

THE CONTACT

DRUM ROLL...



*AFLC YM NEWSLETTER FOR THOSE IN CONTACT WITH YOUTH
SUMMER 2022*



COFFEE SHOP

This issue we tapped into youth ministry leadership quotes from the 2017 National Youth Workers Convention (NYWC). Why 5 years ago? Why this list? Because inspiring quotes can refocus us...plus the last one gave us the idea for this issue of The Contact.

"Let's start measuring #youthministry careers in decades instead of months." - Joshua Griffin

"The real power in our ministries isn't the how; it's The Who." - Mark Yaconelli

"Can you be who you needed when you were younger?" - Brad Montague

"We will never reflect the image of Christ to the world unless we see the image of God in everyone." - Ann Voskamp

"Insecure leaders will never bring out the best in others." - Doug Fields

"Christianity can be awkward and confusing, but Jesus is compelling" - Kara Powell

"God produces great fruit in the times of the desert." - Rich Villodas

"Lean into the community around you." - Joshua Griffin

"We must help teenagers understand The Great Commission: It's going to people who look different and calling them family." - Efrem Smith

"What we do with our love is where we are in our faith. We're rivers, not reservoirs." - Bob Goff

"I believe your work is the most important work on the planet." - Brad Montague



Save The Date
January 13-15, 2023

YM Video Connection

60-minute offerings for volunteer and vocational youth leaders

Tuesday, May 24 at 3PM (Central)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bit.ly/3BjYcYO>

Meeting ID: 758 4623 6121

Passcode: YMTues

Drum Roll for One of the Most Important Roles Ever... Yours!

(AKA Youth leaders are truly needed and super valuable.)

REV. JASON HOLT



"Drum Roll...For One of the Most Important Roles Ever...Yours!"

As I have been visiting youth groups across the AFLC, I am encouraged to see that a time-trusted phenomenon continues. I remember instances of it in the 1980s as a teen all the way through recent interactions at youth events. When a youth leader, teenager, or pastor has an important announcement, a drum roll is called for and it is asked for the group to supply. Recognizing that the majority of local churches and retreat centers do not have a snare drum simply sitting around, the leader will give no instructions beyond, "A drum roll, please?"

Instinctively, teens and caring adults in the room move their palms to their legs to catch an audible rhythm for the room to receive. No YouTube instructional video. No Tik Tok visual to copy. The drum roll simply arrives.

My announcement today is a question for you to ponder, so as you read this: A drum roll, please? (...Pause for effect...)

Have you ever stopped to realize how important your role is?

Let me explain.

Psalm 78 is credits Asaph with a maskil. The Holy Spirit inspires the author to appeal to God's people to focus on the truths that we have received (v. 1-3). The psalm starts with a singular voice, but broadens to the corporate "us" who know the Lord. The redeemed people of God are reminded not to hide the truths from the next generation, but to tell of the amazing wonders of God's activity (v. 4). This telling is extended as a group to the next generation. This remembering process includes all in God's people, who know the Living Lord and His truth (v. 5), and interestingly, it has a perspective that influences into the future, even "the children yet unborn" (v. 6). The family of God is in full view here for this process. The tone once again is God's people together taking on the task of passing on the faith to the next generation. What is the point of caring, believing adults sharing these truths with the next generation?

"So that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

What Deuteronomy 6 does for emphasizing the family, Psalm 78 does for emphasizing the family of God in

passing on the faith to the next generation. It is useful to note that both itemize sharing the truth and love of God. Both explain the benefit of an active remembering and an engaged expression of living by faith. By the way, the family of God is in Deuteronomy 6 ("Israel" and "gates") and the family is in Psalm 78 ("fathers" to "children"), but the tone of each underscores the place for the physical family and the spiritual family in passing on the faith in our Savior King.

What does this mean? Each caring, Christian adult who prioritizes sharing Jesus with teens is incredibly important. Each volunteer Sunday School teacher. Each youth director of limited time (no time?), part-time, or full-time. Each pastor who works with Confirmation, connects in the narthex, or interacts in the community. Each adult in their 20s through their 90s that talks to, prays for, and testifies of God's grace in the local congregation. That's you!

