



Great Commission Youth Ministry

NEWSLETTER

INCLUDES

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- Brazil Youth Ministry MA program continues
- Myanmar completes 8 out of 11 courses
- GCYM team in Mexico expands
- BA program in Ethiopia starts fall of 2026
- Africa Certificate Training begins June of 2026
- Nigerian Youth Ministry Revival spreads
- All-African Baptist Congress meets in October 2026
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2026 - 1st quarter training highlights

Event / Project / Location	Date / Time Period	Total Trained
Brazil Word of Life Seminary - MA program - 3 of 10 classes completed	Jan. - Mar. 2026	45
Myanmar MA program - Online - 8 of 11 classes completed	Jan. - Mar. 2026	11
Nigeria ICYM certificate program - Multiple Cities - Nigeria	Jan. - Mar. Seminars	55
Our new Mexico Coalition trainings - Raphael Rosa team	March Seminars	45
	Total trained	156
	Total personally trained by Randy	66
Anticipated upcoming 2026 trainings		
Brazil MA program - 3 additional classes	May, Aug., Nov.	45
Myanmar MA program - 3 additional classes	July - October	11
Nigeria ICYM certificate program	April - December	250
Mexico Coalition trainings - Mexico coalition team	April - December	200
East Africa Intensive Certificate - Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania	June - December	25
	Total trained	531
	Total Randy will personally train	286

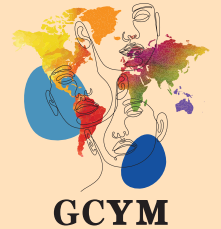


SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR REPORTS ON THIS TRAINING PROGRESS!

MISSION STATEMENT:

Equip church Youth Leaders to evangelize and disciple the world's youth through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, guided by the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

New Brazil Youth Ministry MA Program continues - completing Course #3 of 10 courses!



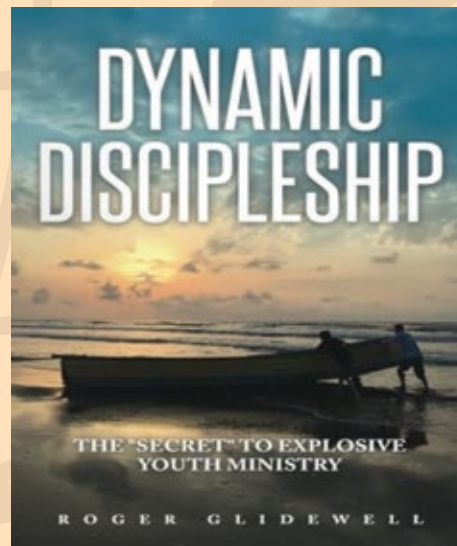
Phil Brown, teaching the third course at Word of Life Theological Seminary.

Phil Brown, who works with First Priority Global (FPG), taught the 3rd course in our new MA program at the Word of Life Theological Seminary in Sao Paulo, Brazil – **“Youth Evangelism and Campus Outreach.”** FPG is a ministry committed to reaching students in public schools worldwide.



Students celebrating the completion of Course #3 in the MA program.

Students finished this 3rd of 10 courses in the MA program! Only seven more courses remain until graduation. God willing, these students will graduate with **the first MA** in evangelical youth ministry in all of Brazil!



The 4th course will be **“Youth Discipleship,”** taught by **Dr. Roger Glidewell**, president of Global Youth Ministry. Dr. Glidewell is a veteran church youth pastor and youth ministry professor. Dr. Glidewell will be teaching from his new book: **“Dynamic Discipleship: The Secret to Explosive Youth Ministry.”** Please pray for this next class scheduled for May 4-7, 2026.

The GCYM sponsored Myanmar Youth Ministry program completes 8 out of 11 Courses

I was honored to teach the “Youth Discipleship” course to our wonderful eleven students in the Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology’s MA in Youth Ministry Program. This is an online program due to the military coup takeover that is persecuting evangelical Christians in Myanmar, a predominantly Buddhist country.

There are only three more courses, scheduled to be completed by December of 2027... then graduation!

This is the only evangelical Youth Ministry academic program in Myanmar (formerly Burma).

Please pray that they will complete all the courses. The next two courses will be “Youth and Family Ministry” and “Ministry to Troubled Youth.” I will be teaching the final course – “Professional Orientation of Youth Ministry” in late 2026!



Randy teaching “Youth Discipleship” - Course #8 - to 11 Myanmar student online.

“He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”
Mark 16:15 (NIV)

VISION STATEMENT:

The vision of the Great Commission Youth Ministry consultancy is to assist Christian leaders understand that the Great Commission should, by-and-large, be a Youth movement that is constantly reaching, discipling and mentoring the youth generation in every people group of the world.

Barush And Lanu Sanchez Join The GCYM Team In Mexico!

After completing the GCYM one-year certificate in Mexico and completing several of their own training seminars for several Mexican local church youth leaders, I asked Barush and Lanu if they would coordinate GCYM training in Mexico. They graciously accepted. They are working on a possible partnership with an evangelical seminary in Mexico City to start a new Master's Degree in Youth Ministry!

