



ISSUE 11 • QUARTER 2 • 2026

Great Commission Youth Ministry

NEWSLETTER

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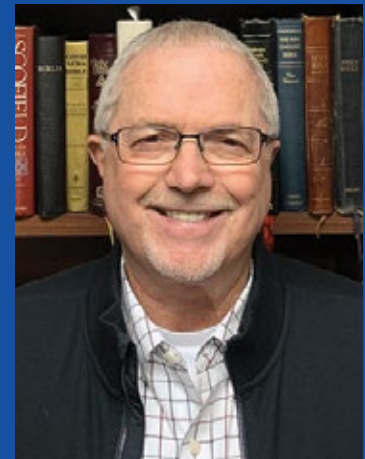
HIGHLIGHTS

NIGERIA - *International Center for Youth Ministry, in partnership with GCYM, trained more than 150 Nigerian youth workers in 5 regions of the country! Our Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary graduates are writing youth training books and have stepped into student leadership positions in the huge Nigerian Baptist Convention. I am working closely with them to encourage further expansion and new training programs.*



HIGHLIGHTS

USA Training - *An Ethiopian/American church in a large city in the U.S. has asked me to come to conduct a weekend youth worker training conference to help them reach the growing Ethiopian community and their youth. The conference is being planned for the late summer of 2026. Workneh, one of the church leaders, connected with me when I taught at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here in Louisville. Workneh's family attended church with me in Louisville, KY, and now he is reaching out to the growing community of Ethiopian migrants in Cincinnati, Ohio.*



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.

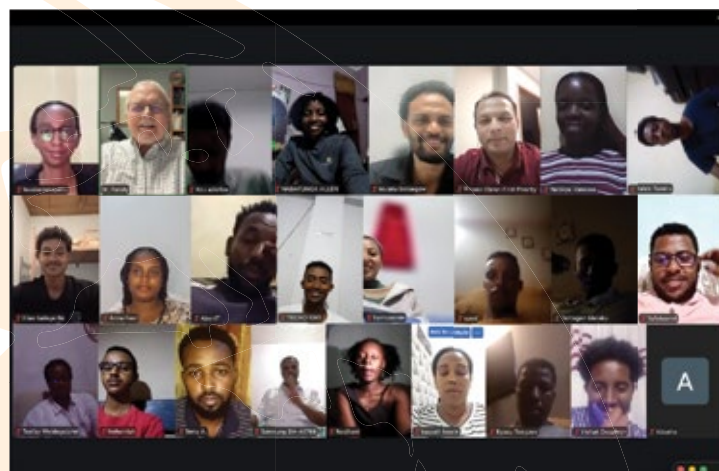
New - Ethiopia, Uganda, and Pakistan Youth Workers Begin a 12-month (24-session) Certificate of Youth Ministry



June 27th saw the beginning of a special historical Great Commission Youth Ministry online certificate in youth ministry! More than 30 Ethiopian, Pakistani, and Ugandan youth workers began a very unique program that requires a very high level of commitment (pictured to the right). All 24 ninety-minute sessions require a pre-class preparation assignment and a post-class local church application assignment. If the assignments are not completed and on time, then the student is not allowed to continue the program. All 24 sessions must be successfully completed to receive the certificate. The sessions are taught by 13 experts in youth ministry, all with years of youth ministry and international teaching experience. Seven of the 13 teachers have doctorate degrees, and the remaining have MA degrees, and each one has more than 25 years of youth ministry experience!

