



Great Commission Youth Ministry

NEWSLETTER

Year of Completed Ministry Progress in Review - Year of Ministry Projected Plans

The chart below reviews our 2025 accomplishments and outlines upcoming ministry training plans. Details of these training ministries are provided on the following pages. The final page of this newsletter will display another chart that reveals my current plans and anticipated training projects for 2026 and beyond. God is Good... Praise Him!

Looking Back - 2025 Training Highlights

Event location - My personal training	2025 Total Sessions/Classes	Total Trained
Word of Life Seminary - Sao Paulo Brazil Leadership MA degree presentation - 4 sessions	January MA Present strategy	8
Tennessee Church Conference - Trinity Baptist Church March - All-day Saturday - 5 sessions	March - Basic Church Strategy	15
Myanmar MA program - Online two-week classes March 3-14 and July 7-18	6 total courses of 11 completed	11
Ethiopia Kale Heywit - North America - Online 6 hours Feb. 15, Mar. 8, May 10 and Dec. 13	10 total courses	12
Brazil MA program - Word of Life Seminary - Sao Paulo In person - August 18-21	2 classes of 10 completed	45
Nigeria ICYM certificate program - Multiple Cities - Nigeria Online - 5 locations	5 classes - 2 sessions	80
Mexico Country Coalition program - 10 classes One year trainer certification	10 topics - completed	12
Ethiopia MA program - Guest lecturer - 3 lectures Online Youth Culture	Fall - 3 class sessions	15
Ethiopia MA program - Guest lecturer - 3 lectures Online Evangelism & Campus Outreach	December - 3 class sessions	22
Total personally trained - In person: 80; Online: 140		220
Number who are training other leaders - 80%		180

INCLUDES

- 2025 training highlights
- Brazil partnership
- Tennessee Church Conf.
- Myanmar MA program
- KHE-NA Cert. Program
- Nigeria expansion
- Mexico training & country coalition
- Ethiopia training & expansion
- Looking ahead



2025 was a wonderful and fruitful year for GCYM! I could not have done it without the faithful prayer and financial support of all of you who have joined me on this journey.

THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart!

Please continue your partnership as we enter an exhilarating 2026 of Youth Ministry Training!

GOD BLESS! – Dr. Randy

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.

2025 Brazil: Brazil Partnership Presentation & First Class

In January of 2025, two of my GYC friends, Chris Davis and Roger Glidewell, and I traveled to São Paulo, Brazil, to present a GCYM-sponsored MA Youth Ministry degree program to the Word of Life Biblical Seminary. After more than one year of Zoom meetings with seminary administration and board leaders, I was invited to finalize the approval and signing of an official partnership agreement between GCYM and the WOLBS. After a full day of presenting the course descriptions and GCYM strategy, the administration confirmed that the new MA program should be

approved and scheduled to begin the first class in August 2025. Along with my friend Dr. Dave Adams, a professor at Liberty University, I traveled to Brazil and taught the first course – Principles of Youth Ministry – to 45 new master's degree students! Among those 45 students were 6 seminary administrators and professors who are taking the new MA youth program to teach the youth MA program classes after the 1st cohort graduates in December 2027. (pics of signed MOU & Randy teaching first classes)



Word of Life National President & Randy with Signed Partnership Agreement



Randy Teaching First Brazil MA Class

Click on the picture below to see Randy teach an Experiential Learning lesson outside.



First Brazil MA Class on Seminary Campus



2025 - U.S. Tennessee Church Conference

Tennessee Youth Worker conference – Trinity Baptist Church



In March of 2025, I traveled to Manchester, Tennessee, where I was invited by youth pastor Tim Forsythe to conduct an all-day Saturday youth worker training conference and minister to the church youth on Sunday morning. Tim was one of my former Youth Ministry students at Boyce College. The Saturday conference saw 15 youth leaders from 3 area churches participate in the training! On Sunday morning, I had the honor of ministering to about 40 teenagers. I was then honored to preach in the Sunday morning worship service. The following testimony came from one of the church members.