Please pray for their training efforts in Mexico in the coming months and years. Barush was also appointed to be the vice chairman of the recently formed Global Youth Coalition sponsored Mexico Youth Ministry Country Coalition.



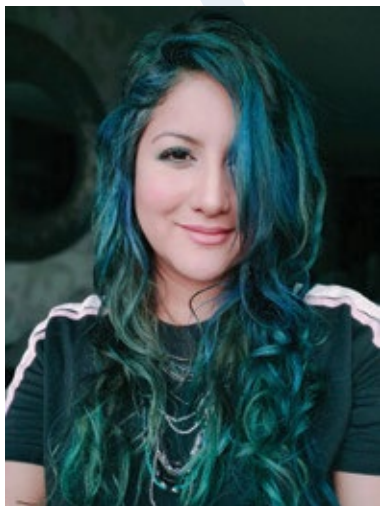
Barush Sanchez

Bio - Barush & Lanu Sanchez

Barush studied Law at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and Theology at the Evangelical Presbyterian Seminary of Mexico. Barush heard God's call from his childhood and grew up serving in the church. During his teenage years, he served as the National President of Christian Endeavor, where he organized and led various events for adolescents, including camps, conferences, and mission trips. It was during this time that Barush recognized the critical need for specialized pastors to minister to the unique needs of youth. Throughout his university years, Barush was actively involved in student ministry, focusing on teaching and discipleship.

Barush served as a youth pastor for nearly 20 years. Currently, Barush is focused on evangelism and discipleship among university students with Reformed University Fellowship (RUF). In addition, Barush planted a church in Mexico City aimed at young adults involved in the arts.

Lanu was born into a Christian family but as Lanu describes those early years... "Being curious about sin, I hit rock bottom at the age of 15, but Jesus rescued me at 16. He rescued me the very first day I started serving (during a youth camp). I fell in love with Him and started following Him since then. I became a dedicated servant at church. I studied the Bible and soon became part of the leadership team." Lanu has her own Christian band and ministers all over Mexico, reaching many youth for Christ!



Lanu Sanchez

New Youth Ministry BA program at the Wolayta Seminary in Ethiopia starts Fall of 2026



God willing, the first official Youth Ministry Bachelor's Degree in Youth Ministry will begin in the Fall of 2026. GCYM is offering scholarships totaling \$1000 to first-year students starting the program!

The program will be led and taught by MA graduates of our Youth MA Program from the Evangelical Theological College in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This is a "Training the Trainer" dream come true!

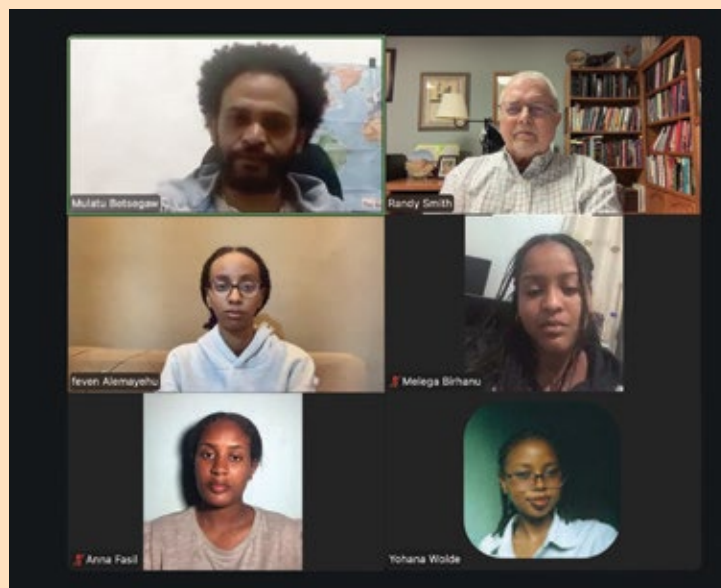


If you want to donate to the Wolayta Seminary Youth BA scholarship program, you can send a one-time donation to the link below or scan the QR code. Please email me to let me know about your contribution to the scholarship fund!

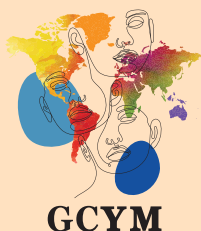
<https://provisionbridge.org/great-commission-youth-ministry/>

New Advanced Youth Ministry Certificate Program Starts in June 2026!

I am Soooo excited to announce the start-up of a new East Africa Youth Ministry Training certificate program! The program has already recruited youth leaders from Ethiopia, Uganda, and Tanzania. Others may join as well! The advanced and intensive certificate program will be a 12-month program that will include twenty-four 1 ½ hour training sessions, one every two weeks, beginning on Saturday, June 27th, 2026, and ending on June 5th, 2027. The program will cover 16 topics chosen by the youth workers themselves. Several of our GCYM partner trainers and I will teach in the program.



