

# STAYING EXCITED IN MINISTRY... EVEN WHEN YOU FEEL ALONE

*"Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is useless." Psalm 127:1*

*"God did not call us to be successful, but faithful." – Mother Theresa*

## 1. BUILD YOUR \_\_\_\_\_...WITH GODS HELP

- **Nobody is going to be as \_\_\_\_\_ about the youth ministry as you are!**

When you get burnt out...look at your vision

*"Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically." Romans 12:11*

*"Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people." Colossians 3:23*

**Key Truth:** \_\_\_\_\_ is excited about your youth ministry! Dream Big! Very Big!

- **It takes \_\_\_\_\_ to develop a PDYM culture. Keep at it!**

*"It is better to be patient than powerful; it is better to have self-control than to conquer a city." Proverbs 16:32*

*"Consider the farmers who eagerly look for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They patiently wait for the precious harvest to ripen." James 5:7*

**Key Truth:** Things that grow without \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ generally are not worth much.

*"Wickedness never brings stability; only the godly have deep roots." Proverbs 12:3*

*"The mighty oak was once a little nut that stood its ground." – God's Little Instructional Book*

### Build your vision into:

**Key students:** keep them after your youth meeting for play, process the event, and vision casting.

**Key volunteers:** Ask them to dream with you. Include them in dreams and in implementation.

**Key staff:** Let your vision leak out over lunches together, at staff meetings, etc...some dreams are years in the making.

- **Stay \_\_\_\_\_ on the destination...but don't miss the journey.**

## 2. BUILD YOUR \_\_\_\_\_

*"Only in returning to me and waiting for me will you be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength." Isaiah 30:15*

*"Sometimes the most sacred thing you can do is sleep." Jackson 5*

### 1. **Prioritize: God, Family, Friends, yourself**

If you don't set the priorities in your life, other people will! Remember, there is always something else you could be doing!

### 2. **Take a day off**

There is a reason that God established a Sabbath! It's a spiritual reason. If you and I don't rest and rejuvenate, we are sinning. Don't mistake activity for achievement. Busyness does not equal productivity...! I know this from experience! Take a day, rejuvenate your soul, and your ministry will flow from your closeness with the Lord.

### 3. **Divert Daily**

Try to take a breather for five or ten minutes a day. Just ask God for his direction and guidance in what you just finished and what you are about to start.

### 4. **Withdrawal weekly**

Try to get away for about 1 hour by yourself each week for reflection and guidance. You will find in the business of the week you may need to do this for your own sanity.

### 5. **Abandon Annually**

This is different than a vacation or a staff retreat. It doesn't have to take a ton of time or any money, but just get away to dream about what it is God has for your ministry. Journal. Pray. Repent. Begin again. Answer the question: If I could do anything this next year, and I wouldn't fail, what would I do? Take the time to fall in love with God again...

### 6. **Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate!**

You need to celebrate all that God is doing and has done. Do this during your daily, weekly, and annual breaks. Don't miss what God is doing.

*"Without solitude it is virtually impossible to live a spiritual life. Solitude begins with a time and place for God, and Him alone. If we really believe, not only that God exists but also that He is actively present in our lives, healing, teaching, and guiding then we need to set aside time and space to give Him our undivided attention. To bring some solitude into our lives is one of the most necessary but also most difficult disciplines...Solitude is not a spontaneous response to an occupied and preoccupied life. There are too many reasons not to be alone. Therefore we must begin by carefully planning some solitude."*

***Making All Things New*** Henri Nouwen

### 3. BUILD YOUR \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ **your team**

1. Pray
2. Meet with some people you think would be great volunteers
3. Work with what God gives you

**Key Truth:** \_\_\_\_\_ , you will die!

- \_\_\_\_\_ **on your team!**

Be the most fun! When people think about getting involved in ministry, let youth ministry be their first thought, because of your joy.

5 Ideas for having fun:

1. Meals together after church
2. Softball team or various other sporting/recreational
3. Sunday afternoon experiences movie nights
4. "No reason at all" gifts
5. Celebrate life events (i.e. Births, weddings, promotions, graduations)

- **Train your team** \_\_\_\_\_ !