Though this is not an accredited program, this certificate training gives the youth worker a great overview of critical youth ministry topics, including references to many resources that will allow the student to continue their study of the topics. The topics include the following:

- *What is a Great Commission Youth Ministry?*
- *Defining a Successful Local Church Youth Ministry.*
- *What is Youth Culture?*
- *Reaching Youth Sub-Cultures with the Gospel.*
- *Adolescent Development [early, middle, late].*
- *Youth Evangelism: Theology and Principles [right reasons & right methods].*
- *Youth Evangelism: "Reaching the Unreachable" Going the Extra Mile.*
- *Programming of Youth Ministry [Reaching for Spiritual Maturity].*
- *Programming of Youth Ministry [Spiritual Maturity in Action].*
- *Youth Discipleship: Theology & Principles of Discipleship.*
- *Youth Discipleship: Personal Discipleship Strategies.*
- *Youth Leadership: The Call to Youth Ministry.*
- *Ministry to Troubled Youth: Youth Counselling Skills.*
- *Ministry to Troubled Youth: Social Media and Sexual/Gender Identity Issues.*
- *Youth Bible Curriculum: Creating Bible Study Scope & Sequence Planning.*
- *Advanced Bible Teaching: Experiential Learning Principles & Techniques.*
- *Family and Parent Ministry.*
- *Effective Communication to Youth: Principles of Communication.*
- *Effective Communication to Youth: Effective Small Group Ministry.*
- *How to Study the Bible: Principles of Hermeneutics.*
- *Leadership Skills: Recruiting, Equipping & Pastoring Volunteer Leaders.*
- *Leadership Skills: Strategic Goal & Planning Skills.*
- *Leadership Training: Accountability, Character & Responsibility.*
- *Leadership Training: Prayer in the Life and Ministry of a Youth Leader.*



Ethiopian, Pakistani, and Ugandan youth workers began a very unique 12 month certificate program.

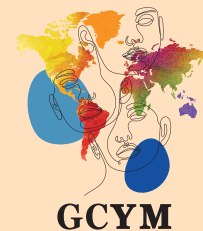
All of these topics were recommended and suggested by a select group of youth workers who actually requested the certificate program. The youth workers are all active in youth ministry in Ethiopia, Pakistan and Uganda. They all work with one of GCYM's Ethiopia Theological College (ETC) Youth MA program graduates – Mulatu Betsegaw. (pictured below) Under Mulatu's leadership, these youth workers realized that though they were not able to enroll in the Youth MA program, they wanted to learn about the topics covered in the ETC MA program. Mulatu is the leader of a Campus Outreach Ministry across Ethiopia and Pakistan. Mulatu was one of my many committed students in the MA program at ETC, and I am very proud of him. He is currently finishing a PhD in Chemical Engineering at Addis Ababa University and a DMin in Christian Leadership at Liberty University! Please pray for Mulatu, all of these wonderful youth workers, and for all the teachers involved in this historic youth certificate program.



Mulatu Betsegaw

GCYM launches a New & Unique All-Volunteer Global National Leadership Team!

"Volunteer Country Training Ministry Coordinators."



What happens if Randy Smith is no longer able to lead GCYM and maintain the YMI dream of "Training the Trainers" youth leaders globally? As I turn 80 years old next year, believe me, I have asked myself that same question many times.

Fortunately, as founder and president of the former Youth Ministry International and now Great Commission Youth Ministry, the vision of both of these unique ministries has been and still is to Train Youth Leaders who can TRAIN other youth leaders globally.

The training will continue through the efforts of our nationally trained youth leaders from more than thirteen countries! These leaders, who have graduated from one of our academic or certificate programs, are currently training other youth leaders in their countries and even beyond in other countries. As I write this article, YMI and GCYM Biblical local church youth ministry strategy is being taught by our graduates in the following countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Ukraine, Cuba, Nepal, China, Romania, Myanmar, Mexico, Brazil, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Malaysia, and Pakistan. The reason the training is continuing is due to our policy of "non-dependency," which does NOT create a dependency on the original training ministry organization. Both former YMI and current GCYM strategies include equipping national youth leaders to continue the training at both the informal certificate and academic formal levels.

leaders continue to train other local church youth leaders at their own expense and on their own time! However, I want to keep this level of volunteer leadership going at the highest possible level, even

after I am unable to participate due to age, physical disability, or death. Therefore, I am launching a new division of GCYM youth ministry training leadership, called simply "Volunteer Country Training Ministry Coordinators" (VMC Leadership Team). These leaders are currently being recruited and confirmed, and I hope to finalize the selection of these wonderful leaders by my 80th birthday on April 17th, 2027! I have already confirmed the volunteer leadership in a few countries and have nominated leaders in other countries (pictured below). The key to this new initiative is that these leaders have agreed to receive NO SALARY from GCYM and only receive minimal financial assistance for training expenses. GCYM will work to help them raise funds to cover as much of their ministry expense as possible, but there is NO guarantee of financial provision. What a blessed commitment.

