

Hey there youth pastors & group leaders,

It won't be long before we head into Thanksgiving & than Christmas season. There are four main events we would like you and your group to be a part of that are coming up. These are really good opportunities to make connections with this great network of people and churches. Now with the assault on Christian values that is ever increasing and the unashamed worldliness that even many professing "Christians" seem to carelessly flaunt, it is so crucial that we surround ourselves with those who make the Bible our foundation and are truly pursuing Jesus and His will for our lives. We need to encourage & challenge each other to really go after the heart of our Heavenly Father and like Heb. 10:24 (*NKJV*) tells us, "let us consider one another in order to stir up love & good works."

Servant Leadership Retreat is Jan. 27th & 28th and is geared towards adults & teenagers who are being raised up to be leaders. **Encounter God's Presence camp is June 19th - 23rd, 2017**. Encounter is going international again for another **Mission Trip to Belize Aug. 5th-11th**. Our forth event, we're looking at a **Spring Weekend Retreat near Spring Break**.

We're believing for another amazing summer camp, one of this year's guest speakers is "**Brother John**" who's from Syria and is all too familiar with persecution. He speaks at many Voice of the Martyrs events & will challenge us all to have enduring faith in the face of Christian persecution. Our unique Persecuted Christian **Spiritual Amazing Race** activity always focuses on persecuted countries and has been great for mingling together all the churches along with involving all the youth regardless of athletic ability. Each year, we write over 1,200 hand-written letters to imprisoned Christians from different countries to encourage them in prison.

E.D.M. (Electronic Dance Music) is a huge and the **Transform DJs** are being flown from Colorado to all over the world because they are using it as worship to glorify God. So we'll have a dub step dance party for Jesus with some awesome break dancers. **The Cross Heirs band**, will be rocking out for us with their hip hop/rock jams. **Spoken word poet, GF Soldier**, will be back spitting out truth. We had to book him 2 years in advance and excited to let you know internationally known **Reggie Dabbs** will be kicking off camp this year! **Heidi Williams** and the Encounter God's Presence worship band be sure to take us to new and deep places of worship to our King.

"**Shan the Man**", (a.k.a. Shannon Pickard) comedian will keep us laughing throughout the week and have us playing some crazy games. We'll be bringing in a huge inflatable water slide. S.A.G.U. in Waxahachie, TX offers a very impressive sound system and cool lighting along with their first-class facilities: racket-ball courts, basketball courts, and the indoor swimming pool. There are also some nice sand volleyball courts for everyone to enjoy.

The prophetic ministry team will be asking God to give prophetic words for you and your youth. Many of the words for the youth pastors & spouses will be shared at another time instead of taking time during the main sessions. Unfortunately, **Stephen Evans** will prob. not be able to be with us due to adding numerous crusades to their 2017 schedule but Stephen says, he would love to if their schedule allows. I'll be bringing an encouraging message, as will **Shawn Brann**, who has been the assistant Chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys for 10 years, always brings a **pro-athlete** to share.

Each church is invited to perform a drama/dance during camp. (They are usually "human videos," where your group acts out a song.) Also, each group will have an opportunity to show a "Video of Great Exploit" (*Daniel 11:32*) which shows your group doing an outreach, mission trip, or some kind of a special event.

Please, let us know if you're planning on the leadership retreat. Would you like to help plan a Spring Retreat weekend? Mission trip in August? If you're interested in summer camp, let us know soon so we send a detailed packet with posters.

Camp will be only \$245 per person. (Add extra for travel costs if needed.) **The \$50 deposit and registration forms are due on March 17th**. Registration forms, details & promo videos for the retreat and camp are on our website, along with links for our YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to help promote the retreat & camp with your people in committing to going and hopefully starting to recruit all their friends to join as well. They can all be found at EncounterGodsPresence.org

Mission Trip to Belize - we want to invite youth groups & any adults on their own to join us as we serve those the less fortunate in the 3rd world country of Belize. Individuals will have opportunities to be used by God to minister to the people of Belize while you yourself get ministered to and maybe your view of "your world" could be changed forever! We don't want youth groups to skip summer camp in order to go on this mission's trip. **The \$100 deposit and registration forms are due on March 1st**. So fundraising and/or sending out support letters and recruiting donors should begin soon in order to cover both of these powerful events. Promo videos and more details are on the Encounter website.

For His glory,
Jason & Heidi Williams




P.S. - If you want to host an Encounter God's Presence youth rally or a night of worship that is geared to all ages, or another type of event please let us know. We also have been leading main services with the worship, multi-media message and ministry time. And when requested, we also have volunteer team members who can paint during worship, share prophetic words or even a band for events that can help pull in those who like hip hop/rock music. We sure love seeing God change lives.