

M516

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CONNECTION FOCUSED.

May 2021 · From Dave Carver

While I currently serve as a church planter, previously I served as a Student Pastor for 27 years as well as Student Ministry Network Coordinator for Utah/Idaho SBC, served on the organizational team for Momentum Youth Camp, and was Chairman of the Board for the Utah/Idaho SBC Executive Board, which works with the state evangelism team to facilitate student events.



I have had the privilege of working with Ryan Young on multiple occasions over the past many years and been given the opportunity to witness God's hand move in the lives of those involved. Below are a few stories from those events.

SONFEST/SKI & SHARE

These are convention wide multi-day youth events with hundreds of students attending from both rural and metropolitan areas. Ryan has spoke at these events on multiple occasions with amazing results each time as students are encouraged to make decisions. Ryan guides the decision time with great clarity as he addresses those making a first time commitment, those looking to strengthen their commitment, and those answering a call to ministry as individuals. One aspect of Ryan that makes him unique from other speakers I have dealt with in the past is that he invests time with the students making decisions, listening to their stories and sharing his own. These initial connections help solidify the decisions just made by the students.



MOMENTUM YOUTH CAMP

Ryan's behavior in a student camp setting is consistent with that of Sonfest and Ski & Share with the added bonus of extended time with the students, allowing for relationships to develop and deepen throughout the week. Ryan also makes deliberate attempts to connect the student's leader to the process so that the student has a strong connection when they return home.

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OTHER STUDENT EVENTS

Over the last few years, as I left student ministry and began the work of a church planter, I have been able to work with Ryan in leading a local student conference with a smaller number of students from a couple local churches. Ryan also guest taught at a Christian education class I lead for a local high school.



Due to testing and athletic scheduling, all but one student was missing the day he taught but Ryan Invested the class connecting with and encouraging the student.



ADULT MINISTRY EVENTS

Ryan has been used in a variety of adult events by both Water's Edge and other churches in the community. Ryan, along with his wife, led a marriage conference relating to couples in every stage of the marriage journey. Ryan has served as revival pastor, challenging the adults the same way he does students. Ryan was invited to be the guest pastor as part of the Pastor Appreciation celebration for a second-generation Hispanic congregation. Ryan connects with the adult participants with the same level of care and concern as he does students, building connections that continue long past the event.

IN CLOSING

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Ryan's ministry should not be seen as student focused but rather connection focused. Ryan's commitment to connecting God's Word to life and people to Christ is one that can have an impact on every generation and every church.

I look forward to partnering with Ryan in future ministry opportunities and encourage other pastors and event teams to prayerfully consider him as well.

“Ryan Young has a passion for God's people and God's Word. He would do a great job for any event and has the ability to touch people of all ages.”

- Dr. Russell Duck
Pastor, FBC Elk City Oklahoma

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Thank You,
Dave Carver, Church Planter/Lead Pastor
Water's Edge Fellowship

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