

YOUTH UNLIMITED 2009 CONVENTION SEMINARS

⇒ "A FRIEND IN NEED" THE BASICS OF PEER COUNSELING

Jeff Gorter and Mary Lier

Learn how to use the Biblical model of compassion as a guide to supporting friends who are struggling. We will focus on the skills of "how" and "when" to intervene appropriately.

Jeff Gorter is the National Account Manager for Crisis Care Network in Grandville, MI. He has 20 years of clinical experience and specializes in counseling teens, families and treating substance abuse issues.

Mary Lier is a counselor at Pine Rest in Grandville, MI. She has been practicing for 19 years. She counsels children, teens and families and specializes in treating anxiety disorders.

⇒ "BACKWARD DATING"

Jarrold Jones

We will discuss setting godly standards in your dating life. Exploring how a young man and woman can be godly examples and purity leaders in relationships.

Jarrold Jones is 6'7", and a former NCAA basketball player who speaks to tens of thousands at churches, conferences, festivals and various ministry events all over the United States and Canada. He currently resides in Birmingham, AL with his wife Christie and two sons; Josiah and Titus.

⇒ BREAKING THE MOLD - WILD AND WOOLLY FOLKS WHO CHALLENGE, PROVOKE, AND INSPIRE US

Ted Boswell

Join with Ted and the other students in this interactive seminar to explore what we can learn from some intriguing wild and woolly characters in the history of missions who didn't let the world - or the church - squeeze them into a mold. See how God can encourage you through some thought-provoking stories of courage, sacrifice, grace, failure and adventure as God has used ordinary and flawed but determined people in surprising ways few of us know or dare to imagine.

Ted Boswell has been exploring the adventure of missions and helping others to for 35 years, at Michigan State University, in Southern California, at summer camps, in Nigeria, Japan (14 years), and now the west-side of Chicago where he teaches religion in an urban high school. Ted has one wife and three kids. He will be assisted in his seminar by the mold-breaking surfing cow of missions.

⇒ CHILL OUT AND HYPER DOWN WORKSHOP

Jeff Gorter and Mary Lier

Today's teens face stressors their parents never even dreamed of facing. Attend this interactive workshop to identify teen stressors, learn practical survival skills, and why sometimes life just throws you a "rubber chicken."

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⇒ "DON'T RUIN YOUR LIFE!"

Jarrold Jones

Sexual sin-pornography-can ruin your life, relationships, and joy in Christ. This seminar will dig into ways a young man can ruin his life with sexual sin, ie. porn, as well as how he can guard himself from the ruin of sexual sin.

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⇒ EVERY MAN'S BATTLE

Joey DeKoekkoek

This seminar is for guys only. As men of God, the quest for purity is not easy when the world we live in makes every attempt to trip us up. For guys who want to understand sexuality and purity the way God intended. Issues of dating, pornography, pop culture, forgiveness, and renewal will be discussed.

Joey DeKoekkoek has been in full-time professional youth ministry for the past 19 years. He has been the youth director at Grace CRC in Kalamazoo, MI for the past several years.

⇒ EVERYONE'S BATTLE FOR PURITY

Joey DeKoekkoek

This seminar is for everyone who wants to understand purity the way God intended. Issues of dating, lies the world has told us, practical solutions to avoid the pitfalls of relationships, and the 9 commandments of dating will be discussed.

Joey DeKoekkoek has been in full-time professional youth ministry for the past 19 years. He has been the youth director at Grace CRC in Kalamazoo, MI for the past several years.

⇒ EXPLORING MISSIONS: A TOILET PAPER GUN, FOUR BILLION PEOPLE & YOU

Ted Boswell

Work with Ted and the other students in this interactive seminar to bust up some missions stereotypes, explore a wide range of possible involvement (some for right now and without leaving home), and figure out how God "calls" people to be missionaries - or business people, or police officers, or stay at home parents. How can God guide us? We'll also get a taste for the adventure of missions with the help of George, the missionary toilet paper gun.

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⇒ FACING PRESSURE POINTS - WHERE OUR MODERN WORLD SQUEEZES YOU

Ted Boswell

Join with Ted and the other students in this interactive seminar as we think about how to deal with powerful cultural & social pressures in the areas of sex, money, physical appearance, "success," and truth, where the world (or church) tries to squeeze us into a mold. Together we can explore ways to be more free and to cope with these practical challenges where the rubber meets the road.

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⇒ GIRLS TALK

Dawn Geschiere

Come and discuss the differences between girls and guys, sex, dating, clothes, and love. This conversation will be lively, interactive and fun. Guys, you may join in this one if you dare.

Dawn Geschiere is a wife and a mom of five. She has been speaking at Youth Unlimited SERVE, spiritual emphasis weeks, camps, retreats and Convention throughout the past 10 years.

