



## ITS FINALLY HERE

Ten years ago, for the first time, we used the label “Global Youth Initiative” to describe our yearly gathering of young leaders from around the world. Ten to fifteen of us would meet each year, write papers about what we were learning, and then share our ‘best practices’. It was a band of passionate brothers, seeking to build movements of multiplying disciples in various regions of the globe.

In one week, I head to Israel, where we will have almost 250 young leaders together, from over 56 countries... all seeking to see “a movement of God among the youth of the globe”. This gathering, has been in the planning stages for three years. **It is hard for me to believe it is finally here.**

During our time in Israel we be conducting a conference plus touring Israel and experiencing first hand the “City God has chosen” (I Kings 14:21). My opening message will address the question, “What will it take to see a movement of God among the youth of the globe?”



From my perspective, I am going to suggest four priorities. **First**, we must **intensify our commitment** to walking as Jesus walked. I will argue that, like Jesus, our mission is not to reach the world... as much as it is to make disciples capable of reaching the world. Just as you find Jesus 17 times with the masses, you also find Him 46 times with His few disciples. His passion was a movement of multiplication. We must do the same.

**Second**, I will suggest that we must **increase the coalition** of passionate leaders who understand what it means to build movements. I will share stories of how God is doing this globally and focus on some very practical application points.

**Third**, I am going to suggest that we must **step out in great faith**. 477 times the scriptures speak of faith, but only two times do you see Jesus amazed at someone’s “great faith”. What does that look like? What will it take to amaze the Lord? How can we step out in great faith to His glory? Luke tells us “that Jesus saw their faith” (5:20). Faith is very visible. How can we, as normal people, amaze God with “great faith”?

**Lastly**, I will suggest that we need to **encounter the Risen Christ** in a fresh way. Five times I have been to Israel. Each time I have had a major encounter with the Risen Christ. The Apostle Paul in the book of Acts encountered the Risen Christ at least seven different times, in the same way, we need fresh encounters with the Risen Christ. This is the number one prayer for our gathering... that we would encounter Him “On Location”. **To listen to the conference messages, go to [www.globalyouthinitiative.com](http://www.globalyouthinitiative.com) for the podcast during the event March 8-12th. We plan to post them as soon as possible following their presentation.**

**Will you pray with us for this gathering?** I truly believe it is going to be a historic and life-changing experience. These young leaders, are strategic influencers, who train other leaders in their countries. Pray with us that God will take us all deeper in understanding His character and priorities. Please pray for the following:

- **For travel safety**
- **That all Visa will be granted (especially for Chinese, Cuban, and African delegates!!!).**
- **For good weather and many new life-long friendships to be formed**
- **For an experience with the Risen Christ**

If you’d like to pray more specifically, I’d be glad to send you a detailed schedule and also a list of all the delegates... so that you can pray for them by name. **Just give me a call or e-mail me by this Monday... and I’ll send it to you.**

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

**A man decided that he was going to ride a 10-speed bike from one city to another. He got as far as the mountains when it just became too much and he could go no farther.**

**He stuck his thumb out, but after 3 hours he hadn't gotten a single person to stop. Finally a guy in a Corvette pulled over and offered him a ride. Of course, the bike wouldn't fit in the car. The owner of the Corvette found a piece of rope lying by the highway and tied it to his bumper. He tied the other end to the bike and told the man that if he got to going too fast to honk the horn on his bike and he would slow down.**

**Everything went fine for the first 30 miles. Suddenly, another Corvette blew past them. Not to be outdone, the Corvette pulling the bike took off after the other. A short distance down the road, the Corvettes--both going well over 120 mph--blew through a speed trap. The police officer noted the speeds from his radar gun and radioed to the other officer that he had 2 Corvettes headed his way at over 120 mph. He then relayed, "And you're not going to believe this, but there's guy on a 10-speed bike honking to pass."**

Jesus was wandering around Jerusalem when He decided that He really needed a new robe.

After looking around for a while, He saw a sign for Finkelstein, the Tailor. So, He went in and made the necessary arrangements to have Finkelstein prepare a new robe for Him. A few days later, when the robe was finished, Jesus tried it on and it was a perfect fit!

He asked how much He owed. Finkelstein brushed him off: 'No, no,no, for the Son of God ? There's no charge! However, may I ask for a small favor? Whenever you give a sermon, perhaps you could just mention that your nice new robe was made by Finkelstein, the Tailor?'

Jesus readily agreed and as promised, extolled the virtues of his Finkelstein robe whenever He spoke to the masses.

A few months later, while Jesus was again walking through Jerusalem, He happened to walk past Finkelstein's shop and noted a huge line of people waiting for Finkelstein's robes.

He pushed his way through the crowd to speak to him and as soon as Finkelstein spotted him he said: 'Jesus, Jesus, look what you've done for my business! Would you consider a partnership?'

'Certainly,' replied Jesus. 'Jesus & Finkelstein it is.' 'Oh, no, no,' said Finkelstein. 'Finkelstein & Jesus. After all, I am the craftsman.' The two of them debated this for some time.

Their discussion was long and spirited, but ultimately fruitful and they finally came up with a mutually acceptable compromise. A few days later, the new sign went up over Finkelstein's shop:



Support for Dann and Char Spader or the ministries of Global Youth Initiative can be sent to: Global Youth Initiative c/o Josiah Venture, P.O. Box 4317, Wheaton Illinois 60189-4317