The program contains 7 subjects in Level One to be completed in the first 6 months, then the advanced Level Two section will feature another 9 subjects. Please pray for this new program and the students who will be facing a very challenging training schedule, which will require a strong commitment and enduring discipline.



International Center For Youth Ministry ICYM - Takes Lead In Spreading A Youth Ministry Revival Across Nigeria And Africa!

The ICYM has conducted dozens of certificate-level seminars since its inception, training hundreds of youth leaders across Nigeria. I believe the ICYM and our MA seminary graduates, along with new youth ministry BA programs, have significantly contributed to a youth ministry revival that has broken out all over Nigeria. More than 25,000 youth attended the 2025 Nigeria Baptist Youth Conference. I am honored that YMI & GCYM have been part of this Nigerian youth movement since launching the Youth MA degree program in 2016, which led to 22 graduates who are now leading this Nigerian Baptist youth movement.



I am thrilled to be the Global Youth Coalition's coach for the new Nigerian Youth Ministry Country Coalition. I met with the new leadership team and will be attending their first official leadership meeting very soon. The ICYM director, Joshua Ibukunoluwa, one of the original MA graduates of the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary (NBTS), has been elected as the chairman of the coalition leadership team.

The All-African Baptist Fellowship is looking to the Nigerian Youth Ministry leadership to challenge all Baptist churches across Africa to double their efforts to reach and disciple the youth in their countries and challenge their Christian youth to become part of the Great Commission. The 2026 All-African Baptist Congress will be held in October 2026, in Nairobi, Kenya. One of our NBTS MA youth ministry graduates, Dr. James Soilomon, will be leading the workshop in Kenya.



ICYM director and Randy Smith



Nigerian Baptist Youth Conference promotion material



Celebrating 20K followers on Facebook



Promotional flyer for the All-African Baptist Fellowship Youth Ministry Workshop

Invitation To Speak To The Youth Ministry Division Of The All-African Baptist Congress

It is my honor to be invited by the student ministry director of the Nigerian Baptist Convention, Dr. James Solomon, to join him in addressing the Youth Ministry Workshop at the All-African Baptist Fellowship Congress in Nairobi, Kenya, in October of 2026.

The congress will be attended by Baptist leaders from all across Africa. This year's congress is focusing on reaching out to the entire world with the Gospel from Africa! Dr. Solomon and I will challenge the delegates to consider making youth ministry a priority focus in all Baptist churches represented at the congress. We

will challenge them to:

- #1- to effectively reach and disciple the youth in their own countries.
- #2 - to train the youth to have a burden for and participate in reaching the youth in adjacent African countries and in the world.

Pray for this conference, that it may be a spark to further reach the 2.5 billion youth ages 10-29 who have not made Jesus Lord. I will report the results in our final 2026 newsletter.



Dr. Randy Smith with Dr. James Solomon, student ministry director of the Nigerian Baptist Convention



From the President...

Historical Review– To God Be The Glory!

On March 27th, 2026, Great Commission Youth Ministry was 3 years OLD!

YMI/GCYM Academic Training by Spring 2027.

By the summer of 2027, as founder and former president of YMI and current founder and president of GCYM, my team of national leaders, youth missionaries, board members, along with our prayer and financial support team, since 2008, will, by God's grace, rejoice in the following:

- Established 24 Academic Training Centers in 14 countries, on 5 continents.
- In spite of the interruptions of wars and military coups, 20 of those 24 training centers are still training youth workers in 2026!
- There will be 4000 youth leaders who will have graduated with either a Diploma, BA, or MA in Youth Ministry from recognized and credible institutions. Theologically trained.

Who would have thought? I am grateful to have been a part of this amazing effort of "Training the Trainers" of Global Youth Leaders!

YMI/GCYM Training over the past 30 years as of the summer of 2027.

Since 1994, including the graduates of the academic programs, more than 50,000 youth workers have been trained through either informal seminars and/or formal academic programs...

- More than 300 national leaders have been part of those training teams globally.
- Those trained youth leaders are working in more than 13,000 local churches.
- These churches and youth leaders have reported approximately 600,000 youth coming to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord through all their programs.

Praise the Lord!

BUT... *Why am I now reflecting on these statistics?*

BECAUSE...

In the summer of 2027 I will be celebrating...

- 60 YEARS OF MINISTRY
- 60 YEARS OF MARRIAGE (to my wonderful wife, Lynn)
- MY 80TH BIRTHDAY!

If the above report were to be my final legacy, then I will rejoice!

But I am not done yet! The story continues!



Randy and Lynn, 1967



Randy and Lynn, 2026



**From Dr. Randy Smith
President/Founder of
Great Commission Youth Ministry**

Please pray and consider joining our monthly financial support team.

GIVING INSTRUCTIONS:

To donate for a tax credit please work with our GCYM giving partner Helping Hands (ProvisionBridge) by **clicking the link below or scanning the QR code.** Follow the simple instructions to make a one-time or a recurring monthly donation. Blessings to all!

➔ <https://provisionbridge.org/great-commission-youth-ministry/>



Visit our Website at www.gcymtraining.com
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Great Commission Youth Ministry

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