⇒ GIRLS TALK-GIRLS ONLY

Dawn Geschiere

Come and talk about the differences between girls and guys, sex, dating, clothes, and love. This conversation will be lively, interactive and fun-for GIRLS ONLY

Dawn Geschiere is a wife and a mom of five. She has been speaking at Youth Unlimited SERVE, spiritual emphasis weeks, camps, retreats and Convention throughout the past 10 years.

⇒ GIRLS AND GUYS OPEN FORUM

Dawn Geschiere and Joey DeKoekkoek

Did you go to "Everyone's Battle for Purity" by Joey or "Girl Talk" by Dawn? Do you have questions about relationships? Maybe you've discovered something new in what guys think about girls, or what girls think about guys. Joey and Dawn sit down together to lead a forum that tries to bring this all together and answer some important questions about relationships between guys and girls.

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Joey DeKoekkoek has been in full-time professional youth ministry for the past 19 years. He has been the youth director at Grace CRC in Kalamazoo, MI for the past several years.

⇒ HOT PURSUIT

Rob Roozeboom

What are you passionate about? What do you live for? What makes your heart pound and your palms get sweaty? This session is about passionately living in pursuit of Jesus because a life that lives for Jesus looks different. Learn how to follow Jesus' teaching of loving your neighbor as yourself. Use your everyday opportunities at school, in sports, with friends to make this world look different.

Rob Roozeboom is the founder and president of RISE Ministries, Inc., an organization that teaches teens and adults how to overcome adversity in their lives. Rob was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy early in his life, but that was the beginning of Rob's story, not the end. Rob, Sharla, and their son, Jager, and daughters, Riley and Aidan, live in Sheldon, Iowa.

⇒ I WANNA GIVE A SHOUT OUT!

Carena Shannon, Randi Vorhees, Denise Fase

Have you ever wanted to share your story but didn't think you had one to share or you just didn't know how to do it? Come to this workshop to learn different ways to put together your story that will give God a 'shout out'!

Carena and Randi are graduates of the GRIL U leadership program based out of Grand Rapids, MI. They have a heart for God and often leads trainings for teens, children and adults in the area of diversity, leadership and spiritual development.

Denise Fase has been in youth ministry for many years and is the Director of GRIL U.

⇒ IGNITE!

JR Pittman

"Ignite" will help you grasp a bigger and broader vision of why you should have someone walk alongside you as you make critical choices and decisions in life. Hundreds of students have experienced "Ignite" - you want to be one of them! Youth Leaders: JR strongly encourages you to attend with your students so you can follow up with them effectively.

JR Pittman has been married to Evette for 18 years and has two wonderful boys. He has attended Cornerstone University and is an ordained minister. He is presently the lead pastor of the HUB Ministries located in West Michigan. Their mission is to equip a new generation of families and young men and women to impact their community for Jesus Christ.

⇒ "I'M JUST HARRY": HARRY POTTER AND OUR CHRISTIAN IDENTITY

Jason Lief

What does Harry Potter's identity crisis have to do with your Christian identity? Come find out as we wrestle with our Christian identity, and discuss what it means to be "sons and daughters" of the King.

Jason Lief is the Instructor of Theology and Youth Ministry at Dordt College in Sioux Center, IA. He taught Bible and history courses at Pella Christian High School in Pella, IA, and also coached baseball and girls' basketball. Jason is married to Tamara and they have three children, Naomi (7) Christian (5) and Savannah (1).

⇒ LEARNING TO LISTEN

Jolene DeHeer

What do people mean when they say, "God spoke to me"? Can that really happen? Does it happen today? In this seminar you will discover the answers to these questions as well as learn and practice spiritual disciplines that will help you listen to God speak to you through His living word. Come and discover what God wants to say to you.

Jolene DeHeer has been involved in youth ministry for over 25 years as a youth leader and conference and retreat speaker. She has co-authored a series of devotionals for teens called [Devotions to Go](#).

⇒ LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

CRWRC

Help bring AIDS out of the darkness by showing up for a free light drawing tutorial with a professional photographer. Create your own light photo, and then share your light with others. All photos will be posted to www.EmbraceAIDS.com and can easily be posted to your facebook profile or e-mailed to others.

⇒ LET'S TALK FRIENDS

Jolene DeHeer

Ever wonder why some people have more friends than others? Or worry about what you will talk about on that first date? Learn tried and true communication techniques that will help you have and be a friend as well as help you with the first date dilemma.

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conference and retreat speaker. She has co-authored a series of devotionals for teens called [Devotions to Go](#).

⇒ LIVING INSIDE OUT

Joey DeKoekkoek

Living Inside Out, when my gas tank is empty, gas costs too much, I have no car, and I have no driver's license. Come discover how you can live life to the fullest when things are just not going your way.

