

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN YOUTHWORKS



WHO WHAT AND WHERE?

International Christian Youthworks is a family of like-minded Evangelical youth ministries around the world.

We share a common heart for reaching young people with the love of Christ and seeing them disciplined and nurtured into the fullness of faith. To this end we also share a commitment to excellent Biblical missional youth leadership training. ICY therefore specializes in training leaders and releasing young people and young leaders in global mission.

ICY is registered in London England, where it is headed up by Colin and Melissa Piper, who are also the Youth Advisers to the European Evangelical Alliance.

We are a relational rather than hierarchical movement which means that different partners relate on different levels.

Our main European partner is ICY UK which is facilitated by Reign Ministries. We also have partners setting up an embryonic training network in Austria, and exploring similar networks in Holland, Finland and the Holy Land. We have other friends we resource with team in Poland, Germany and Bulgaria.

ICY Africa has a head office in Nairobi and is facilitated by Swahiba Youth Networks in Kenya. We are registered in both Uganda and Kenya as an NGO and send team to our friends, Team Connect, in Tanzania.

ICY USA is in the process of developing a pilot training program in partnership with First Priority of America, and has friends in Abbotsford BC.

In the Pacific Rim, we have a strong link with Praxis, a youth ministry training program based in New Zealand and Fiji.

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WHY?

Our mission statement is: To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Ephesians 4 v12.

ICY's vision is to resource global youth evangelism, by uniting those with a shared heart and calling. Through serving, learning from and working in partnership with one another, we have found we can be more effective and achieve more with our resources.

Vision is important to ICY, but not as much as values. These values are doctrinal and

practical, (and so for instance, they include a commitment to encourage a love for scriptural ministry), but they are predominantly relational. A core value is that each partner should prefer the others in love, based upon Philippians 2 v1-11, and so become a dynamic community which reflects kingdom principles, each part participating and contributing not for its own sake or benefit but for what it can give both to the others and supremely to the Lord.

Ultimately though ICY is more than visions and values, it is about virtues. It is about who we are, more than what we do, or even how we do it. ICY is committed to serving a new generation of emerging leaders who demonstrate a passionate love for Christ through integrity and holiness, and who simply seek to know the Father better and give Him pleasure and glory.

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How?

Our aim is to resource global youth evangelism and discipleship within the context of local church and to empower and train emerging leaders to reach as many young people as possible with the gospel of Christ in a way which is affordable, sustainable and effective.

In Europe we offer emerging leaders the opportunity to join local, national and continent wide learning communities which combine practical youth ministry experience under expert supervision with accredited study up to Bachelors level offered by missionally minded partner colleges around the world. Trainees engage in local church youth ministry, and study through local, national and global networks. The local learning community meets regularly both to study and develop a shared city vision. Everyone from across the continent gathers periodically for inspirational conferences for further facilitation of the study programs and sharing of wider vision. Very occasionally we connect globally with all the others studying and ministering on the programs around the world.

We also coordinate the EEA21.eu network, on behalf of the European Evangelical Alliance. This unites hundreds of youth workers across 25 nations, each committed to reaching young Europeans for Christ. We are registered by the EU European Volunteer Scheme as a hosting and sending agency and send and host 18-30 year olds between a range of countries including the UK, Poland, Germany, Finland, Austria and Bulgaria.

In Africa we offer young adults from America, Oceania and Europe a short term opportunity to join in with a nationally led ministry. Our trips are flexible- you can go when you can and stay for as long as you like; affordable- there are no western office administrative costs; and authentic- you live, work, eat and travel with Africans as part of their day to day ministry. We then link the national ministries to work strategically together and plan a shared vision for the region. We host annual conferences for the African leadership. Our focus for the last ten years has been developing sustainable youth ministry in the slums. In 2010 we intend to pilot a program aiming to model sustainable long term youth discipleship in rural contexts. We are also exploring the development of the study programs in Africa to train both

those interested in long term cross cultural youth ministry and offer Africans the possibility of excellent Biblical training which is accessible, affordable and relevant.

In America we are partnering with First Priority of America to develop an inspirational training network, which is linked to our partners in Europe and Africa.

We are also exploring a global youth ministry experience which combines opportunities on four continents, and the possibility to train and study in youth ministry on three continents

CONTACT DETAILS

International Christian Youthworks Team

International Directors: Colin and Melissa Piper

Training Director: Dr Andrew Hardy

Africa Regional Director: Peter Abungu

Assoc. Africa Regional Director: Randall Pitts

Africa Administrator: Ruth Mwangi

UK Leaders: Kyle McKinnon, Darin Stevens, Linda Isgrove, Alysen Merrill, Dre Szkolnyj

North European Shaper: Tag Woolverton

Central European Shaper: Armin Hartmann

US Shaper: Kent McKinnon

Tanzanian Director: Simon Chanilla

Advisory Board:

Paul Conrathe (UK, Senior Leader United Life Church London)

Dr Andy Green (Hong Kong, Chairman Kingsmith Inc.)

