



Good friend Helene Funk shares her take on Donna's leadership conference talk in a guest She Said article, page 3.

straight talk ministries newsletter



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## The Story Numbers Tell

I have never been much for math. Math class in school was drudgery—and mostly just got in the way of the important stuff like gym and recess.

Not so for Carolyn Scheil, the Straight Talk treasurer, she is awesome with numbers. She regularly reminds us that numbers tell a story. I used to think only words told stories, but when Carolyn gives the financial report at our board meetings, she actually makes them tell stories to us. All of that to say, I am not a number / math guy BUT I do know that multiplication is way better than addition.

In October 2009, I was invited to get involved in some multiplication when Westside Kings Church invited me to help them build a healthy, well balanced, and sustainable youth ministry. At the time we had 4.5 volunteers and about 25 students. You may be wondering how can you have .5 of a volunteer? One volunteer would come to every

other event. Not only were there only 4.5 volunteers—there were no functioning leaders. None were willing to actually lead anything. Not an event, a game, a small group, nor a bible study.

Over the next 18 months, I worked with Kyle, the new youth pastor, and a growing group of leaders. It was an awesome experience to pour my life into a young, godly leader who was eager to learn and make a difference in student's lives. We talked about character, strategy, structure, students and leader training issues.

This fall they have 25 adult volunteers leaders, who are capably leading small groups, events, and shepherding students! Their student attendance has been 80-90. On the Friday before Halloween, there were 90 students at their event. A bunch of the students, who are a regular part of the ministry, are catching the vision



Coaching young youth pastors and youth leaders results in spiritual multiplication!

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***It is encouraging to see growth...not just numerically...but qualitative growth in leadership ability and spiritual depth.***



Numbers can speak volumes about God's work.

## He said

### ***The Story Numbers Tell, continued***

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that Friday nights are intended for them to invite their friends so they can be exposed to Jesus. Eighteen students invited Jesus into their lives at that event! The first Sunday in November I had the privilege of witnessing six students get baptized! God is at work in their youth ministry!

That is multiplication!

The multiplication process was both encouraging and stretching for me. The stretch came from having to lay out and communicate the strategic elements that go into a vigorous youth ministry in a memorable and understandable way to youth workers who, in most cases, have not seen such a functioning youth ministry. Some of the stretch was a result of having to articulate a number of things that were simply second nature to me. My encouragement came from seeing growth. Not just growth numerically in the number of leaders and students, but also a qualitative growth in leadership ability and spiritual depth.

This year I began coaching role coaching another youth pastor. We have been working to get

strategic about his youth ministry since May. As part of that process, I spoke at a fall retreat with his students. God was really at work. A couple of the Grade 12 guys who had become detached from the group reconnected with both the group *and* the need to reach out to their unsaved friends. The Tuesday after the retreat I received this Facebook message:

*"Randy you wouldn't believe it but it's only been 2 days and with help from that booklet (you gave us) Darnell and I have already led one of our friends to Christ!!! This is one of the best feelings I've ever had and I just wanted to thank you for helping us out!"*

This reconnection lit a fire for outreach in this youth group. At their last outreach event, these two Grade 12 guys invited about eight of their friends. Other kids also brought friends with them. In fact, almost half the attendance was comprised of new kids who don't know Jesus yet. One of the Grade 12 guys told the youth pastor, "Thanks for the talk. It was exactly what I needed to start some spiritual conversations with the friends I brought."

*(Continued on page 4)*

# She said



## A New Perspective

It might be refreshing for you to hear the thoughts of someone who sat in on one of my speaking engagements. This column is written by my friend, **Helene Funk**.

When Donna asked me to accompany her to a women's leadership conference I was thrilled. Not only would I get to spend time with my friend, I would also have the privilege of hearing her and three other fine women speak on subjects that would help us to "Lead Well."

Donna began by asking, "If your passion for Christ could be measured on the Richter Scale, where would it rank?" She then spoke of the incredible passion she and Randy witnessed first hand when they visited church leaders in China. I was deeply touched; here are truths that spoke directly to me:

- If I am committed to keeping my brain connected to my heart, God will show me what he wants me to do.
- God values the abilities of his less gifted followers (two talent servants) as much as he values the five talent servant. In The Parable of the Talents, the Master's words of praise were identical for both faithful servants

despite the disparity in their abilities.

- I must become less and He must become greater.
- The power of Christ will become greater in my life as I submit to Him hour by hour.

Donna's final challenge: to give the Lord all our hours, strengths, and weaknesses to use for his glory.

Since the conference, I have been earnestly seeking God for what he wants me to do with my talents. I believe I have received an answer. I am excited to take new steps to use my hours and invest my abilities for the glory of God.

I know I am not alone. Because I saw the tears and heard the comments of the women at my table following Donna's presentations that day, I am certain God is using Donna's words to challenge and change their lives as he is in mine. (HF)

Thank you for investing your dollars and your prayers. Hearts and lives are being changed. (DC)

***Because I saw the tears and heard the comments of the women at my table, I am certain God is using Donna's words to challenge and change their lives as he is in mine.***



Donna spoke to a women's leadership conference on giving God our hours and abilities for his glory.



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**Contact us:**

38 River Rock Crescent SE  
Calgary, Alberta T2C 4J4  
Phone/Fax: 403.720.3832  
Toll Free 1.866.835.5827

[www.straighttalkministries.com](http://www.straighttalkministries.com)

Editor: Heather Traub  
Parkvista Projects Inc.  
403-225-6590

[parkvistaprojects@shaw.ca](mailto:parkvistaprojects@shaw.ca)

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Coaching young youth pastors and youth leaders results in spiritual multiplication!

God opened doors for me to invest in younger youth workers to help them be effective in reaching and discipling students.

This lights my hair on fire because God is lighting students' hair on fire!

Sorta like Pentecost.

Your giving will enable me to continue to be a part of spiritual multiplication.

Thanks so much for being part of the Straight Talk team, without your support none of this could happen. (RC)

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