Joey DeKoekkoek has been in full-time professional youth ministry for the past 19 years. He has been the youth director at Grace CRC in Kalamazoo, MI for the past several years.

⇒ R.A.W. (REAL AUTHENTIC WITNESSING)

JR Pittman

If you want to go deeper and really understand what a "witness" is; then you need to be in R.A.W. Many of you may have been on mission trips, served at quite a few food pantries or urban projects but still may not have a true grip for what a real witness is. R.A.W will help the average student, student leaders, youth leaders, and even parents grasp a better grip and focus for being a witness everywhere you step. If you truly want to be an influence then come prepared to share your stories with JR and listen as he incorporates R.A.W into your present and past situations.

JR Pittman has been married to Evette for 18 years and has two wonderful boys. He has attended Cornerstone University and is an ordained minister. He is presently the lead pastor of the HUB Ministries located in West Michigan. Their mission is to equip a new generation of families and young men and women to impact their community for Jesus Christ.

⇒ RECLAIMING OUR CHRISTIAN IMAGINATION

Jason Lief

What does "imagination" have to do with the Christian life? How can our imagination help us read the Bible? Come hear what G.K. Chesterton, J.R.R. Tolkien, and C.S. Lewis have to say regarding our imagination and Christian life.

Jason Lief is the Instructor of Theology and Youth Ministry at Dordt College in Sioux Center, IA. He taught Bible and history courses at Pella Christian High School in Pella, IA, and also coached baseball and girls' basketball. Jason is married to Tamara and they have three children, Naomi (7) Christian (5) and Savannah (1).

⇒ SPUN OUT! OPEN FORUM

Jolene DeHeer, JR Pittman

Face it. Life is full of stress and pressure. You likely feel "spun out" from home, school, church, work, relationships, sports...the list goes on and on. All four corners of your life are bringing pressure. The situations and circumstances you have are not getting any better. Let Jolene and JR give you wisdom, encouragement and tools you need to help you make better choices and possibly even save your life. They are ready to answer ANY question you throw at them.

Jolene DeHeer has been involved in youth ministry for over 25 years as a youth leader and conference and retreat speaker. She has co-authored a series of devotionals for teens called [Devotions to Go](#).

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⇒ TALKING INSIDE THE SHACK

Dawn Geschiere

Have you read the best-selling book, [The Shack](#)? If you've read it then you probably have strong opinions. Bring your book (if you have it with you), your Bible and your opinions and let's talk about it together.

Dawn Geschiere is a wife and a mom of five. She has been speaking at Youth Unlimited SERVE, spiritual emphasis weeks, camps, retreats and Convention throughout the past 10 years.

⇒ THE BIG JUMP: FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE

Ed Laarman

Freedom! Choices! New Friends! New Experiences! Or maybe...roommates, pressure, worries, temptations, loneliness, faith challenges. The transition from high school to college is huge. What can you expect? How can you get ready? How can you get the most out of a great opportunity? How does God fit into all of this? Explore these questions and others that may be on your mind with someone who is on the college scene.

Ed Laarman has been a social worker, college professor, youth leader, minister and now serves as a campus minister. He serves with Geneva Campus Ministry at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa.

⇒ THE SANCTITY OF ALL HUMAN LIFE – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR ME?"

Dr. Brad Kamstra

Our nation and the world continue to advance with technology that has made great improvements in our society. Along with these advancements comes the potential to do evil things that negatively affect us all. Human life has taken many sacrifices with our improved technology. If proposed legislation is passed, doctors will not be able to refuse to do procedures such as abortions, assisted suicide etc. because it will be mandated by this Freedom of Choice Act. We, as Christians, need to understand the ramifications of these decisions and how we can have a voice in the process. We will discuss many issues and how to make our Christian values heard.

Brad Kamstra is a family practice physician in Rock Valley, Iowa. He met his wife at a Youth Unlimited Convention, grew up in Denver, Colorado. Brad loves to share about his passions, informing communities and youth about political and ethical issues as they affect medicine and Christian values. He also has been involved in missions work in Guatemala and Romania. Brad and his wife Cindy have been married for 18 years. They have 5 wonderful children Justin 12, Jennifer 10, Brandon 7, Braelynn 6 and Aaron 3.

⇒ THE SECRET OF LIVING INSIDE OUT

Jolene DeHeer

At this Convention you will learn a lot about "living inside out". In this seminar we will talk about the foundational key element of effectively living inside out-love. We will explore the depth of God's love for us and how that empowers us to love others and thereby change the world.

Jolene DeHeer has been involved in youth ministry for over 25 years as a youth leader and conference and retreat speaker. She has co-authored a series of devotionals for teens called [Devotions to God](#).

⇒ TIME TO STEP UP!

