

# ABOUT

# YW YOUTHUNLIMITED

## history of YU



**Youth Unlimited was established in 1919** as the American Federation of Reformed Young Men's Society and has since evolved and grown into being what Youth Unlimited is today, serving churches with junior and senior high youth groups across North America. Listed below is a brief look at our history.

- September, 1919 - American Federation of Reformed Young Men's Society (AFRYMS) founded
- December, 1920 - The first *Convention* - 26 societies present
- May, 1932 - American Federation of Reformed Young Women's Society (AFRYWS) organized
- August, 1938 - Richard Postma becomes part-time director
- December 1955 - Merger of Young Men's and Young Women's Federations ratified to become the Young Calvinist Federation (YCF)
- August, 1959 - First co-ed *Convention* in Edmonton, Alberta
- August, 1960 - First Summer Worship in Missions (SWIM) - Salt Lake City, Utah
- October, 1962 - James Lont becomes YCF director
- September, 1966 - YCF, Calvinettes (now GEMS) and the Calvinist Cadet Corps merge to form United Calvinist Youth (UCY) (now Dynamic Youth Ministries or DYM)
- March, 1980 - Robert Hough becomes YCF's director
- Summer, 1989 - Brian Bosscher is hired as executive director
- 1989 - *SERVE* begins with 3 mission sites
- 1992 - Youth Unlimited (YU) is chosen as the new name for the Young Calvinist Federation
- 1999 - *Compass 21* is developed as a youth ministry assessment tool
- June, 2000 - Barry Foster is promoted from Programs Manager to Executive Director.
- Summer, 2001 - *ENCOUNTER* replaces *SWIM* as YU's long-term missions program
- Winter/Spring 2004 - *One Week* spiritual renewal weeks are offered to Christian Schools across the United States and Canada
- July 2004 - Rachael Cooley is hired as Executive Director
- September 2005 - *SERVE* and *ENCOUNTER* merge into a unified Missions Program
- Spring 2006 - Youth Unlimited partners with area urban youth network to offer the *Where U At?* urban youth conference
- July 2007 - Jeff Kruithof is hired as the current Executive Director

**Youth Unlimited** is a Christ-centered youth ministry that supports over 500 churches across the United States and Canada. Our mission commits us to assist youth ministry efforts in the local church to effectively reach junior high (early teen) and senior high youth with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Mission**

**"Youth Unlimited helps churches challenge youth to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and transform their world for Him."**

Youth Unlimited carries out its mission by offering a wide variety of resources, service opportunities, special events and leadership training. All the services of Youth Unlimited are shaped through seeking God's vision for ministry interpreted through a Reformed perspective in diverse social and ethnic contexts.

### **Youth Unlimited serves youth by:**

- seeking to bring them to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- encouraging spiritual growth
- creating service and evangelistic opportunities
- helping them to develop leadership skills
- encouraging relational and inter-generational ministry
- encouraging youth to stay connected to the local church

### **Youth Unlimited serves youth leaders by:**

- providing regional and local leadership training
- providing guidance in setting the direction of their youth ministry
- offering resources that support ministry efforts

### **Youth Unlimited serves churches by:**

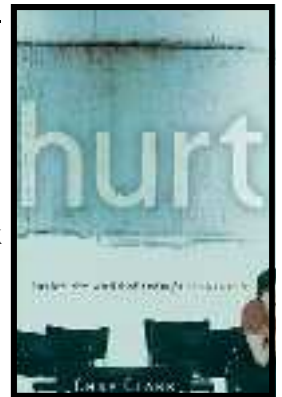
- helping them to better understand the nature of youth ministry
- identifying qualified youth leaders
- integrating youth into other areas of church ministry

# Summer Reading

Are you wondering what to read this summer when you sit around the camp fire, at the cottage or just lounging around the house on a summer's eve? Try a few of these books...

## **HURT: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers.**

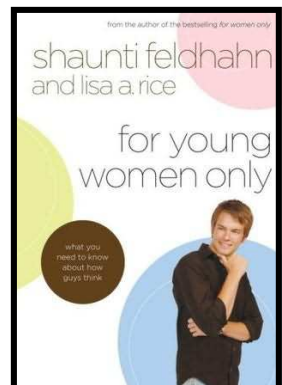
Chap Clark. Baker, 2004. Based on solid research and years of insightful observation, Clark's "Hurt" serves to open the eyes of parents, youth workers, pastors, educators, and youth-serving professionals to realities from which the church has too often chosen to look away. 'Hurt' offers a deep and penetrating look into the contemporary adolescent experience that will serve us well as we work to have a prophetic, preventive, and redemptive influence on the world of today's youth culture



## **For Young Women Only**

**guys will be guys...** And now girls can know what that means! For Young

Women Only dives into the mysterious inner-workings of the teenage male mind so that you can begin to understand why guys say and do what they do. Exploring critical topics including respect, insecurity, appearance, physical affection, and the "tough and tender"-ness of guys, this book is also packed with "ask the expert" sections, quotes, and fun personal stories from guys in all walks of life. Why is he so visually stimulated? You may wish it weren't so, but that won't make it so. I don't want to put on a front for him to like me. Actually, he wants your genuineness, too! This book will help you grasp how God wired the opposite sex so you can enjoy your relationships with them.



## **The Goodbye Generation**

The Goodbye Generation is made up of youth, young adults, and adults who once were regular church attendees. Many of them have given up on going to church services, while many have walked away from their faith completely. This book is a journey into the stories, thoughts, hurts, struggles and lives of these people. In a day when many denominations are struggling because they have lost almost all of their young people, we need to address what is stealing them away. David Sawler invites you to look at what the scriptures really say about the reasons that many people are giving for leaving. This is a book that gives hope and honest insight into one of the biggest struggles of the Church today.



## **Irresistible Revolution**

Many of us find ourselves caught somewhere between unbelieving activists and inactive believers. We can write a check to feed starving children or hold signs in the streets and feel like we've made a difference without ever encountering the faces of the suffering masses. In this book, Shane Claiborne describes an authentic faith rooted in belief, action, and love, inviting us into a movement of the Spirit that begins inside each of us and extends into a broken world. Shane's faith led him to dress the wounds of lepers with Mother Teresa, and dump \$10,000 in coins and bills on Wall Street to redistribute wealth. Shane lives out this revolution each day in an impoverished community in North Philadelphia, by living among the homeless, helping local kids with homework, and "practicing resurrection" in the forgotten places of our world.

Shane's message will comfort the disturbed, and disturb the comfortable . . . but will also invite us into an irresistible revolution. His is a vision for ordinary radicals ready to change the world with little acts of love.