As of today, a dozen AFLC congregations are looking for a youth director. During my 15 years in this role, this number represents one of the highest numbers that I have record of. Local churches are seeing the need for caring, believing adults who invest their lives to share the truth of Jesus and the love of Jesus with growing young people. At the risk of repeating myself too much, that's you!

For each of you already investing, please accept my thanks. For each of you praying over your summer plans, they are valuable. For each of you wrestling with limited time and resources, know that you are not alone and that your service of our Lord Jesus Christ matters.

A few thoughts/questions as I wrap up:

+ Uncertainty - I sense that coming out of Covid we have some uncertainty, within our lives and within our congregations. Be careful not allow "uncertainty" to breed into "confusion." Let's stay diligent in God's Word and stay connected with one another. How are you doing in this area?

+ Prayerful - I wonder if the attention we gave to crying out to the Lord in 2020 has become a limited whimper in 2022. Let's renew our prayerfulness in this season of ministry with today's teenagers. Sam Luce within "How to Measure Success in Youth Ministry" at the D6 Conference in April made this appeal, "Creating resilient disciples will follow from agonizing over the right things in youth ministry." What is your primary prayer request for youth ministry in the rest of 2022?

+ Yielding - I find myself asking recently if I am ready to yield to the Lord in what He has for me. Some of us have become primarily "comfortable" in our ministry settings. I don't know about you, but I've yet to see much fruit bearing from the "too comfy" Christian. Some of us have become primarily "concerned" in our ministries. Discernment is valuable, but unfettered worry will not serve Christ's Kingdom. Are you dealing with being too comfy or too concerned?

Psalm 78 unfolds with 72 verses. From the hope in verse 7, the psalmist reminds us that the unfaithfulness of God's people reared its ugly head through history many times. Verses 8 through the 60s recall people's sin over and over, but it also reminds of God's compassion and atonement (v. 38). Then the psalm ends with the Lord's gracious choice. Within the tribe of Judah (v. 68) would come One with love for God's people. With a shepherd's heart (v. 70), our Heavenly Father would take David from the sheepfolds. With a heart of faith and hands of skill (v. 72), David would shepherd the people of God. This shepherd boy in Psalm 78 points forward to the shepherd King. Our Lord Jesus was motivated by truth and love for us to embrace the tree for you and me, and he rose again in victory! This Savior we put our hope in and He has called us to communicate His truth and love to today's teens.

So I ask you again...have you ever stopped to realize how important your role is?

Rev. Jason Holt
Director of Youth Ministries

Convenience Store



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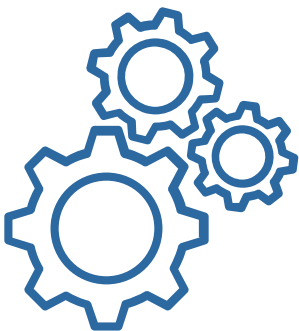
<https://podcast.downloadyouthministry.com/>



CPYU

Their long-form "Youth Culture Matters" and their "The Word in YM"

<https://cpyu.org/resource/episode-151-does-wokeness-mesh-with-a-biblical-worldview-with-noelle-mering/>



LEAD222

National youth leader coaching community

<https://anchor.fm/lead222>



Flyover Ministry

AFLC youth leaders Jordan Langness and Dan Hurner

<https://anchor.fm/flyoverministry>

Upcoming Features: Apps on the Phone are Linked

May 24 @ 3PM(CT)

