

Youth Report

Unlimited 11-15 Overview

Since September the Unlimited Youth team have been reviewing the types of activities we have been putting on for the youth. We realise that between the Ages of 11-15 and between male and female, interests vary greatly. This is mainly down to the gap in maturity. We have been working hard to fine tune our 4-weekly programme. This involves Social Events, Games Nights, Cafe Unlimited (Bible Teaching and media), and a normal unlimited night (which contains bible teaching and Games).

Our biggest focus for change has been around our Cafe evenings. We have decided to concentrate on bible teaching, to give young people a broader knowledge of the Bible. We have found it most effective to dedicate a brief time to bible teaching followed by a larger discussion time to discuss, share and ask questions.

Although the young people do like originality they also like to have structure and knowledge of what is going on weekly. With this in mind we have brought about a more structured approach to our yearly schedule whilst still allowing for plenty of time for the young people to catch up with their friends in a comfortable environment.

Unlimited 11-15 Successes

Through the life of Unlimited, it has been largely a population of un-churched girls. Previously to this group was predominately populated by teenage boys. Within the last year we have seen more boys integrate into the group. For the first time in the last ten years we have a fairly even ratio of boys to girls attending weekly.

The new structure of the programme has allowed more time for leaders to socialise and get to know the young people more. This combined with the possible boost in attendees from future schools outreach will act as a spring board to launching a type of mentorship programme, where the young people can find a responsible adult to confide in. In the event of growth I would love to provide small groups/accountability groups for the young people to be a part of.

The biggest struggle for the unlimited team is having the time to plan as most of the team have families, jobs and other church commitments. Therefore we have decided to use an online CRM package called Podio, which we have been able to tailor to suit our needs. This will allow a more fluent approach to planning, bring more material together, and provide better communication between our team.

Unlimited 11-15 Aims

Within the current year we are hoping to boost membership, disciple young people, introduce more youth into church, and prepare them as the next generation of leaders.

We will attempt to do this by:

- establishing outreach within schools to grow the youth groups.
- finding more resources, conferences, training events for our youth workers to bring a stronger teaching of the word of God.
- establishing Mentoring and Discipleship Groups to look after and feed the young people.
- integrating young people into church through the work of 'Young Leaders'.
- helping the youth find a suitable identity and ministry in church.

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- introducing more technological advancements for communication and advertisement (such as text updates).

Young Leaders Overview

Since Young Leaders has been set up we have seen most of the church teenagers come together, focus on leadership teaching, social events and get involved in church activities. A few examples of these are events run by the Youth unlimited team, Youth services, and Livewires.

Since Christmas we have reduced time spent on future planning for youth services to focus on prayer and bible study. The motto that we have always had from the creation of the team is **'Everything we do, we do it well and to the best of our abilities'**. With this in mind, we have chosen over the last 3 months, to spend time getting ourselves right before God and building up a closer relationship with each other, so that when we go on working in our ministry we will be successful in what we do.

Young Leaders Successes

Through our time together as a team of young leaders it has been a wonderful experience to work together. Since the beginning of the group the young people and I have gained more unity together. Previously the young people may have not spent as much time with each other out of church activities. However I now find that regularly the group has time together to bond and work on their own exciting ideas for the future.

I'm sure a lot of OCC members have seen the work the young people have produced in just a couple of cracking events. This has been put together with their own ideas and lots of time to practice dramas, dance, sermons, videos, and other areas of interest. Within this time they have also been practising their leadership and organisational skills in order to work well in a group setting.

We have recently just set up prayer requests from team members to encourage us to work better as an accountability group to each other. In such a small amount of time we have already found quite a few of the prayers answered. (In the words of Ben Stewart **'Praise Jesus'**).

Finally I really do believe that the creation of the group has been a breakthrough for 'Oasis Youth'. In such a short amount of time we have learnt so much which has really helped bring about a fresh new vision for the youth movement in Oasis.

Young Leaders Aims

As a team we have the following goals for this year:

- To encourage the youth to take a more lead role in leadership opportunities.
- To build on the successes of 'Young Leaders' as a structure for possible cell groups in the event of future growth.
- To help young people transition into church and find an identity within the church.
- To create a better environment for accountability, discipleship and mentoring, in a one to one and group setting.

Joshua Baker