28 page information booklet, sharing all the details about the 2009 WELS International Youth Rally (July 8-11), was mailed out to all WELS and ELS congregations. If you did not get one or would like to see one, contact the CYD office or go to www.welsyouthrally.net. All the information is important, but pay special attention to these items:

- New Policies for 2009 regarding piggybacking, leaders-in-training, and substitutions/additions.
- New “Terms and Conditions” to better comply with standard risk-management procedures.
- Online registration window: March 2-April 3 for Contact Youth Leaders and until May 1 for all others.
- Two cash prize contests: “Rally Commercial” and “WELS Got Talent”. Deadline for submissions: March 15.
- Inclusion of WELS teens from Brazil, Canada, Malawi, Taiwan, and Zambia.
- Capacity limit: 2,600.



“Everyday” Videos Getting Good Reviews

About half of the 50 devotional videos for streaming on LivingBold.net and Streams.WELS.net have been produced and posted. So far, the reactions to these high quality videos using WELS youth as the actors, have been very favorable. The videos cover real-life issues youth face under the themes: Everyday Sins, Faith, Relationships, Hope, and Victories. If CYD can obtain a 2009 grant from the Thivent funds given to WELS each year, all of the videos with companion Bible studies will be released in a stand-alone resource.

Confirmation Self-Study Nearing Completion

There is light at the end of the tunnel relative to completion of the *Confirmation Ministry Self-Study* that CYD has been working on for the past eight years. The final editing is being done on the video and print components. When completed the resource will include the self-study instrument, a DVD video with interviews and descriptions of “best practice” around WELS, a clearinghouse of helpful “home grown” resources, and a Seminary reviewed discussion paper titled, “Can Children Properly Receive the Lord’s Supper in WELS?” Late winter/early spring 2009 is targeted for the release. Estimated selling price: \$14.95.

Christ-Light 2 Development On-going

Northwestern Publishing House (NPH) is aggressively pursuing the revision of WELS religion curriculum, *Christ-Light*. Titled *Christ-Light 2*, the revision will include many content and format improvements as well as state-of-the-art helps for teachers. In the revision, Sunday schools (SS) will have their own curriculum, minimizing some of the coordination issues encountered in congregations with a Sunday School and a Lutheran elementary school. Because of the magnitude of this project and the hundreds and hundreds of production steps required, NPH does not anticipate the revised curriculum will hit shelves for at least 3 more years.



CYD Newsletters Seeing Sluggish Subscriptions

Last fall, in an effort to save \$33,000, CYD converted its three quarterly newsletters (*Sowers & Seeds*-early childhood, *Partners*-Sunday school, *REACH!*-teen ministry) from print and surface-mail delivery to an online format with delivery via email. To date, subscriptions for the online versions teeter between 160-180 for each newsletter (total for all about 520). Print subscriptions for all three newsletters had been around 10,000, so it appears the move to an online delivery is not working that well, at least yet. Please encourage those engaged in youth ministry to subscribe.

WELS.net University Renewing Sunday School Teacher Energy

Twenty mini-courses for Sunday school staff members are currently posted on WELS.net University. Over 500 people have accessed these courses so far. Some of the courses have audio files connected with them where users can listen to parts of the lesson as well as read what's on screen. No new courses are in process or planned for now. To log in, go to www.wels.net/jump/wnustraining. Below are some comments from course-takers:

Just yesterday I discovered the WELS.net University courses for Sunday School teachers. What an amazing and complete resource! Kudos to all who put that together. Somehow that course needs to be better advertised so everyone knows it's there! Keep up the great work over there!

"These mini-courses are renewing my energy and sense of importance for our Sunday School program. Thank you for having this available!"

Four mini-courses for parents have been posted on WELS.net University. One of them includes video. 148 people have taken/reviewed the current courses. No new courses are in the pipeline at this time. To log in, go to www.wels.net/jump/wnuparenting.

