



OUR SCHOOLS  
MATTER

# LEADER GUIDE

#OURSCHOOLSMAATTER

YOUTH ALIVE

YOUTH ALIVE

**O**ver the past year, students, pastors and churches have been called to end the greatest injustice: that a person could live and die without the opportunity to know Jesus. Progress has been made as scores have spread the gospel by sharing, giving and going across the globe. As we have grown in making a difference globally, we must make Jesus known locally – right where we live.

Inspired by The Human Right and empowered by Youth Alive, Our Schools Matter is aimed to make Jesus known thru the most strategic entity in every community – the local school. Why are the local schools so strategic?

For the Church: The largest collection of unreached adults in any community intersects thru the local school. While the church and adults have no legal rights on the school campus, they can mobilize, invest and serve the school. By serving and impacting the local school, the church impacts the broader community through its family relationships.

For the Youth Worker: School life is community life. To rise to the cause of making Jesus known to every student and every school, it begins with relationally connecting to the lives of students thru their school life. By coaching a team, substitute teaching, and attending school events youth leaders can connect and influence a vast network of students, parents and families.

For the Student: The largest gathering of unreached students in their community comes together at their schools. It is an injustice for someone to go to your school and graduate without the opportunity to hear the gospel and come to know Jesus. Nothing of any significance will happen unless you and your friends pray and break the silence by having conversations to share the

gospel and make Jesus known.

We can reach our neighbor, in part, by declaring that *#OurSchoolsMatter*. Thru the values of The Human Right, we can reach every student and every school in just a few simple ways:

1. **ABIDE.** Abide - *To provide a place in our hearts and minds for Christ to stay.*

As a Church & Youth Worker:

- Promote See You At the Pole ([www.syatp.com](http://www.syatp.com))  
Announce [See You At The Altar](#), in partnership with the National Women's ministry, the local church is open for anyone to come and pray at the same time as the students are praying at their flag poles, praying for their schools.
- Launch an ongoing, easy-to-remember prayer strategy for students, teachers and schools - **Prayer Zone Partners** ([www.prayerzonepartners.com](http://www.prayerzonepartners.com)). Pray for students, teachers and their schools throughout the school year. When you go thru a school zone, make it a prayer zone: see a school bus, pray for Jesus to be known to this generation.

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As a Student:

- Participate and/or promote See You At The Pole for your local school ([www.syatp.com](http://www.syatp.com)).
- Students join together with adults to regularly pray for their school. **Prayer Zone Partners** ([www.prayerzonepartners.com](http://www.prayerzonepartners.com)).

2. **ABANDON.** Abandon - *To open our clasped fists and let go of whatever we cling to.*

As a Church:

- **Conduct** an *#OurSchoolMatters* Sunday in your church: (Preferably the Sunday before SYATP or any Sunday of your choosing).
  - Our Schools Matter Videos
    - » Youth Alive-Our Schools Matter: featuring Fabian Kalapuch. This video gives a practical example of Our Schools Matter in motion.
    - » Dr. Wood and Scotty Gibbons-Our Schools Matter Promotional Video. This video acts as a call to action to churches to adopt a school in their community.
  - Sunday Morning Service:
    - A Sunday Message Outline from Scotty Gibbons. A Sunday for a church to declare their schools matter in their area and launch the church's efforts to pray for students and to adopt and serve their adopted school(s) and or teachers.
    - Pray for students, teachers and their schools and See You At The Pole Later in the week. Launch an ongoing prayer strategy for students, teachers and schools - [Prayer Zone Partners](#). Announce [See You At The Altar](#). In partnership with the National Women's ministry, the local church is open for anyone to come and pray at the same time as the students are praying at their flag poles, praying for their schools.

As a Youth Worker:

- Launch the [Our Schools Matter - Youth Series](#) in your youth services.

As a student:

- Join The Human Right to Know Jesus to make a global difference. Everywhere. Text the word “VOICE” to 67463 or visit <http://www.thehumanright.org/voice> (Message and data rates may apply. See applicable Terms and Privacy Policy at [www.ag.org](http://www.ag.org) <<http://www.ag.org/>>.)
- Join as a Campus Missionary to make Jesus known locally. [www.campusmissions.com](http://www.campusmissions.com)
- Get started by doing the 1 Month/ 30 Day Challenge. <http://www.thehumanright.org/30day> (This will tie into the Our Schools Matter – Youth Series.)

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**3. ADVOCATE.** Advocate – *To proclaim truth through our word and actions to those who do not know Jesus.*

As a Church:

**Adopt Your Schools.** The vision is to adopt local school(s) and teacher(s) from within their church. How do you get started?

- 1. Connect with your Youth Alive missionary.** Your Youth Alive missionary can help guide you and your church leadership team to help prepare you for your first visit with your school leadership.
- 2. Select the school(s) you desire to serve.**
- 3. Talk to Your local school administration.**
  - *Set a meeting with your school administration.* It is important you schedule a meeting first with your local school leaders before making any assumptions of what the school needs may be. Meeting a legitimate need goes much farther than showing up to

tell them what you think they want you to do for them. This also facilitates relationship between the church and the school, which is the real win.

- *Inquire what are the school needs and the church's desire to support their work.*
- *Let the school officials know you will let them know what you and your church will do after some conversation with your church leadership.*

**4. Decide What You Can Do.**

- *Discuss with your church leadership what your church can do. Any need can be made scaleable for any size church. You may not have the capacity to meet an entire need, but you could meet part of the solution. Do what you and your church can do in a healthy manner.*
- *Begin to create an action plan to respond to the need. What will be needed: funds, supplies, people and when it is needed.*
- *Consult with your Youth Alive missionary for additional ideas or resources to assist your action plan.*

**5. Recontact the school administration** to let them know how your church would like to serve their school.

**6. Identify a Coordinator from your church.** Your coordinator will help facilitate your service to the school. Enlisting people, resources and lead the effort.

