

# Ministry News

FROM Len Evans

## Preparing for the Future

*“How do we respond to our rapidly changing society?”*

We are acutely aware that our cultural values and the ways that we function are rapidly changing. Did you know that:

- There are almost as many mobile phones and hand-held mobile devices as there are people in the world?
- During the past year, “same sex marriage” became the law in our country? Now, school officials wrestle with implementing changing “transgender” policies: who is permitted to use which bathrooms and locker rooms at their schools?
- Our youth are confronted with the relevance of the “church” and ask, “Why should we engage with it?”



**Changing times are nothing new!** In 1 Chronicles 12:32, the sons of Issachar were described as men “who understood the times and knew what Israel ought to do.” Like the men of Issachar, those of us who help lead youth ministry must be proactive in understanding and responding

to the challenges and opportunities that come with changing times.

In January, we had the opportunity to host more than 30 leaders of the NNYM Ministry Council. The Council is a diverse and select group of national youth ministry leaders who serve as the primary advisory group to our NNYM board of directors.

The focus of our time was “Looking Forward and Getting It Right.” Here are some highlights of our time in San Diego:

**First,** I had the privilege of speaking into the future of the National Network of Youth Ministries. There were “breakout” sessions where we discussed how NNYM can best serve the needs of youth ministry in these changing times.

**Second,** I had the privilege of viewing the “director’s cut” of the movie “I’m Not Ashamed,” which will be in theaters in August 2016. It is an insightful biopic about Rachel Scott, who was the first student killed in the Columbine shootings in 1999. After seeing the film, we were asked to give our feedback for the final edits.



*These are some of the leaders from around the country and our NNYM staff members who met at the 2016 NNYM Ministry Council.*

*Over, please*

**Third**, we took time to celebrate our corporate birthday with a fiesta - complete with a piñata, as the National Network of Youth Ministries turned 35 years old!



*Our CEO, Daryl Nuss and his wife, Donna, get ready to take a swing at the piñata.*

**Finally**, we were sharpened and encouraged by our NNYM staff as we met for two days to discuss our direction in 2016. The Lord gave us wise interaction and unity for the year ahead.



As we look to the future, two things are certain:

- **God’s character never changes!** In Hebrews, the author reminds us that “Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).
- **We can’t do youth ministry alone, if we’re going to effectively impact our culture.** Almost anyone who works with youth feels a sense of being over-challenged and under-resourced. We have great opportunities to work together.

These changing days present great challenges to minister to young people. The Network invites youth leaders to see how ***we are better together.***

I can’t express enough the importance of your friendship, prayers, and partnership!

## Evans Update

I have around 150 people who receive this prayer update in the mail, and almost 450 who receive it as an email. I’m grateful for each person who is concerned and prays for me, my family and this ministry.

Here’s a new way to offer timely prayer support. I’m hoping to get at least 50 people who want to receive short timely prayer requests as a text.

**“Jesus, Bless Len” still counts!** But these requests will be sent to my intercessors before meetings, trips around West Texas, and for other important requests, as needed.

**Follow instructions and get timely NNYM prayer requests**

Enter this number  
**81010** ?

Text this message  
**@pray4nnym** ?

**Thank You! #BetterTogether**

Thank you for praying for us, for being on our team, and believing in what we do!

Better together,