

What is Happiness?

It was during my late-teenage years that I joined the youth ministry called Mentors. Before that, I didn't develop a personal relationship with God in my entire life even though I was a cradle Catholic. I didn't take my catechism seriously at all and just wanted to through it, get confirmed and be done with it. After I went into polytechnic, things got worse. It was during that time that all the problems I had been ignoring and covering up suddenly resurfaced and washed upon me again. I couldn't withstand the pressure from it and I ran away from myself, life and most of all God.

At that time, I felt God didn't care about me and thus, my life became a 'void'. Meaning to say that there is nothing I can do to make myself truly happy because I also realised all the things I was pursuing for myself were just short-term happiness that would eventually go away, and that I was alive physically but 'dead' inside. The feeling was terrible.

“all the things I was pursuing for myself were just short-term happiness..”

One day, I was invited to come for a cell group sharing session called 'Mentors'. I went, out of hope to get something out of it. In the end, I was given more than what I asked for. I found everyone there so loving and they are like a family there. They willingly took me in, sheltered me, consoled me and were there for me whenever I needed a friend. It's because of this love that I began to understand God more clearly and developed a personal relationship with him.

As months went by, I found myself listening to what God wants to say to me and most of all, he showed me true happiness - which is love for everyone including myself. I am very thankful for being in the youth ministry as I have a new community of love now.

Wyman Eng, Youth Mentors

Note: Please don't throw this leaflet away! Pass it on to another young person in OLPS!

FIND OUT MORE!

<http://www.olpsyouth.org>

<http://olpsyouth.blogspot.com>

or contact us by email at youth@olpsyouth.org

If you'd like to join, volunteer at events, or help in some way or other, please contact us!

A Special Compilation by the OLPS Youth Ministry

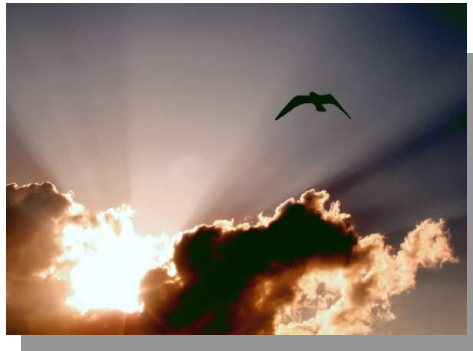


What ARE Youths Saying about their Ministry life?

Being part of the youth ministry has not only given me a place to interact with others, but also provided me with the opportunity to do what I love for the greater glory of God. The entire youth ministry is a fun bunch of people to hang out with, and when we're all united in the Love of God to do what we love beyond the usual school-life we have, the feeling of belonging can sometimes be overwhelming.

Julie, M.O.E. (Ministry of Expression)

Discovering
a place to call
my own...



READ these Testimonies that shed light on how our young people today are searching for a community of faith. These youths happened to 'chance' upon ministry. But what about the rest?

Ever since being confirmed, I have never been interested or wanted to go to church. But after joining YAM (Youth Arise Ministry) I have found myself more involved in church and enjoying church a whole lot more. I have also have been given a totally different perception on my relationship with God as well as my faith. I have not only grown in faith but as a person as well.

At first I thought that there was no point in joining a ministry. I thought it was a waste of time and that it would be boring. But I was surprised to find that it was very interesting and I learnt a lot. I have been in YAM since then.

George Gan,
Youth Arise Ministry

I have been in Genesis since I was 16 and now I am 23 this year. A total of 7 years there. Seen many people come and go. During my days in Genesis it was a never a dull day as we were very hyped about being a bridge for the Post Confirmation Teens. We were one of the few youth groups back then (when youth ministry just started).

In ministry, I have also had the opportunity to grow both physically, mentally and not to forget spiritually. Our sessions consisted of games, sharings, planning for activities. At first I did not want to join Genesis as I thought it was a waste of time, but my mum and of course **best friend** "forced" me to attend their camp. The very first camp I attended left a very big impression on me, due to the fact that they had excellent support, excellent planning, and wonderful friends.

From then on I have been a member of Genesis. And it was my very own "Genesis" to my life. I do encourage you readers to take up this challenge and join in the fun and laughter. Parents too, your support is always needed. Let's become One bread and One Body in Christ!

Jon Desker, Genesis Ministry

One of the best things that ever happened to me was being conned into joining...

... the Youth Music Ministry (YMM). I was told it'd be a jamming group that would play songs by Red Hot Chilli Peppers and Green Day for fun. Instead, when I showed up I was handed score sheets of what I considered creepy alien music (Hillsongs) and informed that I was to be playing for the next Youth Mass. At that point in my life, I had lost most interest in church, but for a few small reasons, decided to stick around and give it a shot.

YMM gave me a sense of purpose I lacked then, and as I got more involved in it I realised I was growing – musically, socially and even spiritually. Church was beginning to mean something again. Outside of YMM, I was able to play several dream-come-true gigs and album recordings with my band, and by the time that band split up, I had already been instated with leadership roles within YMM. I was more than glad to be able to use the experience and confidence I had chalked up outside to guide the younger members, just like other members had helped me out when I first joined YMM which earned me the chops to get those gigs outside in the first place.

When I enlisted in the army, I was fortunate enough to get a vocation which allowed me to be free in the evenings to attend YMM sessions (and to have a social life) and a boss kind enough to grant me time off and approve my leave when I needed to attend events like camps and other meetings. When I look back at this series of events, I cannot help but feel like a generous amount of **divine nudging** had come into play, and I believe more and more in the power of God and His plan for us. This belief is strengthened even further when I see the people around me, especially those younger, serving in their own ways and displaying their own talents and enthusiasm in church work and our faith.

If anyone had told me 3 and a half years ago that I'd one day become the co-ordinator of a church ministry, I'd have called them a blithering idiot. Here I am now though, and I'm glad. It has given me so much – a new outlook on life and God, great friends, fond memories... and that sense of purpose? It's grown bigger than ever.

Shane Carroll, Youth Music Ministry

DID YOU KNOW?

The OLPS Youth Ministry was started in 2005, as a small ministry, which has steadily been growing since. Today, the Youth Ministry consists of 8 main youth groups and 2 affiliated ones. They are:

Youth Music Ministry

Music, Band, Choir

Youth Mentors

Bible sharing, Faith formation

Youth Arise Ministry

Charismatic, Spiritual growth

ACTS

Missions, Community service

Catholeague

Sports ministry

Genesis Ministry

Youth events, Post-con outreach

MOE (Ministry of Expression)

Art, workshops, creativity

Revelation Generation

Music, Drama, Theatre

+ Servers - Altar Servers

+ Chinese Legion of Mary

Spiritual Director:

Fr. Frederick Quek

OUR Vision:

Empowering youth
to serve and love
as Christ did

OUR Mission for 2009:

SPIRITUAL GROWTH!