Benny Proffitt (US, Founder First Priority of America)

Chris Sharma (Aus, Director Streamline Creative)

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ICY, ICY UK and ICY Africa: www.icy.org.uk, www.icyuk.com, www.icyafrica.com,

EEA21 and Colin Piper: www.eea21.eu, www.colinpiper.info

Praxis New Zealand and Lifeteams Canada: www.praxis.org, www.lifeteams.ca,

Facebook: International Christian Youthworks, EEA21 ICY Africa, Swahiba Youth Networks

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN YOUTHWORKS IN MORE DEPTH

THE HEART OF ICY

Our heart is to empower and train youth leaders to reach young people for Christ.

Our emphasis is to serve the local church, particularly in those areas where, for whatever reason, resources are limited and consequently youth ministry struggles.

Our commitment is to release and support emerging leaders to serve the church, by providing them with meaningful support structures and where requested, visionary, practical and Biblical accredited training.

Our strategy is to employ a lean structure based upon relationship with adequate accountability so that we can facilitate dynamic visionary partnership which enables, networks and trains emerging leaders, for service in a way which is affordable, sustainable and effective.

We provide models which can be adapted by the local ministry to suit their own culture and context, and we work on behalf of all our partners in ways each individual partner would struggle to do alone.

We network ministries with one another to help each gain a bigger perspective and be a part of an exciting global community. As part of this, we recruit emerging leaders from across the globe, and link partners up with training providers.

We empower churches to work together to reach young people for Christ, particularly where, for whatever reason, resources are so limited that without help little can be achieved.

We believe in “on the job training” as part of a vibrant, visionary team. This is both the most effective and fulfilling way to study and train, and the most fruitful and inspiration way to minister.

THOSE BEHIND ICY

International Team

ICY Exec. Directors: Colin and Melissa Piper.

Colin is a Global Youthwork Strategist from the UK, whose passions are Jesus, young people and rugby. He has been involved full time in youth ministry for over 25 years and now spends most of his time advising, encouraging and supporting youth ministry around the globe. He is also a speaker and author of a number of books including most recently: Patriarch.

Melissa is an Australian, married to Colin who has a particular burden for Europe. She shares Colin's passion for Jesus, young people and all kinds of sport. Formerly a political lobbyist from Canberra, Melissa has been a school chaplain in both Oz and the UK, and is presently pioneering a new strategy for schools ministry in the London Borough of Sutton.

Colin and Melissa are based in London and are Youth Advisers to the European Evangelical Alliance with a specific responsibility for networking and training church youth workers across the continent. [Www.eea21.eu](http://www.eea21.eu) Colin's youthwork blog is www.colinpiper.info

ICY Training Coordinator: Dr. Andy Hardy

Andy and his wife Jenny live in Yarnton Oxford England with their children Lizzy and Tim. They are involved in youth ministry as well as Christian education and Youth Alpha Ministries in Oxford. Andy is an ordained evangelical minister of over 20 years experience. He currently is also a youth minister and teacher. He has written a number of professional books, and is a part time Professor of Theology for an international university. His big passion is to equip youth workers and trainee ministers for excellence in the knowledge and practice of youth ministry.

Regional Leaders and Partners

ICY UK Leadership Team. Ironically while the Brits focus on serving the global ministries it is left largely to a group of Americans to focus on the UK. ICY UK is chaired by Kyle McKinnon. A Masters graduate from Trinity, Kyle hails from Ohio, and is sent to the UK by Reign Ministries. He is married to a Brit, Jane, and together they have two children. Kyle came over to the UK with Darin and Joy Stevens, also from Ohio, Trinity and Reign Ministries. Based in Bicester, Darin and Joy oversee the coaching and the Diploma course for ICY UK. They also have two beautiful children, Ella and Keira! Completing the leadership team are two more Americans and two Brits.

Dre Szkolnyj escaped from Buffalo New York only to find herself in England's version of her home town: Coventry! Allysen Merrill comes from Minesota and is now based in Birmingham. David and Linda Isgrove are the Brits. David whose number one claim to fame is dancing with the Queen Mother, develops the church partnerships, while Linda, a trained counsellor and church leader, has a particular passion and responsibility for Pastoral Care and Prayer. Linda and David live in Birmingham, England, and have four grown up children.

ICY Africa Director Peter Abungu

Peter Abungu is married to Julie and together they have two children, Baracka and Joy. They are based in Nairobi where they host the visiting short term missionaries. Peter is one of those unique characters who came to the west to train but whose heart remained steadfastly in Africa. Turning his back on opportunities for a comfortable life in England, he remains faithful to his call to serve the poor of his nation. He now spends most of his ministry time in the slums, working with kids or training young leaders.