HIGHLIGHTS

2nd Quarter National Partnership Training Opportunities

Nepal - Another GCYM volunteer country coordinator has been selected to begin youth ministry training initiatives throughout Nepal and adjacent Asian countries. An initial starting youth leader training conference is now being planned for the Fall of this year in Kathmandu with more than 45 youth workers. Koshil, one of our GCYM MA graduates, is working to create a network of youth leader-trainers to spread our training across Nepal. Two other Nepali GCYM MA degree graduates, Prabin Karmacharya and his wife Hla Win, have started teaching at the MA level in our partnership seminary in Myanmar. Hla Win was born in Myanmar and is thus able to teach the courses in the native language of Burmese to our 11 students!



The first confirmed volunteer country training coordinator is Barush Sanchez, (pic pg. 4) along with his wife Luna, in the country of Mexico. Barush and his wife, who live in Mexico City, have graduated from our

I am grateful and blessed to watch these hundreds of

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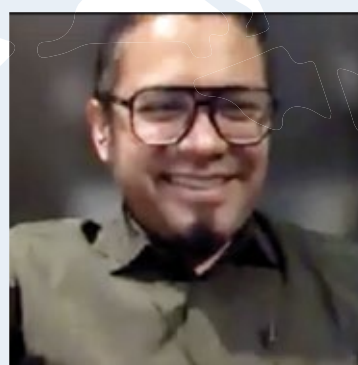
2nd Quarter National Partnership Training Opportunities

MEXICO - GCYM has selected and announced a new GCYM Mexico Volunteer Country Coordinator, who has launched his own training initiatives in several states in Mexico. Barush Sanchez has also contacted the leadership of an evangelical seminary in Mexico City, which is interested in looking to GCYM to assist them in starting a Youth Ministry Master's degree in their school. We hope to know their decision by the end of this summer.



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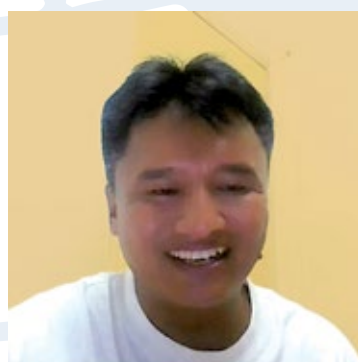
GCYM certificate program and have already begun training youth leaders in several states in Mexico. Other leaders who have been nominated and are under consideration are: Nepal – Koshilning Thangsha (pic), Ethiopia – Henok Girma (pic), Myanmar - Naw Yaw Yet (pic), Brazil – Marcio Juk (pic), as well as other leaders in Tanzania, Kenya, China, Nigeria, and others who are on my list. Please pray for both the confirmed and the nominees as they pray about their involvement in our exceptional training ministry. God willing, these leaders and their dozens of volunteer team members will keep training local youth leaders far beyond the international support of GCYM's U. S. organizational structure! All of GCYM training material and resources are available FREE to the trainers and trainees from our GCYM website at www.gcymining.com. Please pray for this new organizational leadership structure. The plan is that these leaders will meet together quarterly on a virtual retreat to encourage, support and inspire each other, with or without me.



Barush Sanchez
Mexico



Koshilning Thangsha
Nepal



Naw Yaw Yet
Myanmar



Henok Girma
Ethiopia

Please consider joining our financial support team. Like these national volunteer leaders, as president of GCYM, I receive NO salary for my work but only solicit donations for ministry expenses as the Lord gives me and these leaders opportunities to train others locally or internationally. If you wish to join me and others on our financial support team, please click on the link below or scan the QR code. THANKS!

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



Marcio Juk
Brazil

Brazil's Word of Life Theological Seminary/Great Commission Youth Ministry Youth MA Degree Program Completes Four of Ten Courses!



