



tips for youth workers

MAY 2008

PRAYER MANIFESTO

WHAT IS INNOVARE?

Innovare is Latin and means to renew, or introduce something new as if for the first time. In the context of Children & Youth Ministry in The Salvation Army it was a gathering of 16 youth workers and officers from across our territory who were a good representation of our national culture and ministries. We gathered March 13-16, 2008 at Jackson's Point Conference Centre on the heels of the last great snow storm of the season that hammered Central Canada and everything East.

WHY INNOVARE?

We gathered to tune-in to God's heart beat for our younger generation and discern how he would have us respond to help them reach the fullness of who He created them to be. We believe what we heard and discerned is intended to set the tone and shape the vision and direction for children and youth ministry in our territory.

HOW DID WE COME UP WITH PRAYER?

Before coming, participants searched their hearts for what God was stirring up in them and shared their findings via a survey on SendTheFire.ca. The STF on-line community (teens and young adults surfing the site) shared their thoughts in advance as well through the site. During the gathering, we spent time listening to God through his word as individuals and as a group. As we shared what God was speaking to us individually, we began to look for threads of common language that God was speaking to a number of us. Once we condensed the list down to come common themes, ideas and principles, we then entrusted 5 people to go away and work the ideas into something easily communicated and shared. What they came back to us with was a prayer. It wasn't what we thought we'd come away with from our weekend but it's what we believe God was wanting us to leave with and is wanting us to pray.

HOW TO USE THIS PRAYER MANIFESTO

Personal

- post a copy in your room, car, locker or workplace where you'll see it and be intentional about praying it regularly.

Ministry

- use it with your children & youth workers / leaders. Use it as a catalyst every Fall for that year's ministry. Pray it as a group
- give a copy to each worker/leader for them to keep and be intentional about praying regularly.
- refocus in January by using it again at your first week's class or youth night.
- share the manifesto with your church leadership team. Give them a copy and pray it together out loud as a team during a team meeting.
- share a copy with your young people's parents/guardians and commit to working together for the spiritual formation of their children and youth.
- use it during your worship service as a prayer by the entire church body for our youth. Make copies available to all church members.
- Put it on your church or group's website or blog as a post OR as a downloadable .pdf. You can also link to it on the SendTheFire.ca site.

See Soul Cry on-line at
www.sendthefire.ca/soulcry