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# Cracking CAPTIVE FREE

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## Captive Free

Youth Encounter's eight regional teams called Captive Free, serve to strengthen the Church through the Christian faith and ministry of its youth by providing programming that is relational, musical, interactive, and intergenerational.

Captive Free shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ through programs including contemporary Christian music, drama, puppets, personal sharing, and sing-a-longs. Captive Free has many opportunities to listen, learn, and share while visiting homes, churches, schools, nursing homes, youth events, prisons, and detention centers.

Beyond the musical program, the ministry includes staying each night in host homes and sharing time with children, teenagers, young adults, parents and the elderly.

Captive Free teams live an itinerant lifestyle, traveling to new places up to six days of the week. Team members are assigned regions which are scheduled by office schedule coordinators. The hosting church is responsible for Captive Free's housing and meals.

As team members participate in a ministry that is both challenging and rewarding, they have the opportunity to grow in their faith and interpersonal skills, to learn about their gifts and talents, and to respond to God's call in their life.



# Experiential Learning Makes A Difference!

Youth Encounter recently conducted a survey of its alumni from the past five years, asking them about their involvement in Captive Free/International Team ministry and how that experience has played a part in their life and faith journeys since. Here's what we found:

89% of responding pre-grad alumni completed their college education immediately following their Youth Encounter commitment

95% of Alumni that returned to college/seminary affirmed their experience and the skills learned as significantly and positively impacting their continuing education.

*"Team helped me refocus my discipline and desire to not only be at school, but to really soak up the education rather than merely paw it."*

- Rob Ferrin, New Dawn 2000-01 to Papua New Guinea

Nothing compliments academic learning better than experiential learning. Team members further their skills in many areas, including effective leadership, living in community, and sharing faith.

*"Where else can you live your faith with purpose and intensity 24-7 for a whole year? You learn things about people, geography, economics, business, mechanics, yourself and God that you would spend decades learning in the 'real world'."*

- Brian Wallace, Captive Free South East 98-99, Rainbow of Promise 1999-2000 to India and Nepal

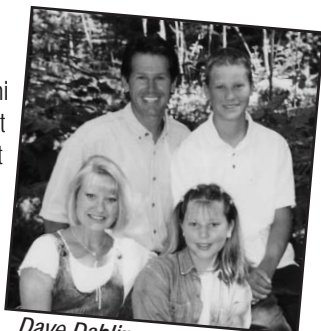
A team member's experience is also highly marketable for those pursuing ministry vocations. The experiential learning a team member receives through their participation in this program is highly valued by churches and Christian organizations.

*"God revealed many hidden talents and gifts while I was serving with Youth Encounter. The opportunity to use those gifts on Team has opened my life to new and wonderful opportunities to serve the people of God."*

- Alicia Kempf Captive Free 97-98

89% of responding alumni continue to serve in ministry:

- ◆ 17% as pastors
- ◆ 10% as teachers
- ◆ 43% as ministry professionals (e.g. youth directors, music ministers, etc.)
- ◆ 19% as volunteer ministry leaders



*Dave Dahlin serves as Chief Operating Officer of Compassion International.*



*Mark Hansen serves as pastor in Wodonga, Victoria in Australia.*



*Scott Hanson works with Habitat for Humanity in Las Crices, New Mexico*

## Team Training

Team training is an intensive, fun, and dynamic four weeks in August. In addition, a staff member travels with a team during the beginning of their tour conducting hands-on training sessions.

Training incorporates: learning to produce a thematic program (which includes music, puppets, drama and personal sharing), clarifying theological and cultural perspectives, discovering how to live in intentional community, developing interpersonal communication skills, and learning how to manage the business of a band on the road.

Several days of mid-tour training in December allow for further evaluation and reunion with other Captive Free teams and the International teams.



## Vacation Days

Teams have three opportunities to return home for vacation - during the Christmas period, Easter and Memorial Day.

## Support Systems For Captive Free

The Youth Encounter office supports Captive Free teams by:

- ◆ praying for each team and team member
- ◆ forwarding first class mail in a weekly mail packet
- ◆ maintaining phone contact with the teams on a weekly basis
- ◆ personal visits with each team throughout the year
- ◆ sending letters of direction and encouragement to provide support and guidance
- ◆ providing resources on a wide variety of topics
- ◆ providing a monthly stipend (based on sponsorship participation and amount received)



# Support Systems For Captive Free Parents

The Youth Encounter office supports the parents of Captive Free team members by:

- ◆ praying for the families of Captive Free participants
- ◆ providing on-line schedules, monthly e-newsletters and weekly Captive Free e-journals
- ◆ providing voice mail accessibility for each team
- ◆ receiving and forwarding personal mail to team members
- ◆ suggesting alumni parent volunteers to contact
- ◆ Youth Encounter staff visits with families
- ◆ periodic mailings



*Team members ecstatic about receiving their mail packet!*

## How Is Captive Free Financed?

Captive Free's ministry is designed to be financially self-supportive. Income is generated from:

- ◆ offerings and honorariums received at team programs
- ◆ sponsors obtained by team members before tour
- ◆ partners secured by the team during the tour
- ◆ sale of resource material

Staff and team members work together to generate the sponsorship goal of \$8,900. Youth Encounter will orient each team member on how to complete their sponsorship responsibilities.

## How Are Expenses Covered?

While Captive Free is training or traveling on tour, Youth Encounter is responsible for transportation, room, board, ministry expenses, and monthly reimbursement for personal expenses based on the amount of sponsorship funds raised.



Each team member is responsible for their own personal expenses, purchase of personal belongings, personal travel (including vacation, travel to training, travel at end of year), medical insurance premiums, out-of-pocket health care expenses that exceed \$1,000, and the repayment of personal loans or debts. Youth Encounter can assist in efforts to defer student loans.