GCYM's collaborative Youth MA degree program at the Word of Life Theological Seminary in São Paulo, Brazil, will begin course number five in August 2026 – Programming of Youth Ministry with Dr. Chris Davis. Pictured is Dr. Roger Glidewell teaching course #4 – Youth Discipleship back in May of this year. The program is being taught face-to-face in-person and is being supported by more than forty Brazilian students, including seven seminary administrators who already have advanced degrees. These administrators will, upon graduation, continue to teach the youth MA courses at the seminary – “Training the Trainers.” Word of Life, which originated in the U.S. in the 1940's, is one of the most effective

international youth ministries ever created. It is GCYM's honor and privilege to contribute to this miraculous global ministry by collaborating to create and teach this MA in youth ministry. I am pictured with the entire first class taught back in August of 2025.

As a new youth pastor at my first church in Canton, Ohio, in the 1970's, I was blessed to use the Word of Life's Bible Club program and evangelistic events to jump-start my emerging youth ministry. Now I get to give back to this wonderful ministry by offering advanced training to its Brazilian division.



May 2026 - Dr. Roger Glidewell teaching course #4 – Youth Discipleship



August 2025 - Dr. Randy Smith teaching the first cohort of students in the new MA program

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

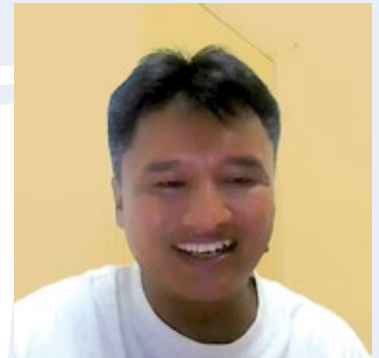
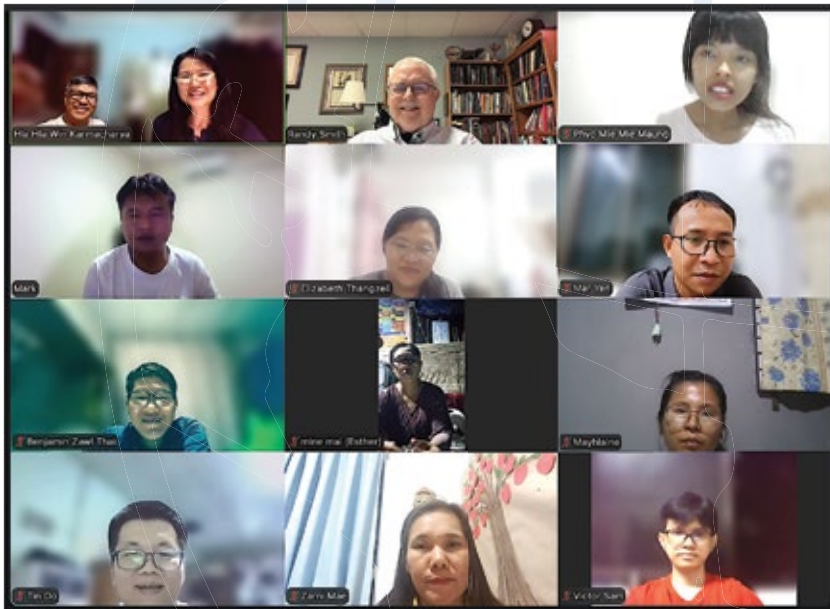
VISION STATEMENT:

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.

Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology In Partnership with Great Commission Youth Ministry The Youth Ministry MA Program is Almost Complete!

