

“Creating Ministry Buzz (of the Positive Kind) Journey Leadership Meeting (10/14/07)

Introduction:

Tonight I want to spend the next 15-20 minutes talking about the “buzz” of Journey Student Ministries around First Assembly of God.

Let ask you these two questions for reflection, **“What’s the perception of our youth ministry from people within our church?”** and, **“Personally, what kinds of things – positive or negative – do you say about our youth ministry?”**

These two questions will give us direction for our discussion at this meeting tonight.

1. What is the perception of our youth ministry from people within our church?

What are people saying about our youth ministry? What do parents think and what are some of the things that you are hearing, whether they are positive or negative?

(Discussion)

2. Personally, what kinds of things – positive or negative – do you say about our youth ministry?

Let’s take a couple more minutes to talk about this. We want you to know that whatever you share with us is not going to end the world. It is not going to offend me or my wife and we only ask this question because we need to know what the perception of the youth ministry is among the leaders if we are going to change the negative aspects.

(Discussion)

3 Points to Change ‘the Buzz’

1. Get caught saying positive things about our youth ministry.

Be intentional about speaking positively about our youth ministry. Look for opportunities to lift up different youth ministry events, services and other positive elements of our youth ministry.

When you speak positively about the ministry you generate excitement in two groups of people:

a. You generate excitement with the other youth leaders.

Other youth staff and volunteers start to become excited about the youth ministry when one person speaks positively.

b. Youth Leaders generate excitement with students.

When students are excited about the youth ministry they get involved. When they get involved, they begin to invest in the ministry. They invite friends and people get saved. The youth ministry begins to grow and excitement begins to generate itself.

Excitement is contagious and the more we are intentional about seeking opportunities to speak positively, the more it will become an aspect of our youth ministry culture.

2. Highlight the youth ministry and those who work in it through everyday conversations.

Make a point to look for ways to talk about your fellow youth workers and leaders through everyday conversations. Everyday discussion can be some of the best ways to change the perception of the youth ministry in the church and in the eyes of the students.

3. Be on the lookout for potential leaders and students and share positive stories.

One of my biggest pet peaves is youth leaders who think that their job is only on Sunday nights when they are in youth service.

One of the biggest things that youth leaders and staff can bring to the youth ministry is to be on the lookout for potential youth leaders and students.

On Sunday mornings we should be the first to look around the church and look to connect with students who may not be connected to the youth ministry yet. We should also keep our eyes and ears open for new youth leaders.

When we do find them, we should make sure to share some of the best moments that we have had in our involvement in the youth ministry. If we tell them everything that's wrong with the youth ministry they aren't going to want to be involved.

Conclusion:

We must learn to create a new perception of Journey in our students, their parents and our church.

We are the ones who will be the most instrumental in making this happen.