

## Mark Shaner—East Side Church of God, Anderson, IN

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In Youth Ministry, how do you or how would you teach them about missions? What resources do you use? Are there online videos/tools? Activities? Games?

- The best teaching is caught, not taught!
- Teach by modeling a life of service (Have engaging mission minded persons share with the youth on Sunday morning's and Wednesday nights.
- Challenge them to sponsor a child through Children of Promise or another organization.
- There are lots of activities that can be done to help students feel the need and simulate the world situation. A Rich Man / Poor Man meal, the goal of these games or simulation experiences is to help persons feel what others feel around the world.
- We have shared a meal together with our wrists tied together with yarn so we can show and experience how individualistic we are as a people and how important it is that we live in community.
- Having someone come in a share their story from another culture, someone who is homeless, someone who was bullied in school or some other paradigm than their own
- We always use leadership trips or mission trips to get those going to read a book together that will help them to think beyond their own paradigm.

In Youth Ministry, how would you actively involve them in missions? Are there specific, age-appropriate things they can do?

- I would definitely emphasize scriptures like Mark 10:45, Philippians 2:5-11, and others that remind students that we are called to SERVE this should be a part of our DNA.
- We as leaders have to model servanthood, "Whatever we do in excess, students who look up to us will do in moderation" (i.e. wash dishes, put up chairs, vacuum floors, serve our families, etc.)
- We should build serving into our calendar, in my early days every Tuesday I would pick up students from school and we would go to the local mission, pick up bags of groceries and deliver them while sharing some thoughts and praying for families.
- You could take one day a month or one day every quarter and go out and serve, it must be a part of your DNA. "If we lose this generation of young people, it will not be because we challenged them too much, but because we challenged them too little". Go back in the archives and get Tony Campolo's book "Ideas for Social Action" It is loaded up with incredible ideas.
- You could start a Stay at Home Work Camp for a week during the summer or for a shorter period of time and do something for your city or your county. "Our ministry locally gives validity to our ministry internationally" The best example of this is the Lake Wales Care Center, executive director Rob Quam. They have been doing one over 30 years.

- I would program in an international mission trip on the off years of IYC and make it a high priority. Have students apply, do interviews with those wanting to go with your missions team / committee.
- I would definitely encourage taking advantage of A.One.8. On the off years of IYC as well.
- I would do a weekend boot camp of sorts with our youth team going on missions before I took them internationally. In Florida I would use the HEART program to run them through preparation for service abroad. In Indiana we do a full day and overnight of training before we go that is mandatory. In Kansas we went off to a Retreat Center to equip the team.
- I would start students serving as a regular part of their lives as early as 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If they make a practice of this early it will be a part of their DNA. In Lake Wales they begin in Middle School and now run at least five full weeks for M/S, H/S & College students who won't miss and some students have went as many as 10 years plus.
- I find some Youth Pastors need to be encouraged to do more service and give them ideas or take this off their plate by leading the youth workcamp /mission trip. Take the Youth Pastor with you so they can experience the value.

Always remember that something is better than nothing, involve youth early and often. Find ways to plant seeds early in their lives with a heart for Missions. If we don't reach young people with a heart to serve before the age of 15 then we have waited to late. They will quickly discover that when they give life away they find what life is all about.

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