Carena Shannon, Randi Vorhees, Denise Fase

What if David didn't sling the rock at Goliath? What if Noah didn't build the ark? In these stories, David and Noah had to follow what God was asking them to do. Is God telling you to do something that will test the waters by breaking the norms of our society? Come to this workshop to explore what things God is calling you to change/challenge in your day to day interactions. Leave ready to step out on faith like David and Noah to change your world.

Carena and Randi are graduates of the GRIL U leadership program based out of Grand Rapids, MI. They have a heart for God and often leads trainings for teens, children and adults in the area of diversity, leadership and spiritual development.

Denise Fase has been in youth ministry for many years and is the Director of GRIL U.

⇒ WALK AND TALK

Dawn Geschiere

Take a hike. We'll climb a beautiful North Carolina mountain and have conversations with God along the way. Come and experience outdoor prayer individually and together with other hikers.

Dawn Geschiere is a wife and a mom of five. She has been speaking at Youth Unlimited SERVE, spiritual emphasis weeks, camps, retreats and Convention throughout the past 10 years.

⇒ WRITING, JOURNALING, AND POETRY

Jason Taylor

Come and learn how to grow in your relationship with God through the written word. Whether you want to start keeping a journal, write poetry, or just make creative doodles about your faith, Jason will lead an interactive presentation that will help you begin recording your own experiences with God. Already a writer? Come and share something you've learned from your own creative endeavors.

Jason Taylor is a requested comedian and speaker around the country. He's performed everywhere from church basements to the USA Network in New York City. Jason's hilarious one man show was won Best Short Play at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, and he's been touring with it ever since.

⇒ DEATH BY MINISTRY - HOW TO REMAIN EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY IN MINISTRY

Jeanne Stevens

Whether you are a paid church worker or volunteer the demands of ministry can sometimes seem like staying sane is impossible. Between balancing family, friends, work, responsibilities and expectations the last thing that many of us

think about is our emotional health. In this seminar we will explore God's deep desire for each of us to vibrantly live an emotionally healthy life and we will begin to take steps towards freedom, wholeness, and health.

Jeanne Stevens has been working in student ministry for more than 15 years. She has spent the past decade as a Student Ministry Pastor at Willow Creek Community Church in Barrington, Illinois. She recently moved to Atlanta, Georgia where she is a part of the Student Ministry at North Point Community Church. She is on staff with Youth Specialties as the Director of Training. She and her husband Jarrett have been married for 11 years and they have a 2-year old son named Elijah and Yellow Lab dog named Molly.

⇒ HOT PURSUIT FOR LEADERS

Rob Roozeboom

Leaders, what are you passionate about? What do you live for? What makes your heart pound and your palms get sweaty? This session is about passionately living in pursuit of Jesus because a life that lives for Jesus looks different. Learn how to follow Jesus' teaching of loving your neighbor as yourself. Use your everyday opportunities at work, with your kids, in your community to make this world look different.

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⇒ Q & A WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH UNLIMITED

Jeff Kruithof

Come for an interactive conversation with Jeff about YU's current and future initiatives to support youth workers and their churches with the practical and ongoing needs of youth ministry. Jeff looks forward to meeting you, listening to your thoughts and concerns and answering your questions. This is your opportunity to ask your questions!

Jeff Kruithof is in his 3rd year of serving as the Executive Director at Youth Unlimited. He brings years of youth ministry experience to this ministry, having worked at Youth for Christ for 13 years prior to YU as well as serving as a youth leader and member of the Youth Council at his local church. Jeff has a passion for hunting and Nascar and lives in Hamilton, MI with his wife and three daughters.

⇒ SHARING LIFE: BECOMING A MENTOR TO STUDENTS

Jeanne Stevens

Students are hungry to be developed. They want to grow and become more of who they were created to be. The best way to develop them is to mentor them. To share your life with them. Jesus did it with 12 and it revolutionized the world. So why can't you do it with just a few? In this seminar we will explore the life change that is possible when leaders mentor students. We will look at unique ways to mentor, and important conversations to have along the way. We will walk through how to navigate the difficult seasons of life, and how to release ministry potential in the life of a student.

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⇒ YOUTH MINISTRY, 2ND LIFE AND VIRTUALIZATION

Darwin Glassford

If variety is the spice of life then our young people have it made. Variety is all around them and an experience is on a click away. One can become who they want to be in 2nd life; one can travel and explore remote places without leaving home; one can develop meaningful relationships without ever meeting the person in person. Working with young people in this context presents unique challenges and together we will identify the challenges and explore their implications for youth ministry.

Darwin Glassford serves as Associate Professor of Church Education at Calvin Theological Seminary and Book Review Editor for the Journal of Youth Ministry. He enjoys reading Paste, riding motorcycles and serving as a youth ministry volunteer at Church of the Servant in Grand Rapids, MI.