Video Connection
National Zoom gathering

May 31

Apprenticeship Program
Annual Applications

July 17-21, 2022

FLY Beyond: Upward
National Youth Equipping

Sept 28

See You At The Pole
National Student Prayer Day

Oct 20-21

FLBC UpClose
11-12th Grade College Visit

Nov 11

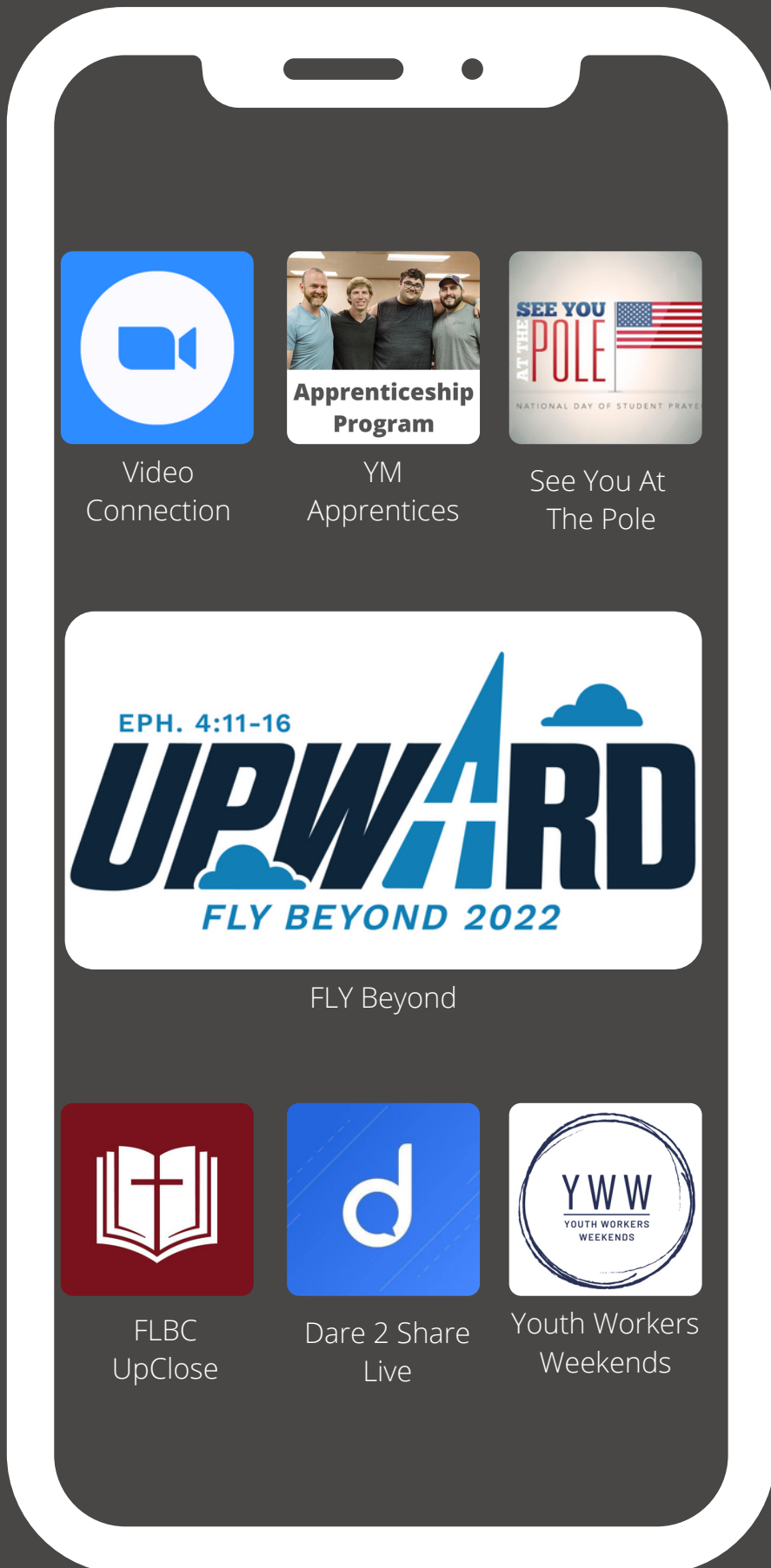
Dare 2 Share Live
Teen Evangelism Conference

Jan. 13-15, 2023

Youth Workers Weekends
National youth leader getaway

AFLC Youth Ministries

Download our app
www.aflc.org/youth





AFLC Youth Ministries



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MS. LIZ MCCARLSON
AFLC RECEPTIONIST

For Youth Workers

The Contact is issued twice a year to encourage and engage youth workers of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC).

For Congregations

The AFLC is a fellowship of 250+ congregations whose members believe that the Bible is true and that everyone needs Jesus.

For Teenagers

AFLC Youth Ministries exists to win teens to Christ, build them in God's word and God's love, to equip them to live and share their faith, and to multiply maturing teen disciples of Jesus.