



The Impact of YIA

Can one week during the summer change your life? Read these stories and see



By Brother Jonathan Scolaro

Yes, I believe in God. And I know that we're all supposed to "tell the whole world about Jesus." But how often do I honestly do that? Most often, it seems like I talk about spreading the gospel on Sunday, but then I go home and forget about it for the rest of the week. Why is that? Why don't I always seize opportunities to share Jesus with others around me? Am I blind? Am I scared? Do I just not know what to say?

For me, "Youth In Action" could be better called "Faith In Action." It's a time when you force yourself to put all your excuses aside and *practice* sharing Jesus with others. You slowly gain confidence and learn that talking about Jesus with others isn't as hard or as scary as you initially thought. In

fact, when you do get up the courage, it's amazing how God can work through you.

I remember one time I was canvassing in Kentucky with another sister from the Church, and we heard some yelling and noise coming from behind an apartment door. We nervously decided to knock on all the other doors on that floor before, finally, gathering the courage to knock on the "scary door," while silently praying to ourselves. By this time, the ruckus had died down. A woman, somewhat unkempt and quite hysterical, flung open the door and rapidly sputtered that she only had a few minutes because her friend was in the hospital. We explained that we were from a church and she exclaimed that she had been crying out to God, and that she was on the verge of relapsing and having a drink, and that she hadn't had a drink in eight years,

and ... the words gushed out of her. We offered to pray with her, to which she adamantly exclaimed, "Yes, please!" The three of us grabbed hands in a circle, and I felt God's Spirit come over us as we cried out to him to chase these cravings away and to comfort this woman. After the prayer, the woman thanked us profusely and declared that she had been asking God for help.

Many times in life, we're tempted to skip the "scary door." We're afraid to talk about God with certain people for fear of judgment or rejection or simply because they're different or we don't know what to say. By doing YIA, I learned that the moments when I'm uncertain are sometimes when God is best able to work through me. It's helped me gain the courage to talk about Jesus with people who I interact with on a daily basis. That's the biggest impact of YIA for me —

practicing how to share Jesus with others, and then bringing it home to my everyday life.

By Brother Joe Ignagni

Over a number of years, a man named Doyle had become very sickly. He had never been a religious man, but now that he was housebound, he began watching religious programs on television. He said that these programs made him realize the importance of giving his life to Jesus Christ. As part of this, he believed it was important to be baptized. However, due to his physical ailments, he did not know how this would be possible. In fact, he could not even attend a church to ask for his baptism.

He decided to pray about this and ask God to send a messenger to him to answer his dilemma. The very next day, as part of a YIA effort in Fort Worth, one of the young people put a flier on his door inviting him to The Church of Jesus Christ. Upon finding the flier, he called the branch and asked if he could be visited at his home. Three elders immediately went to his house. When they entered his home, Doyle proclaimed, "You are messengers from God and your coming here is a miracle!"

He told the brothers his life story and how he repented of all of his sins. As an elderly man, he feared that he would die without being baptized. He asked if our church would be willing to baptize him. Doyle also told the ministers that he wanted to be completely honest with them and said that due his physical condition he would not be able to attend church after his baptism. All three brothers felt the Spirit of God come

upon them and led them to believe that God was in this matter and that Doyle should be baptized.

He was baptized the next Sunday. Brother Doyle immediately began feeling better physically. Furthermore, he began attending the branch. He was soon strong enough to drive himself to church. Brother Doyle became a constant at both Wednesday and Sunday services. God not only saved his soul but strengthened his body. He remained a wonderful brother and lived for eight more years in the service of our Lord. In fact, he was later instrumental in others coming to church. He became a "messenger of God" everywhere he went.

By Brother Chuck Maddox Jr.

GMBA. MBA. LC. TCOJC. RMOC. IMOC. ECC. Have you ever thought about the number of acronyms we have in The Church? We use more letters to describe our programs than there are in a can of alphabet soup;

however, there is one acronym that holds a special place in my heart: YIA. Youth In Action has helped form me into the person I am today.

Through many summer tours, I've made connections with young people that I would have never met. I've traveled to Pedernales, Mexico with young people to spread the gospel, and I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ on a YIA tour. In 2002, on the Cincinnati YIA Tour, on the last Sunday meeting before everyone went home after a tiresome week of telling others about Jesus, I answered the call and asked for my baptism. Some of the young people even stayed the following week so they could be there for my baptism the next Sunday! Nothing can surpass the friendships that are formed on a YIA tour.

Over the years, I've been on YIA tours in Cincinnati, Mesa, Spartanburg, Inner City, and Mexico. This summer, you have the opportunity to go to Albuquerque, New Mexico, Harrison, Michigan, and Forest Hills, Florida. As you go to sleep tonight, ask God if He wants you to go on a YIA tour this summer. If He says yes, check out the info below to apply!

YIA Tours 2013



Albuquerque, New Mexico
June 28 to July 7



Harrison, Michigan
July 19 to 28



Forest Hills, Florida
July 26 to Aug 4

To register for a YIA tour or to learn more about YIA, visit gmbayouthinaction.org or snap the code.

