

.this
is my

nyji

A BRIEF PRESENTATION...



In this lesson, you will learn one of the most effective ways you can grow in your relationship with God. You will also see how you can join with other youth like you, who have decided to follow Jesus, in sharing your faith in Christ with others. We're going to talk about NYI!

We have divided this lesson into two sections that will take you on a quick tour to help you know the world of NYI. We hope that by the end of the journey you can say with us: This is my NYI!

PART ONE

It is not a Secret Club

Roger had invited Charles many times to the youth group meeting of his church. Charles' answers had been both varied and creative, but always with a "no" as a final answer. Finally, one day Charles decided to go with Roger, not just because of his perseverance, but because they really were good friends.

The day came, and trying to show the best attitude but hoping that the time went by as fast as possible, Charles got ready to go to the meeting. That day Roger picked him up, and they left for the meeting together. Charles' first surprise was that they went to a house and not a church building. "Are we going to pick up someone else?" Charles asked. "No, the meeting will be here this time," answered Roger.

Soon after they arrived, other youth arrived and started to talk about what had happened to each of them during the week. They laughed as they remembered the funny things they had enjoyed together last weekend. Charles didn't notice that the Bible study had begun until Claudia, one of the group leaders, and who lived in the house where the meeting took place, asked him: "Is this the first time you've been to an NYI meeting?" Charles didn't know how to answer and thought, "I knew it. This can't be a normal meeting of the church's youth group. For sure this is a fraternity or a secret club; that is why they meet at a house and have special acronyms for their group."

What does NYI Mean?

If you were Charles and had to choose among the four answers below, which would you choose as the meaning of "NYI"?



Nasty Yellow Iguanas



National Yodeling Invitational



Nazarene Youth International



Nazarene Youngsters Institute



From the beginning days of the Church of the Nazarene, youth have been an integral and vital part of the church. NYI has been the ministry of the Church of the Nazarene that has led many young people to a lifelong personal relationship with Christ. At the beginning, however, NYI didn't have that name. In fact, in the beginning there were two youth groups - one was the women's group called "Company E," and the men's group was called "the Brotherhood of Saint Stephen." As time went by, the two groups became one, and the name was changed to "Nazarene Young People's Society." It was in 1976 when the name Nazarene Youth International (NYI) was first officially used, emphasizing the idea of an international ministry. That has been just a little bit of NYI history.

In some churches around the world, it is common to talk about the youth group as "NYI." In others, even though the youth ministry may have its own name, they are still part of NYI.

Whatever may be the case in your local church, you will realize that when we talk about NYI, we're not only talking about a name, we're talking about youth worshipping God together, studying God's Word, encouraging one another, reaching others for Christ, and of course, having fun together. In other words, youth who enjoy a personal and dynamic relationship with Christ.

There is a verse from the Bible which has been the theme/slogan of NYI, and it has become a challenge for each young person who is part of NYI around the world. To know it, you need to put in order the following words and write it on the lines below:

1 Timothy	anyone	in	down
because	in	young	in
on	but	love	set
faith	Don't	in	example
purity	you	12	in
Are	an	believers	let
for	life	the	book
and	4	you	speech

"Don't _____

 _____"
 _____: _____ (NIV).

OUR MISSION

If we had to use two words to describe the heart of NYI, these would be:

MAKING DISCIPLES.

All activities, meetings and programs we do as a youth ministry respond to our call to be, and make, Christlike disciples in the nations. Where we minister is not important; what matters is what we do and the reason we do it.

We have expressed that idea like this:

"THE MISSION OF NYI IS TO CALL OUR GENERATION TO A DYNAMIC LIFE IN CHRIST".

OUR VALUES

We know now that NYI is not a secret group with an encrypted name, or that it keeps a treasure inside a basement. However, NYI does have some treasures that it values very much and wishes to keep them for life.

I know that you have possessions that are very important to you, so, let's do the following exercise: mentally, make a list of the people and things most valuable to you. I know it is not easy, especially if you limit your list to 10 elements.

Likewise, although it has been hard to summarize the most important values of NYI, we have created a list of values that identify NYI around the world.

