

Marriage Seminar Goes to Print

Each of the four seminars we've led on marriage and youth ministry has been well attended and very well received. Youth ministry is still such a relatively new phenomenon in Latin America that there aren't many people with years of experience balancing marriage, family, and ongoing relationships with teenagers. Because of the importance and urgency of the questions we've fielded during the seminars, we have decided to write a chapter addressing these issues for a book entitled "Advice from the Front Lines" that will be published by Youth Specialties, Latin America in 2007.



Healthy Roots Produce Good Fruit

One of the most encouraging things that happened at the national convention for youth leaders in Chile in July was seeing fruit from RAICES (Roots), the training course for youth leaders that we're on the board of. Miguel Faundez attended RAICES in Paraguay in 2002 and he is now the co-director of La Red, Chile (the national network of youth leaders). Carmon Grandon won a scholarship to RAICES in Mexico in 2003 but she had to come up with the money for the travel from Concepcion, Chile, to Veracruz, Mexico. She applies what she learned at the conferences as a leader in the youth ministry of her local church, her denomination, and her city. And her workshop at the Chilean convention was based on the RAICES materials.



Although we enjoy the broader platform of large conventions like Youth Specialties, we continue to believe that the deep roots formed by a thorough understanding of how Jesus worked with His disciples will create youth leaders who bear good fruit over the long haul.

Speaking of RAICES...

Compassion International is again sponsoring a RAICES conference. This time it is a regional conference for pastors whose churches have Compassion projects as well as for Compassion staff, and it has a specific focus on work with pre-teens. George Barna's research has led him to say:

"Families, churches and parachurch ministries must recognize that primary window of opportunity for effectively reaching people with the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection is during the pre-teen years. It is during those years that people develop their frames of reference for the remainder of their life – especially theologically and morally. Consistently explaining and modeling truth principles for young people is the most critical factor in their spiritual development." (www.barna.org)



We're honored to be part of a coalition helping the church in Latin America address this critical age. We appreciate your prayers for the event in Quito, Ecuador, from Oct. 23-26.

Tim & Annette