

OUTREACH TO YOUTH

Key Question: How do we reach the alienated, hidden and forgotten young people? (Michael Warren sets the challenge in outreach when he describes ministry as "no longer serving the assembled, but it is assembling those to be served.")

The Challenge: Enabling youth to be in contact with the Gospel message.

Assumptions about Outreach

- ° Outreach is first of all a posture and gesture of welcome and hospitality to youth. (It's the responsibility of the entire faith community.)
- ° Outreach is directed toward both unchurched or uninvolved youth and church youth who have not yet made a personal act of faith.
- ° Outreach is not recruitment. (It's a ministry to youth who simply need it.)
- ° Outreach is most effective and best understood within the context of total youth ministry.

Elements of the Outreach Model

I. Contact

- ° Be where young people are. (Where can we best spend time to build relationships with young people?)
- ° Become known to young people.
- ° Use other young people as our connection.
- ° Go to certain young people in their settings (eg. - group homes, drug or alcohol treatment programs, runaway shelters, etc.)

II. Connection

- ° Personal/Relational connection
- ° Programmatic connection

III. Commitment

- ° Providing opportunities for expressing and deepening the faith commitments that the young people make. (These opportunities are never a requirement - never imposed.)

CONTACT MODEL OF OUTREACH