DIRECTIONS:

Drawing a line, connect each value on the left with the definition on the right that you consider the best description.

We value **Young People**

We value the **Bible**

We value **Discipleship...**
together and to God

We value **Ministry**

We value **Witness**

We value **Prayer**

We value the **Church**

We value **Worship**

We value **Holiness**

We value **Community**

a work of grace whereby God, through the working of His Holy Spirit, enables us to live a life representing Christ in who we are and in everything we do.

life-changing encounters with an intimate God.

vital interactive communication with our heavenly father.

God's unchanging truth for our lives.

extending God's grace to our world.

sharing God's love in word and deed.

a global holiness community of faith, diverse in culture but one in Christ.

a lifestyle of becoming like Christ.

building relationships that help bind us.

significant in the kingdom of God.

If you wonder why we chose these 10 values, the answer is simple: These values are important dimensions that must reflect the Christian life and therefore give the right motivation to the ministry of NYI.

Project

Do some research about the origin of the youth ministry at your local church - when and where it began, who participated throughout the years, and other things you can find out. If your group has a particular name, find out the origin of that name. Once you gather all the information, prepare a report to present to your youth group. If you can find pictures, newspaper clips, and testimonies of people who have been part of NYI, it would be great to include them on the report.

If you wish to know more about the history of NYI worldwide, we invite you to visit the following web page: www.nyitoday.org

PART TWO

Organized, We Do It Better

Quickly, Claudia spoke again without giving Charles time to answer the question she had asked him a few seconds ago. "I'm sorry; I think I caught you by surprise with the question. What I mean when I say an NYI meeting is a meeting or activity of the church's youth." "Oh, that's a start," said Charles. "All I know is that Roger invited me to a meeting with his friends from church, and that's how I got here. So, if this is an NYI meeting, then yes, it is my first time," he added.

At the end of the Bible study, Claudia and Roger kept chatting with Charles and explained to him that they meet most of the time at the church's facilities. However, sometimes they met at someone's house, depending on the purpose of the meeting and the people who would participate. "For example, when we have activities with other churches on the district, we have the meetings at the church," said Claudia. "Wait... What do you mean by "district?" asked Charles. Roger

interrupted Charles, apologizing for so much information about the NYI organization. But Charles was really interested in the subject, so Roger asked Claudia for some paper and a pencil to continue with the explanation.

Ministry Groups

With the purpose of developing a more effective ministry, NYI is organized into 5 different ministry groups: Local, District, Field, Region and Global.

DIRECTIONS: When reading the following paragraphs, write the name of the ministry group that corresponds on the line. Do the same with the pyramid below. (*Answers in back.*)

The first group is the _____ group. This level is easy to identify because it is the group of youth in your church which whom you meet regularly for activities.

The second group is the _____ group. This level consists of a group of local churches in the same geographical area, and of course, all members of teh NYI of those churches. Some districts decide to divide further into zones for better promotion, implementation and reporting of programs and ministries of the district.

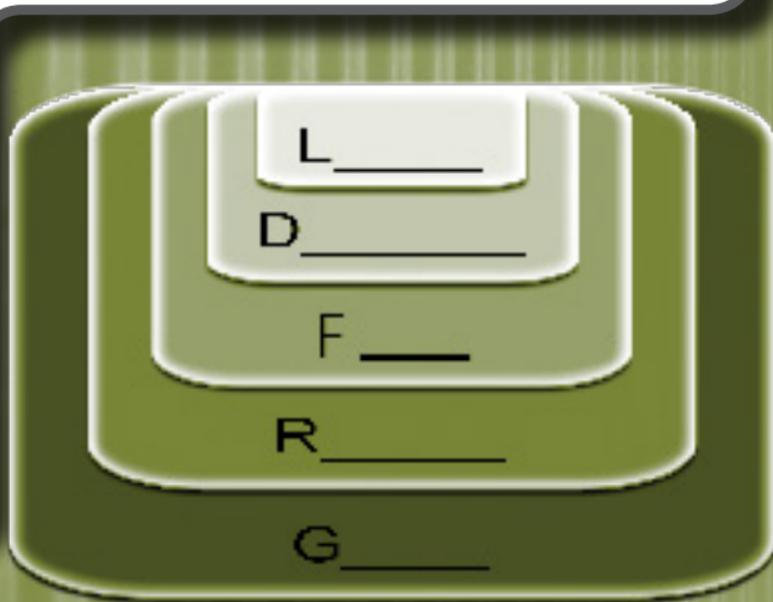
The third group is the _____. This level consists of all districts that are in a particular geograhpic area, and in some cases have elements in common such as language.

