

Youth Group For Sale

We can no longer take the brunt of the costs associated with ministering to youth so in an effort to save the youth program we are going to offer it to the public. The benefits are for the youth but the staff of the youth program will be let go. If you are interested in purchasing the youth program please grab a tag below.

Youth Group For Sale

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ON THE
LEVEL

RECOVERING
WITHOUT
COMPROMISING

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Volume 11 / Issue 1 / May 2010

www.dvuli.org

SHORT SUPPLY PLACES BIG DEMANDS ON URBAN YOUTH WORKERS

By Dr. Larry Lloyd

The ripple effect of a fractured U.S. economy has many urban youth ministries trying to figure out how to hold their programs together and keep their staff intact. Salary reductions, doubled work responsibilities and the slashing of hours are par for the course not only for business but for the social sector as well. From top ministry executives to the part-timers, many are wondering if God's calling on their lives is supposed to look like this.

It was the spring of 2008. I was president of a small Christian Liberal Arts College in Memphis dedicated to educating urban students. The board and I couldn't help but notice the impending economic woes. Giving in America was down and non-profits were struggling. Housing values began to fall and the danger signs of the subprime debacle were looming. All of this began to paint a gloomy picture that would eventually impact the school.

Many of the college's major donors began communicating that donations wouldn't

be as robust as in the past, and a couple of foundations indicated that they were going to have to wait and see the downside of the recession before making any substantial new commitments to the college's programs. The student body we served was hard hit and hiking tuition was out of the question. We faced a dilemma; what were we going to do with the future of this college and its student body?

Over the spring and summer of 2008, the board and I did intensive scenario planning and came up with three scenarios we hoped

would save the college in the face of economic chaos. In the end, the scenario we chose was to sell the college to a for-profit investment group. This would at least allow our students to continue without losing credit, albeit in a totally different academic environment. Of the three scenarios, this was the best option for our student body. The students were always our primary concern.

When that decision was made, what I hadn't really thought about before it finally hit me. I and likely the other college

What I hadn't really thought about before it finally hit me; I and likely the other college administrators were going to be out of a job.

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DEVOS
URBAN
LEADERSHIP

HERE'S MY TAKE

DETERMINED TO STAY THE COURSE

With every industry in America contributing to the rising unemployment rate, the urban youth worker profession is adding its share to the swelling reports of layoffs, staff reductions and discontinued youth programs. Reaction to the "we can't afford to keep you" news varies from one youth worker to another, and what's worse is that many in ministry thought it would never happen to them.

What does the loss of a job mean for the urban youth worker at a time when the fight to save our youth is so intense? Did they miss God? Or is it simply time to move on? A few in the DVULI family were once gainfully employed on the frontlines of urban youth work but the reality of what they do for a living has shifted. Here's their take!



Amy Williams
(Chicago, 2007)

I received notice on a Tuesday that the coming Friday was my last day as the Youth Pastor's

Executive Assistant at The House Covenant Church. I knew we were struggling because support had started to dwindle and we weren't raising the funds. It was very difficult news but I had to go through the mourning process over losing my job. So I cried, prayed, spent time alone and with friends. This needed to happen in order for me to get to the next step in my calling, and it's been amazing. God has just begun to open doors. I was contracted for a local youth project and got to hire a youth to help me. CCDA has offered me the opportunity to coordinate the National Student Leadership Intensive for a stipend. I am also co-hosting a local radio show, and collecting unemployment when possible. I moved into a neighborhood that is gang infested and I am reaching and working

with the Latin Kings and other gangs. My vision is to have a ministry house where gang members can hang out and receive services like academic tutoring and life skills training. I know it sounds cliché but God is my source, and I don't need money to love people.



Jerami Lewis

(Dallas, 2009) When gas and grocery prices began to increase in 2008 that kick started the changes we had to make at Voice of Hope

Ministries. We've cut our program staff down to eight from 15. That is tough because the number of youth we serve in our after school programs have gone up. For instance, normally I function as the head coach for our basketball team. And our youth leaders were responsible for providing transportation, handling practices and arriving early at the gym where are games are held. But now I am the primary person doing all that too. This has driven me to network with other community youth leaders. Be it at the YMCA or Mercy Street, we are all coming together to do more collaborating to prevent teenagers from just hanging out on the street. Unfortunately, our one on one approach and the personal touch is decreasing because we lack the staff. There are certain needs that can't be passed over so we all have to share the workload to help make it happen here in West Dallas.

