

GETTING THE INFO ON INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

Youth Encounter grew out of an International Team to Scandinavia in 1963. This year Youth Encounter's International Teams will be serving in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela, Philippines and Taiwan, Australia, and Denmark.



International Teams share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through programs that include contemporary and cross-cultural music, drama, puppets, and sharings related to faith and the global church.

Beyond the musical program, the ministry includes staying each night in host homes and sharing time with families. While the teams serve within the United States they will travel to new places up to six days a week. During the international portion of their tour, teams will serve with the same church community from three to ten days.

Through participation in the International Team program, team members have the opportunity to partner with churches worldwide in sharing the Good News. They have the ability to discover and nurture their gifts and talents, while encouraging young people to become involved in Christian world mission.



WATERMARK

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 International Team/Captive Free 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 positions in ministry. 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 1997-98

89% of responding alumni continue to serve in ministry:

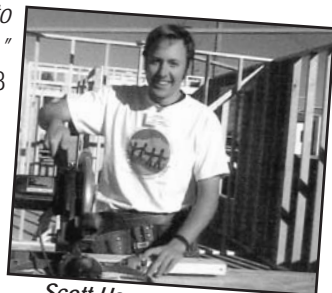
- ◆ 17% as pastors
- ◆ 10% as teachers
- ◆ 43% as ministry professionals (e.g. youth directors, music ministers, etc.)
- ◆ 19% as volunteer ministry leaders



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 five weeks beginning 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 communication skills, cross cultural training and learning how to manage the business of a Team on the road.

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



Year-At-A-Glance

In the first stage of their ministry, international teams will visit congregations in the United States to share Youth Encounter's vision of international ministry, and to involve congregations in mission and global concerns. Teams will then invest 4 months abroad to serve as a resource to the international church and mission organizations. On return to the United States the teams will re-visit congregations to share the fruit of their mutual ministry and to share new insights through the experiences gained in the countries they visited.



Vacation Days

Teams have two opportunities to return home for vacation - during the Christmas period, and a week following their tour abroad.

Support Systems For International Teams

The Youth Encounter office supports International Teams by:

- ◆ praying for each team and team member
- ◆ forwarding mail weekly (while in the U.S.) and bi-weekly (while abroad)
- ◆ maintaining phone contact with the teams on a weekly basis (while in the U.S.)
- ◆ 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 International Team Parents

The Youth Encounter office supports the parents of International Team members by:

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



Team members ecstatic about receiving their mail packet!

Safety

The Youth Encounter International Team Department monitors the safety of the areas teams will visit through the U.S. Consular, travel warnings, Lutheran mission organizations, as well as its overseas contacts who are more aware of the situation locally. Should Youth Encounter determine a safety threat to a team, the team's tour is rerouted. Since its inception in 1965, the International Team program has never experienced an incident that has jeopardized the safety of one of its teams.

Health

A number of immunizations may be required for some of our international tours. Information regarding immunizations is included in the training material sent to team members prior to their team commitment. The cost of immunizations is covered by Youth Encounter.

How Is A Team financed?

International Team ministry is designed to be financially self-supportive. Staff and team members work together to generate the sponsorship goal of \$9,900. Youth Encounter will orient each team member on how to complete their sponsorship responsibilities. Income comes 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 ministry resources

How Are Expenses Covered?

While International Teams are 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 from Homecoming), 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.