Team Connect Tanzania Director: Simon Chanilla

Team Connect Ministries is headed up by Tanzanian Simon Chanilla who is a Tanzanian. Like Peter, Simon trained in the UK, but as soon as he could headed back to Tanzania to continue to establish a ground breaking schools and training ministry. He also coordinates the mission trips and Ministry Support Team members sent from other ICY partners.

HISTORY

ICY was first explained on the back of a paper plate by Colin Piper to David at Heathrow Airport Terminal 3 in 2002. Over the next three years a very informal network of like minded youth ministries around the world connected, and even held

international conferences in Abbotsford Canada in June 04, and regional East African Conferences in Kenya 02, Uganda 03 and Tanzania 04.

ICY was finally formalized when it was incorporated as a limited liability company registered in the UK on July 27th 2005, and within weeks was recording thousands of hits per week on its web site. The African network grew very quickly with on going youth ministry in schools, slums, villages and prisons. Other initiatives included annual conferences (now in their eighth year), camps for slum kids, (now in their seventh year), a Bible Teachers Course for young adults from the slums (now in its sixth year), and visiting teams and individuals from the west. ICY Kenya, (also known locally as Swahiba Youth Networks) was registered as a religious body in 2006, ICY Uganda as an NGO in 2007, and Powerpoint Tanzania in 2009. The Nairobi office took over responsibility for administrating short term visits in 2008 and Ruth Mwangi was appointed as African Administrator. In 2009 a village ministry was planned to compliment the ongoing slum ministry in an attempt to pilot a long term sustainable youth discipleship program in the Bush. Land has been acquired to build a center which could also double as a base for the development of the European Training program in Africa. In 2010 Randall and Leah Pitts and family, will go to Kenya from the US, and Randall will become Associate Director to Peter.

In Europe, ICY UK, then called MNet, (missional Network of Youth Ministries) first partnered with a Bible College to pilot the Bachelors program in 2005 with just two students, before the formal start of the network in September 2006. Workers based in Ireland, Poland, Austria, Finland and Germany, quickly gave the network its European dimension. Plans are in place to establish training hubs in Northern Europe, (Holland), Central Europe, (Austria), Scandinavia, (Finland) and the Middle East, (Jerusalem). It is hoped over the next few years these regional hubs will emulate the success of the UK hub in offering practical, affordable, and missional local church based youth ministry training and on going networks and relationships for strategic youth ministry. In 2009 ICY sponsored the establishment of the EEA21 network, (www.eea21.eu), on behalf of the European Evangelical Alliance, and this now networks hundreds of strategic youth workers across Europe, through its website and strategic leaders' conferences.

In 2007 Colin wrote an article for Group Magazine entitled: “An Outsider’s View of American Youth Ministry”. As a result a number of relationships were formed with like minded youth ministries, perhaps the most strategic of which was with First Priority of America. Consequently ICY and First Priority have developed a partnership to bring the ICY European training model to the US and the First Priority youth ministry strategy to Europe. Together the Founders of First Priority, Benny and Marilou Proffitt, and the founders of ICY, Colin and Melissa, are establishing “Launch”, a platform to help support those committed to working together to reach the youth of their cities and nations for Christ.

At the first ICY gathering in Abbotsford Canada in 2004 were representatives of Praxis New Zealand and Lifeteams Canada. Our relationship continues and ICY commends both ministries and training programs.

STRUCTURE

ICY International structurally is mean and lean, consisting of Colin, (the mean one) and Melissa, (the lean one!) Their role is to serve the national works by resourcing, uniting and inspiring them. This means recruiting workers, administrating networks, providing access to training courses, and generally providing the care, support and vision for the teams and their leaders.

ICY Training is meaner and leaner still: that would be Dr. Andy Hardy! His role is to facilitate the accredited courses on behalf of the ICY networks.

All partner works, local, national and regional are autonomous, locally led and directed, bound only by a commitment to the Father and to one another. Each year covenant agreements are renewed between the partners.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

ICY has adopted the European Evangelical Alliance Doctrinal Statement:

WE BELIEVE that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

WE BELIEVE in the deity and perfect humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ; in His virgin birth; in His sinless life; in His miracles; in His atoning death through His outpoured blood; in His bodily resurrection; in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and His personal return to power and glory.

WE BELIEVE in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

WE BELIEVE the Bible to be inspired in its entirety by God's Holy Spirit through human authors revealing God's truth to humanity. It is without error in all that it affirms. Christians must therefore submit to its supreme authority.

WE BELIEVE in the personal and visible return in glory of the Lord Jesus Christ to raise the dead and bring salvation and judgment in final completion.

WE BELIEVE in the spiritual unity of believers in Christ.

AND FINALLY

ICY is a faith based ministry. None of its leaders have ever drawn a salary from ICY. Its accounts are published annually in London, England.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

ICY TRAINING MANUAL

ICY MISSIONS MANUAL

ICY PARTNER MINISTRIES MANUAL

All available at www.icy.org.uk