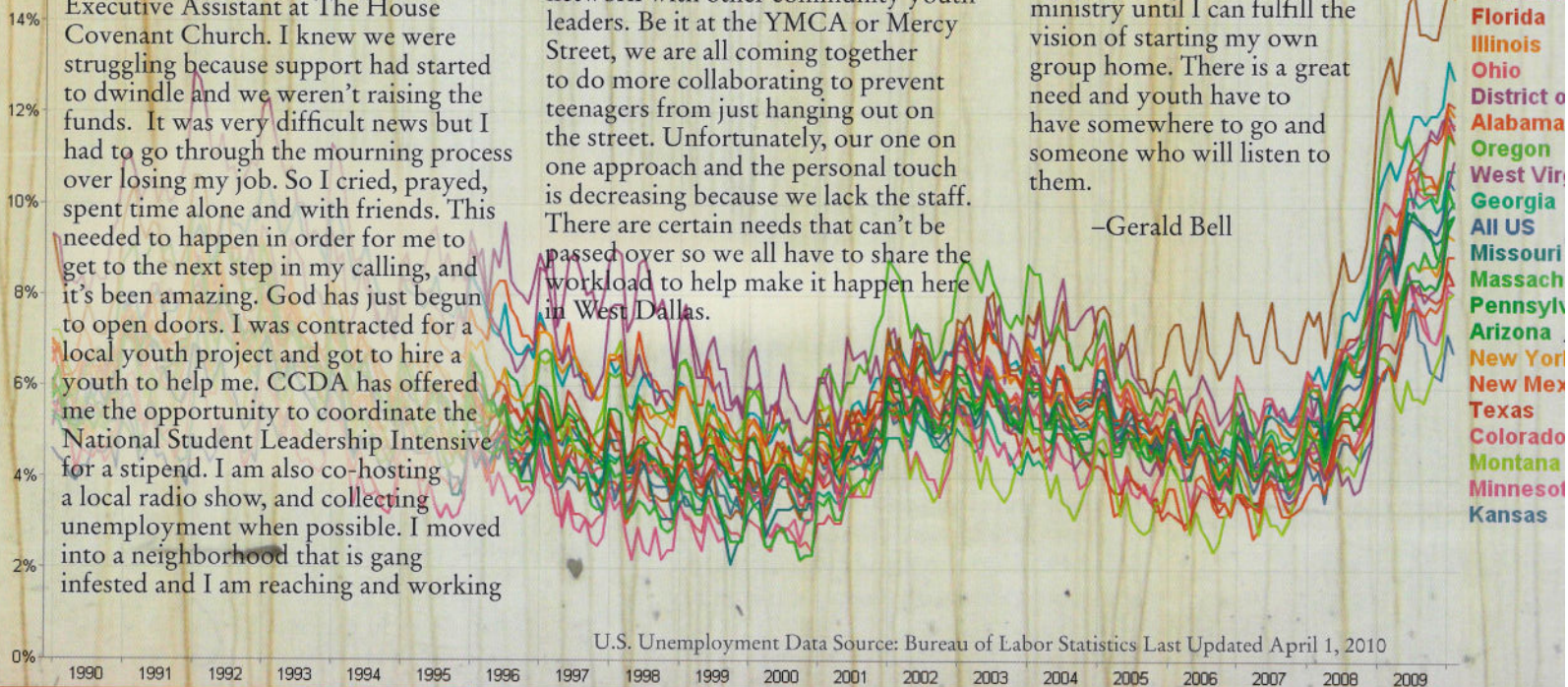


Pamela Adams
(Cleveland, 2009)

Working as manager of a Cleveland based group home for at risk youth and those labeled mentally

disabled was a great blessing. But last year there was a change in ownership, and because they didn't want to pay my current salary rate, I was asked to leave. This was devastating for me. I was running the home and all the plans that were in place were immediately changed. After praying and asking God for direction, I fell back on my former skill set of working in food service. So I was hired as a manager at IHOP. Half of the staff I manage is young people around 18 and 19 years of age. And though I took the job for financial reasons, I see the need these youth have for direction and guidance. This is an opportunity for me to lead by example, give hope and help kids rise above by introducing them to my God. For now IHOP is youth ministry until I can fulfill the vision of starting my own group home. There is a great need and youth have to have somewhere to go and someone who will listen to them.

