

A ministry of Sunday School Discipleship Ministries
 CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



Equip University-

empowering Christ followers for discipleship and evangelism

"Who are you discipling-who is discipling you?"

SDMI Chairman

Pastor Jason Young

As I sit here in the Louisville airport pondering the last three days with some of the greatest leaders in our denomination, as well as leaders from other districts, I am amazed at what God is doing. Your Minnesota chair said something during our time together that truly puts into perspective what I believe God is trying to do with our new district. He said that we (our new district) are two being made one. I realized that he was right. Our two districts are entering into a marriage in which we will become one flesh, one body, the body of Christ. It is so exciting to be a part of this work of God. God is bringing us all to a point where our different gifts, talents, and ministries are being put together in such a way that we are in the best position ever to fulfill the mission of our church. "To make disciples in the Nations."

So why am I sharing this with you? Because the next point that I want to share is the most important thing I have heard in my ministry, ever. What I am going to share with you is part challenging, part convicting, and part just scary. And what I am going to share with you, if it is happening, will unite this marriage of our two districts in such a way that the revival that our saints have been asking God for, for generations, will come to fruition. Here it is, it is a question, it is life changing, it is..... Ok I'll just get to it, Do you have an "Alter Point"? Yes I know that this seems a bit of a let down. After all that buildup you were expecting something earth shattering that would make you drop your Starbucks on your keyboard. But consider this, an alter point is a point, when in prayer, God spoke to you so clearly that you were able to get up from your prayer time and say, "This is exactly what God wants of me!". It is so clear and so concise that you have no

doubt in your mind about what God just told you. You don't need to go and do some more soul searching, you don't need to go ask someone for more advice, you get up and you charge ahead with the passion and conviction of someone who just heard the voice of God Himself. Jesus had many of these "alter point's" in His life but one in particular that I want to talk about.

Jesus went up to a special place to pray. Being the true disciple maker he took three of his guys with him to pray and stay with him, and so he went up to Gethsemane to talk to His father. In Matthew 26 we get the story. He went to His father with a heavy heart. He went to His father facing the most horrific and terrifying plan of all time. He knew what was coming, He knew that torture, humiliation, extreme pain, and ultimate death, was awaiting him. Jesus went to His father and wrestling with what he faced, he talked to Him. Jesus said this; "God, if it is possible, please take this cup from me." We know from this passage that He prayed for a while then went back to see if his friends were praying too, and he found them asleep. Waking them he asked them to pray and then went back to His own tortuous prayer. "God, if it is not possible then your will be done." He found his friends asleep again and woke them and challenged them to pray with him. A third time now, after several hours of prayer and wrestling, he prays some more. He wrestled so much that we are told in one book that he sweat blood as he prayed. Then the alter point came. His Father came to His side. He met him right where he was at. He encouraged him, he filled him with love and power. God gave Jesus all he was going to need to accomplish what He was asking do we know this? Look at verse 46 of Matthew



Pastor Mark Shuey
 Minnesota Chairman

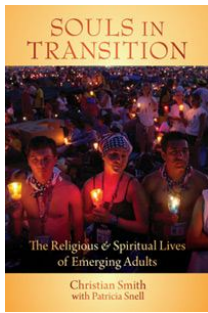


Pastor Jason Young
 Dakota Chairman

the next point that I want to share is the most important thing I have heard in my ministry, ever.

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Examining the data from his vast longitudinal National Study of Youth and Religion, "Souls" uses statistics and face-to-face interviews to paint a picture—not necessarily a pretty one—of the moral and spiritual lives of 18- to 24-year-olds in America.



Yes, look to the left and look to the right this Sunday. Put down your church bulletin; look at those kids and imagine that two-thirds of them aren't even there. Why? Because they are already gone.

Adult Ministries

Thank you Church for the opportunity to go to Louisville for District Leaders Conference. I am always impressed by the quality of Speakers and Music etc. our denominations provides for events. Louisville was no exception, keep your ears open for the newly formed group, Forte, they are great.

I attended a workshop where a very vital problem in the church was addressed. Why are we losing so many of our Young Adults, somewhere between High School and mid twenty's. Numerous studies have suggested that young adults are leaving the church in staggering numbers. Two-thirds of young adults who have grown up in evangelical churches are leaving, according to Ham and Beemer.

Those who no longer believe that all of the ac-

counts and stories in the Bible are true:
 39.8% first had doubts in middle school
43.7% first had their doubts in high school
10.6% had their first doubts during college

Were you surprised by the number in middle school, I was. Even more astounding are the next findings.

Those Who Attended Sunday School:

- *Were more likely NOT to believe that all the stories in the Bible are true.
- *Were more likely to doubt the Bible because it was written by men /because it wasn't translated correctly.
- *More likely to defend premarital sex
- *More likely to accept gay marriage and that abortion should be legal...These surveys were taken from young adults whom had attended conservative Churches, so we can't accuse the liberal ones of tipping the results. The authors and Bryce Fox

Jeanne Hardy

who spoke at the conference, don't think we should panic and dump Sunday School, but we do need to take a look at what might be the problem.