*"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.' -Isaiah 30:21*

4 Ideas for training:

1. Monthly staff meetings
2. Regular outside contact (calls, cards, emails) with 'tips' on them, as well as
3. Encouragement
4. Bring them along (campus, games, etc)

- \_\_\_\_\_ **the ministry without shame!**

5 Ideas to promote the ministry:

1. When you speak
2. When you do announcements
3. Inserts in the all church bulletin
4. Quarterly newsletter that goes out to your entire congregation
5. Relational connections that result in an 'ask'

*"Trust in God and DO something." -Mary Lyon*

## 4. BUILD YOUR \_\_\_\_\_

*"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not easily broken." -Ecclesiastes 4:12*

- **Where do I build?**

1. Conferences.
2. Seize opportunities, for example, in this room right now!
3. Internet; Join an email discussion group of purpose driven youth workers.
4. Local Friendships; make it a weekly goal. This models an ecumenical stance that youth ministries are able to make happen.

*"Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:25*

- **Why do I build?**

1. **Friendships**  
Some of the greatest hearts and most fun personalities are in youth ministry! As you start to build a network my prayer is that some of these personalities become great friends that build back into you.
2. **Fresh perspective**  
Sometimes the biggest problems we face simply need some objectivity and perspective. Building friendships outside of your church setting create an environment for this kind of perspective shift!
3. **Purchasing power**  
If you join together with other youth workers locally, your ability to band together and put on bigger budget events grows exponentially.
4. **Enthusiasm for ministry**  
When you develop friendships that build into who you are and what you do, while you are doing the same for the other, your fire for ministry will be fanned. This is important, because one of the toughest things to face when you are alone is the lethargy that comes from isolation.

## 5. BUILD YOUR CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

*"One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar." -Helen Keller*

- **Building into people takes time and \_\_\_\_\_ effort.**  
It takes a commitment on your part to affirm, encourage and inform.
  
- **Foster a \_\_\_\_\_ mentality.**  
Many people wish to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity. Working together is one thing God wants FROM us. Teamwork takes nourishment. Love. Give and take. Have a humble heart. Develop the ability to choose battles. Those in your church leadership will call you a 'team player' and good things are bound to follow.
  
- **Remember: \_\_\_\_\_ produces freedom.**  
Sincere affirmation unlocks doors. The only job more difficult than a youth worker who is working alone is a Senior Pastor who is working alone. Your affirmation and commitment speaks volumes and eases fears.
  
- **Keep leadership \_\_\_\_\_.**
  1. drop stuff in boxes
  2. put them on your mailing list
  3. attend an elders meeting occasionally (but not all the time, if you can help it)
  4. be verbal & excited at staff meetings

**Ultimate Truth:** Ministry is more about \_\_\_\_\_ than it is about RESULTS! We can never be great ministers unless we become great men and women of God. God desires individuals who humbly seek His will for their lives and ministry. Be His, and He will own and bless the ministry in ways you never would have dreamed.

May God bless you as  
you seek HIM!

## Shaun's Personal Reading List

### Authors:

Steven James

Laurie Beth Jones

David Chow

Bill Hybels

Rick Warren

Ron Hutchcraft

Mike Yaconelli

Andy Stanley

Bob Russell

Richard Foster

George Barna

John Maxwell

Ney Bailey

### Works:

"How to Smell like God"

"Teach Your Team to Fish"

"No More Lone Rangers"

"Courageous Leadership"  
"Too Busy Not to Pray"

"Purpose Driven Church"  
"Purpose Driven Life"

"The Battle for a Generation"

"Dangerous Wonder"  
"Messy Spirituality"

"Visioneering"  
"Next Generation Leader"  
"Choosing to Cheat"

"When God Builds a Church"  
"When God Answers Prayer"

"Celebration of Discipline"

"The Power of Vision"  
"The Power of Team Leadership"

"The 21 Most Important Minutes of a Leaders Day"  
"Failing Forward"  
"Developing the Leader Within You"  
"Developing the Leaders Around You"

"Faith Is Not A Feeling"