

Day 1 – Florida Conference Youth Ministries - Ten Days of Prayer - 2012

Proverbs 19:21 - Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's **purpose** that prevails.

One way God brings His people together is when we have a shared purpose.

We have been praying about the direction Youth Ministries will take in 2012 for awhile. We have been asking God how He wants to lead us and what He wants to accomplish through us. We believe that God wants to send us a message this year ... Together We're Stronger. We believe that God is honored by unity. We want to honor God. We believe that when we have a common shared purpose, we are stronger.

Part of that shared purpose and vision for 2012 is to strengthen families, to strengthen local church ministry, and finally to focus on the city of Tampa as our Impact City in July (Together We're Stronger).

The other morning I was watching the news. The report showed a video of some people walking up to the drive-thru area of Chik-fil-A fast food restaurant and walking off with the Christmas decorations! They just took off with the items. Although the thieves were caught on tape, the authorities had not been able to find them. A local resident had heard the report of the hoodlum's activities and decided to take action. One man began a mission to gather holiday ornaments, from his own yard, and set them up at the restaurant. Soon others were joining in with him, contributing additional items and helping re-decorate the outside of fast food place. The restaurant may have even looked better than it did before.

The thought came to my head, "there is a group of people united in purpose." People that were strangers before the incident had now become friends. They had bonded. Their joint mission fused them together. What started with one man, ended with a whole team. A team on a mission.

It also made me think about youth ministries. It often starts with one adult who loves kids and loves God. They see the need. They take action. Adventurer clubs. Pathfinder clubs. Youth groups. Young adults. Public Campus ministry. A leader (or in some cases, a willing adult) gets someone to help them. They pray. God helps them build their team. They are on a mission. They want to make a difference for God. Each time another person joins the team, they get stronger. The new leaders bring creativity and fresh talent. The youth are better served. United by a shared purpose, they (you) work to reach our kids for Jesus and God is honored. That is beautiful.

Did you know we all have something in common?

I believe that deep inside of all of us there is a desire to do something for God. To be a part of something significant. Something relevant. Something bigger than what any one of us could accomplish on our own. Even bigger than what we could humanly do. Something that could be successful only if GOD showed up.

Am I right? Do you ever talk to God about being a part of something that's going somewhere? To be a part of a "team" that is on a championship run? A team of leaders that know where God wants to take them and trusts that He will get them there? I believe that we have that opportunity - right now.

I believe that 2012 is the year to go to another level. To reach out to God in an unprecedented way so that we see things we have never seen. One of our big goals for 2012 is to work together. Together in our churches. Together in our clubs. Together in our events. Together in our state. To partner. To collaborate. To join forces. To utilize all of our strengths. Because "Together We're Stronger."

How About You? Are you ready to let God take you personally to another level? What about as a leader? God wants to share with us a vision for 2012. A vision for our lives, homes, and the ministries where we serve.

Pray – God, please help us to see your vision. To partner with you. To reach new heights. To work together to do more than we ever could by ourselves. Show us Your plans. Fill us with your Spirit. In Jesus name, Amen.