

Youth training

Dear Friends,

Is any person who has had formal pastoral training ready to be a youth leader? Does being a youth leader require any special training?

These are hot-button questions that I have raised with my fellow colleagues in the youth leadership network. Few, if any, youth leaders in Romania have ever had any formal (school, course, seminar) training whatsoever to be a youth leader. For the most part, students study to be a pastor at one of Romania's seminaries, and supposedly (at least this is what they are told) they are now ready to not only pastor a congregation, but also to be a youth leader. Yet, keep in mind that they neither have, nor does there exist (at least to our knowledge at OC International Romania) a single course/program in Romania's evangelical seminaries even touching on youth ministry issues. Moreover, I have heard repeatedly from youth leaders that they have never had training in pastoral care, counseling, curriculum development, or in church politics. Is this alarming? You betcha!

I may be biased, but I am here to tell you that just because someone completed seminary to be a pastor does not necessarily mean they are qualified to be a youth minister. In București there are roughly 80 evangelical churches, but only about 30 youth ministries. I have visited nearly all of these youth meetings at least once and can tell you that most of the time the youth meeting looks no different from the Sunday morning church service. Houston, we have a problem!



It goes without saying that every generation is different and that times, they are changing. We as the church ought to be mindful of the emerging generation if we are serious at all about seeing real, effective church growth.

After some reflection with my field director in Romania, I will be drafting a proposal for a course on youth ministry principles and issues (an introduction per se) to teach at some of the seminaries in București. In addition, I am looking forward to writing more articles on youth ministry issues this year to have available as a resource for fellow youth ministers in Romania. Please pray for me as I work on these initiatives—

that God would guide me with HIS wisdom, and that I would speak to the needs and issues most pertinent for Romanian youth leaders.

It's about being relevant and effective. We want to see youth leaders prepared with the tools and resources they need to impact the next generation for Christ.

Praying for a revival,

Your "Romaniac"

Stories and updates: www.romaniaandmike.blogspot.com

Financial contributions: OC International c/o Michael Lundell P.O. Box 36900 Colorado Springs, CO 80936 or visit www.onechallenge.org

From the President...

Did You Know?

Since 1987, the Latino missions force has grown from 1,600 missionaries serving in 60 agencies to a workforce which today numbers over 12,000 missionaries serving in more than 400 indigenous agencies.

Our Vision

Healthy churches working together to disciple all nations.



OC One Challenge.
Reaching the world together

OC International
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www.ONECHALLENGE.org

OC's passion is to serve as a catalyst for the carrying out of the Great Commission. Around the world, our missionaries are being uniquely used by the Lord to strengthen national and continental movements for the advance of the Kingdom. Latin America and Africa are two such regions.



Greg Gripenrog
OC President

A thrilling development in recent years has been the mushrooming of the Latin American missions movement. Since 1987, the Latino missions force has grown from 1,600 missionaries serving in 60 agencies to a workforce which today numbers over 12,000 missionaries serving in more than 400 indigenous agencies. The driving force behind this surge is COMIBAM, a strategic missionary partnership which spans the continent, and also includes Spain and Portugal.

For two decades, OC has had the privilege of playing a major role in the growth of COMIBAM. Currently Jesus Londono (OC missionary and our Spain field director) serves as the executive director of COMIBAM. Jesus is doing an outstanding job of providing godly and visionary leadership for this movement.

Last month, COMIBAM brought together 106 mission leaders in Costa Rica in order to strengthen collaboration between Ibero-American and global mission leaders. One of the unique aspects of this gathering was participation from the African missions movement, represented by Reuben Ezemadu, continental coordinator of the Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI), a network closely served by our OC Africa teams.

In Costa Rica, Dean Carlson (OC VP Fields) and Kyle Stiff (OC Director of Personnel) facilitated a coming together of these two continental movements. It was a historic moment when these top leaders from the Global South connected at the heart level and began to dream about what could be possible as Latinos and Africans increasingly partner together in the carrying out of the Great Commission.

It's already happening! They shared how a Nigerian missionary is serving alongside a Brazilian church to reach African descendents living in Brazil. In Gambia, a Brazilian missionary is working on an African missionary team to bring the Good News to unreached tribes. Now that is creative collaboration!

The leaders of both movements asked OC to walk alongside them as bridge-builders and servants to the process. We are delighted to serve in this way.

This encounter provides a window into the future as the church in Africa, Latin America, and Asia brings awesome vitality to bear upon the task of reaching the world's remaining least-evangelized peoples. Truly, missions is from the whole world to the whole world!