"It was truly a blessing having Randy Smith at Trinity Baptist. A seventy-seven-year-old youth specialist doesn't sound very riveting, does it? But it was evident that this was his calling, and proof positive that the calling doesn't end with a retirement age." Carl Craig, Member of Trinity Baptist Church

Youth Pastor - Tim Forsythe

2025 – Myanmar MA Program

Myanmar MA - Six courses completed, Five more to go!

During 2025, we completed 6 of the needed 11 courses for the new Myanmar online MA Degree. I personally taught the first Principles of Youth Ministry course and the Youth Ministry Programming Course. Phil Brown taught the Evangelism and Campus Outreach course. Dr. Steve Kaptain taught the Youth Culture course. Dr. Dave Coryell taught the Communication to Youth Course, and Dr. Rich Brown taught the Curriculum Development course.

All 11 students completed all 6 courses. In 2026, we will teach the remaining 5 courses: Camps and Retreats, Youth Discipleship, Youth and Family Ministry, Ministry to Troubled Youth, and I will personally teach the final course – Professional Orientation to Youth Ministry. Lord willing, the students will all graduate in January 2027. We had to teach the program online, due to a brutal military coup forcing the seminary to close and forcing many students to leave the country. One of our students is taking the courses from the Philippines. Pray that they will all finish well!



Principles of Youth Ministry – Dr. Randy Smith



Curriculum Development Course – Dr. Rich Brown



Click on the Picture to see Dr. Coryell teaching the Communication to Youth Class

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.

2025 KHE-NA Certificate Program

ONLINE Ethiopian American Church Training.

In 2025, I, along with several youth ministry professionals, joined together to teach Ten 6-hour Saturday courses over 10 months to 11 Pastors and Youth workers from 5 Ethiopian churches from 5 cities in the US. I taught 4 of the ten courses, and we finished in December 2025. I was asked by the Kale Heywitt Ethiopian church of North America denomination to do my best to help their U.S. Ethiopian churches with their youth ministry programs. We did the best we could to address the programming in a multi-ethnic church youth program. Now we PRAY that the training helped!

Below are pictures of myself and my friend, Dr. Roger Glidewell, teaching Principles of Youth Ministry and Youth Discipleship classes.



2025/26 Nigeria Expansion

ICYM Certificates, NGTS seminary MDiv classes, and Country Coalition

As the former president of Youth Ministry International (YMI) I helped establish the International Center for Youth Ministry on the campus of the Nigeria Baptist Theological College. I preached at the dedication ceremony when the ribbon was cut to open the new facility. The Center was first directed by Dr. Samuel Olaleye, one of our new Youth MA degree graduates. The New director, Joshua Ibukunolwa, is the current ICYM director, and under Joshua's leadership, there have been 4 other ICYM centers opened across Nigeria! All of the centers offer a quality youth ministry leadership certificate training program to go along with the new Youth Ministry MA program offered by the seminary. As GCYM president, I have had the privilege to be a guest teacher at all five ICYM facilities using the online Zoom platform. What a joy to see them study and graduate as successful youth pastors and workers.

In addition to the above training, I have had the privilege to teach in two Youth Ministry MDiv classes that are required courses for every one of the more than 1000 seminary on-campus and online students! The two classes I taught (Principles of Youth Ministry and Youth Culture) had more than 200 students in attendance! Finally, I was privileged to assist in organizing and launching the new Nigeria Youth Ministry Country Coalition, whose first meeting was held in January 2026. The coalition is led by Dr. Joshua Ibukunolwa and has as its goal to saturate all the provinces of Nigeria with youth ministry training by the year 2035. They are well on their way!

Please pray for this new coalition of six youth ministry organizations as they work together to accomplish the goal.



