

Berea Youth Annual Report Full

Beloved Members,

We would like to update you on the youth ministry that takes place every week at our church.

Our youth ministry consists of Berea members investing time and effort, twice a week [Fridays and Sundays] to minister our youth. Our Awana nights and Sunday school morning classes have been for years, the main occasions for this ministry.

At the end of 2017, the ministry underwent a period of evaluation in which we sought to identify and define what exactly youth ministry at Berea is. We analyzed all the facets of what constitutes our youth ministry, and especially evaluated the impact its making in our youth. Our evaluation lead the church leadership to make adjustments, changes, and additions that were implemented in 2018.

Our youth today, are especially vulnerable and almost constantly surrounded by evil influences. As if the influences in their schools weren't bad enough, today their constant companion [their electronic device] exposes them to the worst of the world. These influences begin to grow on our youth and before our eyes we see their hearts grow cold and indifferent to the love they have received for years from God thru the church. Yet, we know that our war is not against flesh and blood and we must continue to love and serve them. Any ministry will face challenges. The more faithful to God we resolve to be, the more opposition we will face from the enemy and this world.

Our youth are in a very delicate stage of their lives. Although it is true that the primary issue they have is their love of sin and secret curiosity of worldly desires, I have learned of another stumbling block that hinders our youth from embracing Christ. The hypocrisy and lukewarm lives of professing "christians" damage the youth's conception of the christian life. Today, it is very easy to play a clean "christian" role during services, events and celebrations. But outside our church walls, the youth observe the weak and inconsistent "christian" testimonies of many around them and in turn react with a repulsive and indifferent attitude. The youth have different ways of expressing their displeasure towards such individuals. Unfortunately, in a church setting, it is hard to determine whether that displeasure is aimed at a particular someone, the whole church or God himself.

It's been very challenging to minister to souls that experience such things on a regular basis. It's hard to begin and carry an honest conversation with some. Some are reluctant to accept our advice and help.

On the other hand, it's been a joy to see some of our youth respond with enthusiasm and gratefulness during classes, events and hangouts. Some are showing a sincere interest in faith related topics. Some at times, have been open to discuss sin, issues, plans, relationships and God. I hope this coming year, it will be the year of salvation and newness of life for them.

Leaders/ Teachers

Some of the major additions for 2018 were the placing of the following:

Awana Commander- Samuel Heredia

Youth Leader- Lloyd Virgill

Sunday School Director- Karla Heredia [already in place]

Middle School Teachers: Esther Lanier, Karen Sanchez, Kathy Velasco [Rebecca Fonseca]

High School Teachers: Lloyd Virgill, Erwin Fonseca, [Iris Odell]

From teaching classes, to building relationships with the youth, to organizing events, to communicating with parents.

The ministry team [above] have all served our youth in some capacity this year. Other Berea members and parents have certainly also contributed to our ministry.

New Efforts

Our Mission

As a ministry belonging to Berea Bible Church, we cannot disconnect ourselves from the overall mission advocated at Berea: *Exalting our God, Edifying the Saints, and Evangelizing the lost*. Even though these three directives provide fundamental orientation to our efforts, specifics on how we actually flesh-out those directives have been challenging to acquire. Yet, as a result of our evaluation, the following items are serving to further orientate our ministry team:

Mission Statement: *Berea Bible Church desires to partner with parents and enter into a commitment to love, encourage, teach, and mentor the youth to the glory of God and the benefit of his people..*

Motto: *Joining parents in loving their daughters and sons to the glory of Christ!*

Ministry Verse: *Ecclesiastes 12:1*

Focus [Evangelism]:

Majority of our youth are still indecisive on their relationship with God. Therefore, we anticipate our youth on a weekly basis with that reality. Our ministry is currently characterized as an ongoing effort to encourage our youth to repent of their sin and embrace forgiveness and exercise faith in Christ Jesus. Our classes are the primary setting for this effort- teachers arrange their lessons with the intention to teach and explain some facet of the gospel of Jesus Christ [God, Sin, Christ, etc]. Our time with the youth outside the classroom setting, consists of conversations where we try to better understand them and think of ways we can clarify certain misconceptions of the christian life that they may have. We try our best to make sure our lives do not contradict our teaching. There is always room for more zeal and dedication on the part of our ministry team- therefore pray for us.

Classroom Remodels:

Our teachers have been able to improve the classroom environment by remodeling their rooms. Both middle and high school rooms have been recently touched-up and now provide a lively and comfortable setting for our ministry classes. Recently, the children's ministry has also remodeled one of there rooms as well.

Donations and labor have been provided by both the ministry team and the youth themselves. We are delighted at the new remodels and creative work that our teachers have exhibited. The youth appear to approve and are enjoying their new classrooms.

Youth Workshops

We were able to conduct a few youth workshops on Saturdays that were intended to introduce the youth to a life skill. Originally, it was hoped that a series of topics would be covered over a period of weeks and that a gradual growth in attendance would occur. Unfortunately, we were not able to see that happen. There was not much interest. We hope to have a better run in the near future.

On the other hand, when the workshops were conducted, they proved to be of great enjoyment for all in attendance.

Berea Youth Arts

An effort is being made to encourage the youth at Berea to learn, practice and perform in the arts. Practices and occasions for the youth to serve in worship are provided on a weekly basis. Youth at Berea have been given the opportunity to use their musical talents and abilities to serve the church and glorify God.

Communication

Communication between the ministry team can always improve. The following platforms have been instituted to promote organization and communication:

REMIND APP: *intended for team to message one another*

bereayouth.com :updates, news, docs, info

If you took the time to read this update and are truly concerned for the spiritual well-being of our youth please keep this ministry in your regular prayers. Please pray for:

Leaders/teachers: *for our calling is not just to plan, schedule, administrate and run classes, programs and events- but to live spirit-lead lives fueled by prayer and study of God's Word.*

Pray that we:

-study to know and love God
-live daily with integrity, steadfastness, dependance on prayer
first hand from Scripture- their ministry responsibilities
mortify personal sin
christians outside church walls

-comprehend
-fight and
-live as

Youth

-for their salvation
-for their protection from the enemy that sows ideas, beliefs, attitudes, spirits in their person
their relationships outside of church [greatly influences them]
their plans, desires, goals, needs

-for
-for

Leader Note

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve my God by entrusting me with the task to think, pray, reach, teach, love and serve our youth. Pray for us as we get ready for another year of ministry.

Lloyd Virgill

Berea Youth Leader

[Please note that this is an abridged version of the report. The full version can be accessed at the bereayouth.com website]