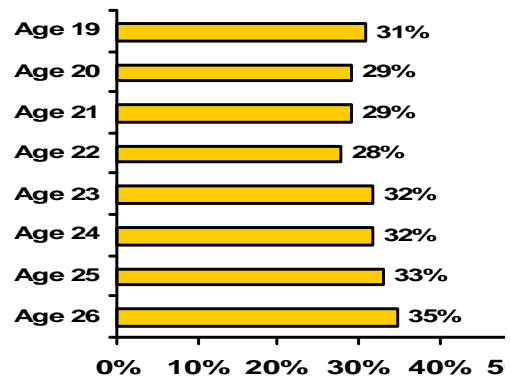
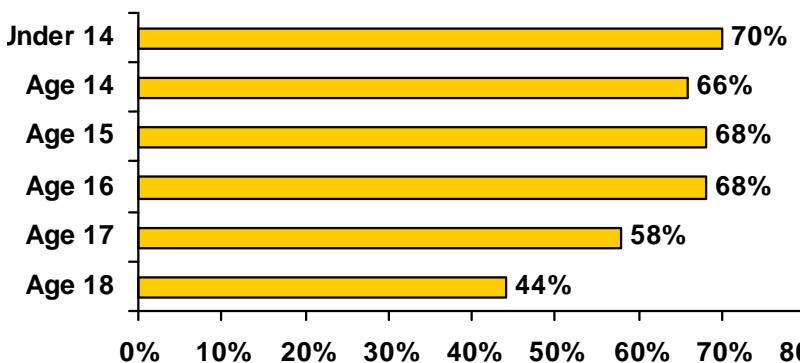
What Do We Do?

First What we know about the students:

- 1). Must not assume they understand a Christian world view.
- 2). Students want to know why (not just what)
- 3). Students are looking for Truth
- 4). Students are looking for authenticity
- 5). Students are looking for something that cost them something...They want something for which to give their life. (They understand that anything worth having will cost them something)
- 6). Students want to be faithful to God, we just have not taught them how.

This will be continued in March with some ideas of how to proceed.

Agers young people attended church at least twice a month



District Women's Ministry Coordinator

January 25, 2010

Dear Women,

It is a joy to look ahead to our first ever NEW DISTRICT WOMEN'S RETREAT! Through this weekend, we hope to provide an experience that will renew women of all ages (High School though retirement gals are welcomed) and help them grow in their spiritual lives.

Our speaker, Dienna Goscha, wife, mom, speaker, writer and pastor, is passionate about women's lives being transformed by encounters with Jesus. She will lead us in being "immersed" into the loving presence of our Father God, through His Word. We are planning to get immersed into the new relationships afforded by joining this exciting new District. Our hope is to do this while having FUN together!!!

Will you consider coming and invite other women, who may need fellowship with other women... who may need a fresh, healing touch from God... who may need a little Rest and Relaxation! (Hmmm... I believe that's EVERY woman I know!) The Retreat is less than 2 months away, so go to the District website and register or look for the registration packet coming to your church this next week.

WHEN: March 19-21, 2010 (Yes... this weekend is Friday night through Sunday Noon. We believe this time away will actually ENHANCE the effective ministry of the women who serve in your churches. Think creatively on how you might be able to "do without" their labors for this ONE special Sunday. They will thank you for freeing them to go... guilt-free!)

WHERE: Lake Geneva Christian Center
Alexandria, Minnesota
www.lakegenevacamp.com

COST: The cost per person includes 4 meals, lodging and retreat costs.
(Friday: Soup and Salad supper available at individual cost.)

LAKEVIEW CENTER *This will be the HUB for our speaking, prayer room and eating. The rooms are newly remodeled dorm-style. (Restrooms/showers/single beds... Bring your own linens.)*

8-12 per room- \$125.00 per person

5-7 per room- \$130.00 per person

(We can combine smaller groups together to help with the cost)

KINGSRITER *(Motel style rooms; bedding/linens provided)*

3-4 per room- \$140.00 per person

2- per room \$160.00 per person

1per room \$190.00 per person

We hope to see many ladies throughout our District at this NEW DISTRICT WOMEN'S RETREAT! We look forward to the growth of Women's Ministry as we start to meet as ONE! This retreat is being prayed for and we believe God desires to speak to us as we meet. Please encourage others to attend and by all means, YOU come too!!! May God richly bless each of you!

In Christ,
Val Hobbs

Pass this to women... who may need a fresh, healing touch from God... who may need a little Rest and Relaxation!