**7. Launch the Vision by having an Our Schools Matter Sunday.** This service can be used to raise the needed supplies/funds or to rally the people to join the effort when the service is needed.

**8. Remember The Ways A Church Can Serve Is Endless.** Ways to bless/

serve a school potentially could be:

- Backpacks filled with School Supplies (school will provide the list of appropriate supplies, if you live in a rural community, connect with Rural Compassion: <http://www.ruralcompassion.com>).
- Massages for teachers during teacher appreciation month.
- Gift packs for every staff/faculty member in the school building
- Deliver meals to the staff break room from a well-liked restaurant.
- Sending personal notes of appreciation to administration officials.
- Send a work team to fix, repair, repaint areas of the school facility.
- Dropping by the school to tell the Principal thank you, and nothing more. Seriously, express your gratitude for what they do, smile, then leave.
- Speak well of administrators, teachers and faculty whenever the topic of your local school comes up.
- Launch after-school programs: tutoring, literacy efforts to assist students to read and write.
- Enlist volunteers to serve as teacher aides or help with recess supervision.
- Host seminars for parents and students dealing with issues relevant to Christians in the public schools.
- Create an ongoing prayer movement to pray for local schools, staff and students. [www.prayerzonepartners.com](http://www.prayerzonepartners.com)

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\*\*Remember, meeting any need starts with conversations first to discover

what their needs are.\*\*

As a Youth Worker: Train your students to share the gospel. Resources could include: Salt: Creating Thirst (<http://myhealthychurch.com/store/startitem.cfm?item=261086&cat=AGMHCINDEX&mastercat=&path=AG-MHCINDEX>), [Something Amazing \(www.somethingamazing.net\)](http://www.somethingamazing.net), or The Human Right Journey Small Group Kit.

As a Student:

- Serve in or start a prayer group on your school campus
- Get started by doing the 1 Month/ 30 Day Challenge: <http://www.thehumanright.org/30day>

**Share Your Story.** Let us know your efforts: Create a place for testimonies at [www.thehumanright.com](http://www.thehumanright.com) Use the hashtag #Ourschoolsmatter on social media sites to share your testimonies, pictures and videos.



## OUR SCHOOLS MATTER ADVENTURE DOESN'T END... HOW TO KEEP GOING:

Youth Alive is an effort to reach every student, every school. Youth Alive has additional strategies, tools and missionaries ready to assist students, youth leaders and churches to reach every student and every school at [www.yausa.com](http://www.yausa.com).



1. Keep Praying...
  - a. Pray for a school each week from the pulpit in your weekly services and/or list a different area school to pray for in your weekly bulletin.
  - a. Regularly pray for students to share the Gospel.
  - b. Following See You At The Pole...continue to gather your community to pray quarterly.
    - i. Between See You At The Pole and the National Day of Prayer, organize a Concert of Prayer for your schools and community.
    - ii. Gather often and pray across denominational lines with other pastors.
2. Keep Connecting with your school officials...
  - a. Periodically gather for a cup of coffee or lunch. Continue to discover how the school year is going and ways you can pray for them.
  - b. Email/Share leadership articles that may be beneficial to their leadership and school staff.
3. Keep Networking...
  - a. Share with your local ministerial association to join the effort to

adopt to pray and serve our local schools. Make it a goal to have every school in your area adopted.

- b. Explore other ways the church could serve local schools, ie.; school assemblies.
- c. Host a community training event to equip students to share Christ, start prayer groups and/or campus clubs at their school. (Your Youth Alive Missionary can assist you with this along with resources).

\*If you are interested in becoming a Youth Alive Missionary or want to know more information, email [ya@ag.org](mailto:ya@ag.org)).

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Know Your Legal Rights Kit** – (Included in the Our Schools Matter Kit you downloaded). Learn more about the religious rights students have in school from Liberty Institute, one of the largest legal organizations dedicated to solely defending religious liberties. This resource will educate all involved students, parents, teachers, principals, superintendents and school boards. It explains what the law allows regarding the free exercise of religion.

**The Human Right Journey** – Small Group kit (02-8006) The Human Right Journey Small Group Kit equips believers to share their faith with family, friends, and others. This four-session study is ideal for use by teenagers in small group settings. Topics include: The Greatest Injustice, The Gospel, The Power of Prayer, and The Necessity of Words. For more information or purchase go to [www.myhealthychurch.com](http://www.myhealthychurch.com).

**Salt: Creating Thirst DVD Curriculum (03-0930)** Christians are called to make others aware of their own spiritual thirst so that they seek out the life-giving

water of Jesus Christ. Prepare your students to create thirst in their friends. For more information or purchase go to [www.myhealthychurch.com](http://www.myhealthychurch.com) .

**Something Amazing** - [www.somethingamazing.net](http://www.somethingamazing.net) A free, online resource to help prepare your students answer tough questions asked by new believers, explain the Gospel and follow-up with a new believer.

## FREE APPS

**Life In 6 Words App** – Sharing the Gospel can be a daunting task for anyone. A simple and engaging way to share the gospel with anyone you interact with.

**Dare2Share App** – The Dare 2 Share app puts the faith-sharing training tools your students need at their fingertips, equipping teens to share Jesus’ message of grace with their friends in their own unique, compelling way.

**7:14 Prayer App** – App designed for conversations with God and others. Develop prayer lists and adopt schools to pray for, as well as videos to start and to share the Gospel.

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[WWW.THEHUMANRIGHT.ORG/OURSCHOOLSMATTER](http://WWW.THEHUMANRIGHT.ORG/OURSCHOOLSMATTER)