



STRAIGHT TALK

ministries



DECEMBER 2015 VOL. 12, ISSUE 4

Heart Change Life Change

An Idea Coming to Life!

I don't think it is a secret that I love youth ministry and believe it is the most important ministry in the church! The majority of people who are Christians in North America come to faith before they became adults. According to a Gallop study 64% of adult Jesus followers accepted Jesus before 18th and another 13% before 21. Youth ministry is hugely important. For the last few years I have been doing some youth ministry consulting and mentoring. It has been highly gratifying to get to journey with individual youth workers and see them become more effective in seeing students come to know Jesus, grow in their relationship with him and repeat that cycle of discipleship by introducing *their* friends to Jesus. The only problem is that it can be a very time consuming process working with them one at a time. Almost a year ago I had a dream to bring together a group of young youth workers who would be willing to commit to meet together one day per month for 14 – 16 months. We would study the life of Christ and his mission, motive and method for making disciples. The goal: to apply those principles to our lives and ministries. This fall that dream became a reality when 6 young, enthusiastic and passionate youth workers gathered to begin this process.

It's been fantastic! One shared that after our first meeting he knew some things needed to change in his ministry because there was no real strategy

Peace on Earth... and a Church in Northern BC

There isn't much that Jesus values above unbroken relationship.

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace.

This fall I was invited to speak at a church that has struggled with fractured relationships for many years. When I was contacted to speak at their

women's retreat, the organizers were very specific in what they wanted addressed: God's guidelines for relationships. We spoke on the phone at length about how best to do this and I was

charged with addressing this challenging subject head on. Some of you may remember being



asked to pray for the restoration of relation-

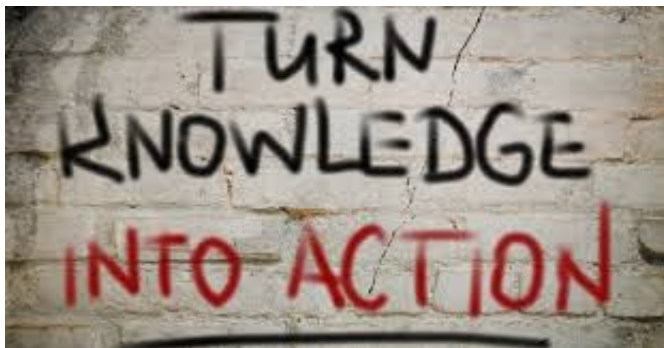
Did you know?

That 1/3 of Straight Talk's annual donation budget typically comes in the month of December? Thank you for keeping Straight Talk in mind in your year end giving plans.

to reach unsaved students. His ministry is looking at what they need to do to change this. Another said "I feel like I learned more at our first meeting about Jesus and how to do ministry than I did in the last 2 years of Bible College." (That has to be a gross exaggeration or he really was not paying attention.) One has started to do group outreach events with his students and their friends! One realized that their whole church is only focused on helping Christians grow rather than equipping and helping them to reach their friends.

Jesus Great Commission is to make disciples, teaching them to obey everything Jesus taught, and to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are to make disciples who can make disciples. I don't think we can call ourselves mature disciples until we have reproduced. It is about being a part of reproducing what God has done in us in others.

Even if only 3 of the youth ministries that are represented really catch on to equipping their



students to reach their friends, hundreds—perhaps thousands— more students will be reached! Isn't that cool?

If it was not for Straight Talk and your support I would not be able to mentor these eager, young youth pastors. Thank you so much for the part you play in seeing students meet Jesus and learn to follow him, not just through speaking events but by influencing other ministries too.

Get social with us!



Straight Talk Ministries
Donna Carter

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ships within this troubled church.

I taught all weekend about grace, forgiveness, and restoration. Toward the end of the retreat, I asked women who were willing to publically commit to restoring broken relationships in their world to help build a symbolic bridge and then physically walk across it. Most of the women bravely



participated, although a few left the room.

I recently had an update from a key leader at that church. Of course, it's too soon to tell what the long term effect of that weekend was, but we do know of two specific relationships that were healed and a general improvement in the atmosphere of love in the church over-all.

Please pray that the Prince of Peace will continue to reign in the church so that they can represent Jesus in this needy community. Thanks for sending me to be a catalyst for change and praying for the Holy Spirit's work in bringing unity.

Please join the Straight Talk prayer force. You can register to receive email updates by going to randycarter.org/prayer.

To receive updates via text message, text "@stmprayer" to 587-333-2775 and follow the instructions that will be texted to you.

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