VALENTINE TIP: No matter how good the deal, don't buy roses at the Hardware Store. (inspired by actual Sunday paper ad)

Hello Pastors and Churches,

I want to take this opportunity to invite you as a pastor, ministry staff, board, and any lay leaders/ teachers in your church to come to Fergus Falls, MN on **Saturday, Feb. 13th from 9 AM to 2 PM for a Faith @ Home Focused Church seminar**. The speaker will be pastor, author, speaker, trainer, and national consultant, Mark Holmen.

Attached is an outline of the day plus a registration form. Lunch is provided for everyone. Please check out www.faithathome.com for complete information.

Now is the time for our churches to come alongside families and equip them to bring Christ into the center of their homes!

George Barna has stated that 8 out of 10 teens will leave the church and the faith after they graduate from high school. Why? Parents are not passing their faith on to their children at home. Since parents are two to three times more influential with their children than the church is, why not invest our time in partnering with parents to train, equip, and give them the tools they will need for this important work?

Now is the time for our churches to come alongside families and equip them to bring Christ into the center of their homes! In this seminar you will find out how to reestablish the home as the primary place where faith is nurtured.

We hope you and key leaders in your church will be able to attend this event. Together we can bring the transforming power of Christlike living to families today that can be passed on for generations to come!

If you need lodging, we have a group rate of \$79 per night at the AmericInn Lodge and Suites. Call them to reserve your room at 218-739-3900 and say you are with the Church of the Nazarene.



Mark A. Holmen

Mark is a husband, father, pastor, consultant, speaker and author of:

Faith Begins At Home
Building Faith At Home
Take It Home

Mark, his wife Maria and daughter Malyn currently live in Ventura, California where they now serve as full-time Missionaries for the Faith At Home movement.

www.faithathome.com

Lisa Hart

Children's Ministry Director
First Church of the Nazarene
1319 N. Cleveland Ave.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
(218) 736-2764 Ext. 304

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Session #1 - Faith Begins@Home (60-75 minutes)

The Faith@Home Focused Church Seminar

Session #2 – Building Faith@Home (60-75 minutes)

“Sr. Pastors Only” Lunch (45-60 minutes)

A separate lunch will also be provided for everyone else in attendance at the church.

Session #3 – Becoming A Faith@Home Focused Church (60-75 minutes)

REGISTRATION FORM
FAITH AT HOME FOCUSED CHURCH SEMINAR WITH MARK HOLMEN

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13TH, 2010
9 AM TO 2 PM
FERGUS FALLS FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1319 N. CLEVELAND AVE.
FERGUS FALLS, MN 56537

Church Information:

Name of Church: _____

Senior Pastor's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Contact Phone (_____) _____

Email Address _____

Will Senior Pastor be attending? Yes No

How many plan to attend total from your church? _____

Cost per Church (includes lunch):

\$250 per church w/o Senior Pastor attending

\$150 per church with Senior Pastor attending

Cost your church will be paying \$ _____

Please make your check payable to "First Church of the Nazarene"
and mail with registration form to:

First Church of the Nazarene
Attn: Lisa Hart
1319 N. Cleveland Ave.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

SDMI District Calendar 2010

February 13 "Faith at Home Focused Church" Fergus Falls Church

March 6 District Sunday School Board Fargo

March 19-21 Ladies Retreat

March 23-26 Prime Time Retreat Branson MO

April 10 Children's Day at Fergus Falls This will be children's quizzing (red and blue levels) and children's talent (vocal, instrumental, piano, speech and art).

June 14-18 Children's Camp Crystal Springs, North Dakota

August 16-22 District Assembly and Camp Meeting Alexandria, Minnesota



SDMI Chairman cont. from p.1

chapter 26. "Rise and let's go..." Jesus turned a corner at Gethsemane and He, never looking back, never second guessing the plan, charged ahead. He charged ahead to the Cross. To His own death. Jesus had an alter point that was so powerful, there was no turning back and there was no doubt as to his father's will.

Have you had an alter point after hours and hours of prayer? If you have, do you remember how very awesome it was? Remember what strength you had to face the unknown? If you haven't had one do you want one? Stop doing what you are doing and go to God in prayer. Like Jesus did, go away to a quiet place and pray all night if you have to. And then don't get up until the Father has met you right there and brought you to the point of no return. The point that you can go forward with out fear and with victory, peace, and power. Look at everything you are doing in your Sunday school class, or small group. Look at the people you are investing in for the sake of Jesus Christ. Take some of these people with you up to the mountain of God and pray together. See what God has in store for your ministry, or your families, or even for your community. When God speaks to you at that most intimate time of prayer, you can go forward with faith knowing that you have had your alter point.

God Bless and have a great month.

Jason



Our Theme "Make the Connection" has additional meaning for our district these days. The two sites below will help us make the connection with our new areas.

District SDMI Site:

http://www.dakotaconnections.org/main_page.html

A great site to help locate the churches and find their web sites.

<http://www.mnazarene.org/churchdirectory/>

For information or to contribute content contact:

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