—Gerald Bell



BRIEF NEWS AND BREAKTHROUGHS

Brittany & Joe Mackey (Atlanta, 2006) became the proud and courageous parents of early arriving twins. McKittrick "Kitt" and Margaret "Garet" were born on October 25, 2009. Kitt weighed 3 lbs and Garet weighed: 2 lbs 9 oz. Delivered at only 29 weeks, they spent 72 days in the NICU.



They arrived home on January 5, 2010, and according to an email statement by Brittany they "are doing great...both weigh well over 9 pounds now!" One additional hurdle had to be leaped which can be read on a blog at www.kittandgaret.blogspot.com "Although the challenges we have already faced in the young lives of our daughters have been great, they pale in comparison to the joy and happiness [their lives] have brought us," Says Brittany.

Natividad & Jennifer Mendosa (Phoenix, 2008) were



in labor for four days until their first baby girl decided it was time to make her grand entrance. Liberty Angelina Mendoza was born November 19, 2009. She weighed 8 lbs and stretched 20 inches long. "She is a very happy baby who doesn't cry much," Natividad said. "I fell in love with her when I first saw her and she's even more precious now because she knows me."

Joanne Alonzo-Gloria (Dallas, 2009) is now a full time property manager with Isenberg Management Associates. She transitioned from her prior role with Services of Hope Entities in September of 2009 after being invited by the firm's owner. Managing fifteen properties in the Fort Worth and Denton areas, Joann says the opportunity came at the right time and it allows her to continue serving youth at church and as a volunteer in the community. "I like what I do because it's where God has me serving right now. And when it's time to move on, I will."

Gerald & Debrah Bell (Kansas City, 2003) gave birth to an energetic baby girl on February 3, 2010 at 12:42pm in New York City. Lynlee Julia Bell weighed 6 lbs 5 oz and stretched 19 inches long. According to Papa Bell, "she was daddy's girl long before she got here, now we're just living out the call of daddy and daughter...oh, and so is mommy." Gerald said he wrote a song called "Meet Lynlee" while waiting in the delivery room and plans to publish it this year.

Micah & Elizabeth Espinoza (Denver, 2005) welcomed their third son, Justice Alexander Espinoza into the world on February 23, 2010. Micah said as soon as they placed him on his momma's chest they just held each other and prayed. Weighing in at 6 lbs 15 oz and measuring 19.5 long, Micah said that when Justice grows up he hopes "he finds God's will for his life and would be used to bring Him glory."



Orlando Rivera (Orlando, 1998) was appointed Chair for Pastoral Ministries at Nyack College in New York. In this position Orlando creates the vision for the pastoral ministries department, supervises and hires instructors, administers the departmental budget, and advises students. He also develops the curriculum for Pastoral Ministries majors on both Nyack's urban and suburban New York campuses. Orlando commuted for a year and now he and his family reside in the New York area.



Virginia Ward & LeRoy Hampton (Boston, 1998) joined musical forces to produce and release the debut recording for Abundant Life Church titled *Set it in Order*. "The process and completion of this recording was priceless," said Virginia. The project can be purchased at www.alifecmusic.com



Seth Baker (Youth for Christ, 2009) has been promoted to National Director of Risk Management for YFC. Seth is responsible for creating a culture of safety for the organization's mission, staff and volunteers and youth. In this role since September, Seth said he's excited to be a blessing to the YFC leadership and youth. "It's sobering that you have to think about making things safer in this way...so I feel a lot of pressure," he said. As a telecommuter, Seth continues to work between the national headquarters in Denver and his Delaware office. Congrats!



CAUGHT ON CAMERA



HOUSTON

FEBRUARY

February Fabulous is a month when our new staff members start their first local works in to the learning process. It is a privilege to welcome Houston, San Antonio, New York and Orlando! Welcome for these cities which are in their first or third round respectively. Our staff always looks forward to their personal lives and new experiences. Go class of 2010!