The _____ group consists of all the fields that are in a particular geographic area. NYI around the world is organized into 6 regions: USA/Canada, Mexico and Mesoamerica, South America, Eurasia, Asia Pacific, and Africa.

Finally, the last group of NYI is the _____ group, and as its name

indicates, it is composed of all members of the NYI around the world.

With the above explanation, we can see that ministry groups are not foreign to one another. Actually, they relate and integrate with one another to shape the global youth ministry of the Church of the Nazarene under the name of Nazarene Youth International.



REGIONS AROUND THE WORLD

DIRECTIONS:

Match the number that identifies each region with the map below. (Answers in back.)



1. Africa
2. Asia Pacific
3. USA and Canada
4. Mesoamerica

5. Eurasia
6. South America

How Can You Get Involved With Your NYI?

By participating regularly in the activities organized by your NYI, or youth ministry, you are already part of NYI. Still, you should talk to your local NYI president or youth pastor and tell them about your desire to get actively involved in the activities that your church's NYI organizes, as well as your decision to adopt the NYI mission and core values.

Summarizing, we can say there are two types of NYI members.

- a. Participants – These are those youth who are actively involved in the youth ministries of the church and agree with the vision and values of NYI. The minimum age is usually about 11-12 years old, and the maximum is determined by your leadership according to the needs of the NYI in your local church, district, field and region.
- b. Leaders – These are adults who help out with leadership in the NYI. There is no maximum age for leaders.

Our desire is that NYI will become a tool through which you can find your identity in Christ, exercise your spiritual gifts, and lead others into a dynamic life in Christ.

Young people have always been an important part of God's plan. In many Scripture passages, we find examples of youth who loved God with all their hearts and committed themselves to obeying Him. There are two stories in particular that reveal this. One is found in Genesis chapters 37 to 50, and the other is in the Book of Daniel. Those stories are about young men who decided to give up everything for God and obey His will regardless of the cost. I invite you to take some time during the week to read these exciting stories. God wants your life to be proof of what He can do in and through young people like you.

Finally, we want to tell you that we want NYI to be a tool through which you can find your identity in Christ, and where you can use your spiritual gifts to guide others to a dynamic life in Christ.

Project

Talk to your youth leader and ask him/her how the youth ministry in your church is organized. Make a list of the people in leadership and their responsibilities. Pray for them, and if there is an activity in which you want to participate more directly, you will know who is in charge of that ministry so you can go to him/her and offer your help.

ANSWERS

What does NYI Mean?

Nazarene Youth International.

NYI Regions of the World

1. Africa
2. Asia Pacific
3. USA and Canada
4. Mesoamerica
5. Eurasia
6. South America

Ministry/Groups

Local, District, Field, Region and Global.



- We value **Young People**
- We value the **Bible**
- We value **Discipleship...**
together and to God
- We value **Ministry**
- We value **Witness**
- We value **Prayer**
- We value the **Church**
- We value **Worship**
- We value **Holiness**
- We value **Community**

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a lifestyle of becoming like Christ.

God's unchanging truth for our lives.

building relationships that help bind us.

extending God's grace to our world.

significant in the kingdom of God.

sharing God's love in word and deed.

Space for your **Projects**

A blank sheet of white lined paper with 11 horizontal lines, set against a green background. The paper has rounded corners and a dark grey border. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.



Published by: Nazarene Publishing House
17001 Prairie Star Parkway
Lenexa, KS 66220 USA

Email: informacion@editorialcnp.com

Website: www.editorialcnp.com

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Author: David González

Design: Jerson Chupina

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