Y-ME Academy Process Close to Field Testing

In recognition that the best ministry frequently occurs in a face-to-face, relational context, CYD is following the lead of the highly successful regional "schools" used by the Commissions on Evangelism and Worship. CYD's effort will be called, "Youth Ministry Enhancement (Y-ME) Academy." The *Y-ME* acronym also causes one to reflect, "Why me? Why should I be involved? Why should my congregation discuss what it's doing relative to youth ministry?" Development of the *Y-ME Academy* process and resources is being funded by a Thrivent Church-wide Grant. CYD District Coordinators, Tom Banaszak, Chad White, and Ben Berger are assisting with program development which is in the final stages. A *Y-ME Academy* will include plenary sessions on relevant youth ministry topics, small group networking, congregation team evaluation, and ministry analysis and planning. If your congregation would be interested in being part of the field test, contact your CYD District Coordinator.



Y-ME Academy

A Process for Improving Ministry to and with Youth

Parents Crosslink Adds Podcasts

The Parents Crosslink (PCL) Web site (www.parentscrosslink.net) has added podcasts to its buffet of resources for parents. The podcasts, averaging about 20 minutes, present a parenting topic in more depth. By the end of January, seven podcasts will be posted. PCL also offers audio devotions for the whole family to listen to.

Creating Youth-full Churches

Don't forget about the great discussion guides and Bible studies that were developed as an outgrowth of the "Why Young People Leave WELS" national study. The five studies and leader's guides can be found at www.wels.net/jump/youthstudy.

Helping congregations bring Jesus to parents, teens, and children

South Atlantic District CYD Update



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Winter 2009

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NEW! South Atlantic District CYD Website: www.welscyd.net/southatlantic

This website is a new tool to help improve communication between the CYD and our district congregations. It is a great resource for pastors and youth leaders looking for youth resources and information about WELS youth ministry. Some items you will find on the site include: photo galleries of youth activities, Camp South and Youth Rally information, available district workshops, district reports, and links to important WELS youth websites. There is also a request form with which you can ask for assistance and guidance from the Commission on Youth Discipleship or make a suggestion for enhancing our district youth ministry. Please visit the site and add it to your Favorites!

Camp South 2009: Fear Not!

Camp South will take place June 15th-19th at the Unicoi Lodge in Helen, Georgia. All children entering grades 4-8 are invited to attend! The cost of the camp is \$295/student and \$250/counselor. Congregations are asked to provide 1 adult counselor for every 8 kids they send. If your congregation has difficulty providing a counselor, please contact Brent Bitter to make arrangements for your students to "piggy-back" with another group if possible. Registrations will be due by April 30th. All necessary registration forms can be downloaded from www.welscyd.net/southatlantic. Registration information will also be mailed to each congregation in February.

At Camp South, students have the opportunity to study the Bible, learn about nature, experience park programs, take nature hikes, swim, tube the Chattahoochee River, create crafts, play miniature golf, participate in team-building activities and develop friendships with other WELS Christians. Delicious buffet meals are provided in the Unicoi Lodge and snacks are provided each evening. Camp South is an opportunity for your kids to be in a safe, Christian environment where they will make memories for a lifetime. Visit www.welscyd.net/southatlantic to see photos of the accommodations and past camp activities.

Youth Workshops

Currently, there are not any youth workshops scheduled in the South Atlantic District. Dr. Joel Nelson has a variety of topics he can present. Some of his past presentations include:

- Developing Youth Ministry that Matters
- Developing a Family Centered Congregation
- Parenting Teenagers
- The "Secret" to Discipline
- Strong Families, Blessed Lives
- Parenting by Heart
- The Hurried Family
- Raising Respectful Children
- The Media and its Impact on Families

If you are interested in attending one of the workshops listed above, or if you have a suggestion for additional workshops you would like to see offered in the South Atlantic, please contact Brent Bitter or visit www.welscyd.net/southatlantic to make a suggestion.