Eight of eleven of our online youth MA courses have now been completed. God willing, eleven students from all over Myanmar will graduate from the program in December of this year. Pictured below was the first day of the 9th class – Youth & Family Ministry, which is being taught by two of my MA graduates from Nepal, Prabin and Hla Win Kamacharya. This is another dream come true – Graduates teaching new MA students, plus Hla Win was born in Myanmar, so she can teach in Burmese with a wonderful understanding of Myanmar culture! The final course (Professional Orientation of Youth Ministry) will be taught by me beginning October 26, 2026. I am excited to share that three of these youth MA courses are being taught by MA graduates, fulfilling the dream of “Training the Trainers of Youth Ministry Globally.” One of the Myanmar MA students is Dr. Naw Yaw Yet (picture below), who will be teaching these courses in Myanmar following graduation! Please pray for these students who are under continued pressure from a brutal Hindu-led government that forcefully dissolved a young democratic government through a military coup. The ensuing religious persecution policy of this harsh government

is the reason we have had to use an online format to continue this youth MA degree program. We started an in-person face-to-face MA program, but after only two courses, we were forced to switch to an online format. God willing, we will finish this critical program by the end of this year! The current civil war has forced some of our students to flee the country and are taking the courses online from other countries.



Dr. Naw Yaw Yet

HIGHLIGHTS

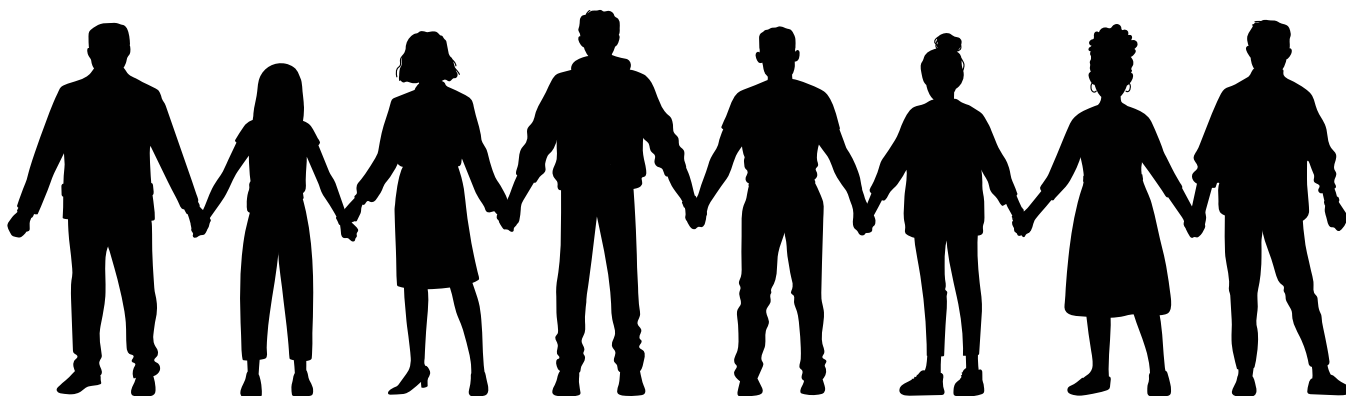
2nd Quarter National Partnership Training Opportunities

CHINA - GCYM Master's Degree-level trainees escaped persecution and prison and traveled to Canada and Finland, only to start training youth leaders who have also left China and migrated to escape persecution and harsh treatment. Our graduate in Finland has been asked to help start a youth ministry training degree program among Chinese expatriates in Spain! I am working with both of these former China Youth Ministry Training leaders to assist them in any way we can.



2026 Population of China: 1.41 Billion
1/4 of the 2.5 billion non-Christian youth, ages 10-29 live in China.

CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER



JOIN OUR PRAYER AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TEAM

As president and founder of **Great Commission Youth Ministry**, I have committed to taking **NO PERSONAL SALARY** from the ministry. I have chosen to only raise ministry funds for expenses to help these wonderful national youth leaders around the world. Would you join me in this effort to reach the 2.5 billion non-Christian youth in our world today? ***Please click the Link Below or scan the QR code*** to give a one-time gift or begin a recurring gift. No gift or commitment is too small! All of **GCYM's** national youth leader training team are volunteers and are thus not paid by **GCYM**. However, I send them as much financial assistance as possible to help with their training expenses! Thank You!



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

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

GIVING INSTRUCTIONS:

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



Visit our Website at
www.gcymtraining.com
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**Great Commission
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