- Rick Diaz



LOS ANGELES



NEW YORK

ABULOUS

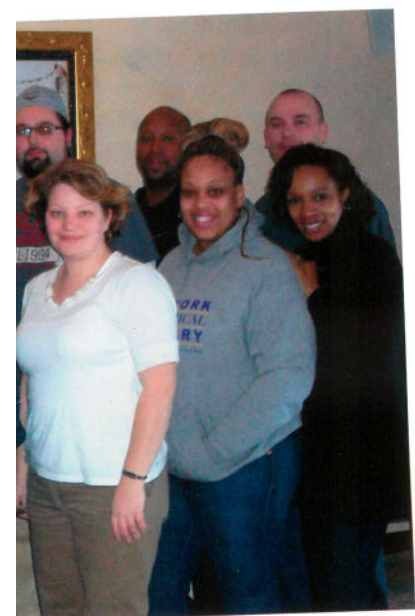
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SAN ANTONIO



ORLANDO



NEW YORK CITY

COVER STORY CONTINUED

administrators were going to be out of a job. Faculty would be okay, but the investment group would for certain bring in their own administration. I realized I had been in urban ministry my entire professional life (35 years) and now I needed to ask: "What am I going to do next?"

NOW WHAT?

Maybe some of you in the DeVos network are facing this same reality. Here are some ideas from a fellow alumnus.

Reflect on your gifts. How has God used you most successfully? Where are your passions? What has your experience taught you? Take a new look at the Spiritual Gift Inventory. Reflect on past successes and failures and put all of this in a daily journal...maybe not your normal journal, but a dedicated journal. Talk to your mentors (I have three). If you don't have a support group, get one! I have two other guys in my group and we've met every other Tuesday for about 15 years. What a gift that was to me at a time like this. I began to ask the following questions: What has brought me the most joy? If I could do one thing in ministry the rest of my life, what would it be? Where was my "sweet spot" – that ministry context where I most felt God's pleasure?

For me it was leadership development. I am passionate about training and equipping urban ministry leaders. As a former urban youth worker I always enjoyed helping kids not only come to Christ, but then "discipling" them and helping them go to college. I loved encouraging them to come back to start a business, get a job and become a professional or change maker in their community. Call it leadership empowerment or discipleship, or whatever, but this is my sweet spot.

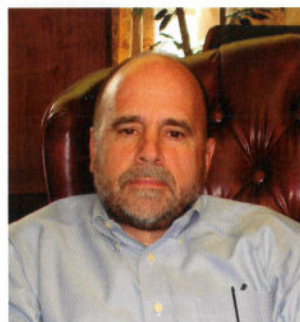
If you do find yourself without a paycheck I would caution you to refrain from launching a new nonprofit. I can't imagine that there is a city in the United States where seed capital is available right now. Look for mergers. If you have an existing effective program with urban youth, identify a

larger nonprofit and propose to come under their umbrella. Maybe look for a partnership with other ministries in your community. If there is a Leadership Foundation in your city, go talk to them about a partnership.

Finally, if you are facing tough economic times but you are convinced that God has called you to disengaged urban young people, you should never stop! Not getting paid is no reason to abandon your call. Early in my career as an urban youth worker, there were many times I didn't get a paycheck. That's what happens in the nonprofit arena. There were times when I raked leaves or cut and split wood for people's fireplaces so I could pay the bills; but I never stopped loving kids!

Look for any way to stay in ministry short of borrowing money or living on your credit cards. Live on your savings if possible before borrowing. We've all been there, believe me! Just don't stop loving kids! Don't stop ushering kids into the Kingdom! Remember God is in charge and we're not. Keep obeying Him, never abandon His call on your life. As Paul

said to Timothy: "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline." (2 Tim. 1:6-7).



Dr. Larry Lloyd
(Memphis, 2002) is founder of the Memphis Leadership Foundation and former DVULI City Coordinator and Coach.

BEFORE YOU GO

DVULI UNIVERSITY?