ICYM Certificate Graduates



Randy Teaching in ICYM Certificate Program Online



Randy Teaching MDiv Seminary Youth Class online



Chris's Notetaker (Otter.ai)

Randy Organizing and Launching Nigeria Country Coalition





Mexico Online
Certificate Training

2025/26 Mexico Training & Country Coalition

Along with my Global Youth Coalition partners, Roger Glidwell-Global Youth Ministry, and Phil Brown-First Priority Global, the entire year of 2025 was spent training and preparing 12 Mexican youth leaders to launch a country-wide training ministry. All three of us spent many hours each month in multiple online training sessions. During the summer of 2025, our 12 trainees conducted several of their own local training conferences in order to complete their training

certification. Finally, we traveled to Mexico City, and on November 8th, we awarded the training certificates to the 12 graduates. We then proceeded to organize and launch the Mexico Youth Ministry Country Coalition, whose goal is to provide quality youth ministry training in all of Mexico's 31 states by 2035. I am excited to see what God will do in and through the lives of these wonderful co-workers!



Certificate Presentations



Mexico Coalition Launch



Country Coalition Dedication

2025/26 Ethiopia Training & Expansion



Wolaita Evangelical Seminary - New BA Program

In 2025, the youth ministry training led by our Youth MA graduates continued to expand and grow. Bese Balako, our GCYM representative, continues to spread our training strategy, teaching across Ethiopia. Our ETC MA graduates continue teaching other MA students. I was honored to be invited to guest lecture in two Youth MA courses taught by our graduates. I taught lectures in an MA-level Evangelism and Campus Outreach class and a Youth Culture class. See the pictures of these awesome students.

In December of 2025, one of our GCYM training dreams came true. A popular seminary in central Ethiopia, the Wolaita Evangelical Seminary, approved the beginning of a bachelor's degree in Youth Ministry. The new program will begin taking in new students in the Spring of 2026! AND the director and teacher of the new Youth BA courses is one of our ETC MA Graduates – Isaac Thomas! The Training the Trainers strategy is working! Please pray for these teachers and new programs!



ETC Youth Culture Class



Randy Teaching Evangelism Class ETC

Click on the logo below for a tour of the Wolaita campus.



Looking Ahead - 2026 Confirmed & Projected Training Plans

Event/Project/Location	2025 Total Sessions/Classes	Total Trained
Nigeria Bapt. Theological Seminary MDiv Students - Principles-Youth Ministry	January - One 2 hour session	125
Nigeria Bapt. Theological Seminary MDiv Students - Youth Culture class	January - One 2 hour session	150
Mexico City Youth Conference Certificate program	Spring/Summer	25
Supervise teaching of Brazil Seminary MA classes - 4 courses	March, May, August, November	45
Nigeria ICYM certificate program - Multiple cities - Nigeria - 5 sites	Spring/Summer/ Fall	100
Mexico Seminary MA presentation - Presbyterian Evangelical Seminary	Fall - 2 days - Leaders	10
Ethiopia Wolaita Seminary - New BA program - Youth degree major - 10 courses	Spring - First classes	15
Ethiopia MA program - Guest lecturer - 3 classes online	Spring - 2 days	15
Ethiopia MA program - Guest lecturer - 3 classes online	Fall	15
All Africa - Possible Conference - Online or Face-to-face	October	100
Nigeria Franco-African - Possible training consultation - Online	Spring	25
Nigeria Bapt. Theological Seminary MDiv Students - Principles-Youth Ministry	Fall - One 2 hour session	125
Nigeria Bapt. Theological Seminary MDiv Students - Youth Culture class	Fall - One 2 hour session	150
U.S. Local Church Student/Leadership conferences - Missions/Evangelism	Spring/Fall	100
Total potentially trained		860
Total personally trained by me		800
Number who will be training others - 75%		640



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](https://provisionbridge.org/great-commission-youth-ministry)

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