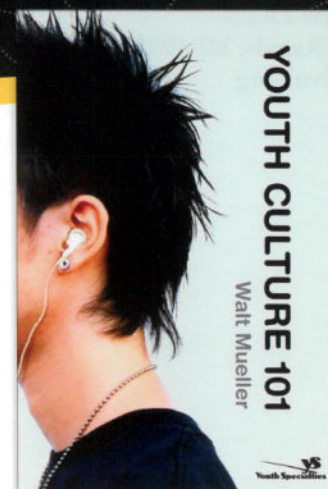
WE HEARD YOU WANT ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR COMPLETING DeVos!

The “one-part-grad-school” used in our marketing materials to promote the DeVos Initiative is getting close to taking a more credible form. When Andrews University collected information from DeVos Urban Leadership Initiative graduates back in 2008, they reported that an overwhelming majority of the survey respondents (90%) indicated they were interested in receiving academic credit for their completed DVULI work. In response to these findings, DVULI thought it important to explore the options for making academic credit available as a means to extend opportunities for further education.

Over the years a number of DeVos graduates have received continuing education units at accredited colleges and universities by submitting detailed information about the program, the number of training hours it requires and the books and resources that were required reading. We are now trying to formalize that process by partnering with an academic institution to allow our participants to earn credit as they go through the training. We hope to have this in place when the next class begins in 2011.

The process will require participants to register with the university before beginning the training and pay tuition. They will also have to submit assignments and their breakthrough plan for grading. There are other details yet to be worked out, for example, some additional reading and writing assignments may be required. If all of the requirements are met, participants may be able to earn up to 12 units at the graduate level. Our plan is to pilot this process in 2011 and then explore possible ways to make accreditation available to alumni as well. Look for updates on this in the future on the DVULI website.

—Eileen Kooreman



I'm a big fan of the work of Walt Mueller. “Who is Walt Mueller?” you ask. Walt Mueller is the founder and President of the Center of Parent/Youth based in Boston. He's written extensively on the subject of youth culture and his website www.cpyu.org contains a wealth of resources and analysis of the ever changing world of youth.



Of the many books Walt has written, *Youth Culture 101* is perhaps my favorite. In one book, Mueller addresses such topics as media and music, peer pressure, substance abuse, depression, materialism, and sex. Some of you may already have this book, but many of you may not. If you are one of those who do not have this book, let me encourage you to get a copy. This is one resource you'll reference often as you work diligently in trying to make a difference in the lives of today's youth.

One last thing, do yourself a favor and check out Walt's website. As I always say, I don't think you'll be disappointed!

— Ron Carter

MESSAGE BOARD

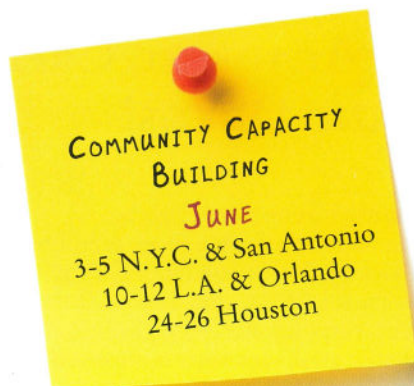
EMAIL UPDATE

Craig Rosentrater - Denver 2005
Ron Tinsley - Philadelphia 2004
Pat Pearl - Kansas City 2003
Shawn Riley - Denver 2003
Kyle Duncan - Albuquerque 2004
Kathleen Greenidge - Portland 2005
Daniel Au - Philadelphia 2002
Jomo Greenidge - Portland 2005

ADDRESS UPDATE

Ron Tinsley - Philadelphia 2004
Andrea Fisher - Memphis 2004
Rodney Williams - San Diego 1999
Benny Santiago - Indianapolis 2005
Rachelle Ayala - Youth for Christ 2009
Danielle Gantt - Boston 2006
Debbie Poole - Cleveland 2007
Otis C. Clark - Minneapolis 2008
D'Andre Ash - Atlanta 2006
Bobby LaCourt - Philadelphia 2002
Wilbert LaVeist - Chicago 2007
Natividad Mendoza - Phoenix 2008
Brent Hyden - San Diego 1999

Complete contact info at www.dvuli.org/profile



September 29 - October 2, 2010 Denver, Colorado www.dvuli.org/reunion

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