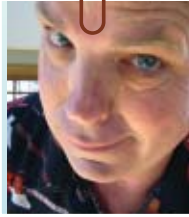


LETTER FROM
THE EDITOR

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Just Add Water?

When I was a rookie youth pastor, I had two, count 'em, TWO youth ministry books. One was *Far-Out Ideas For Youth Groups* and the other was *Way-Out Ideas For Youth Groups*. Those two little paperbacks from Youth Specialties were all I had to go on that first year – except the dorky Sunday School curriculum that the church gave me each quarter which I promptly (and discreetly) threw away.

I think I might have done every idea in those two books. They were my main guides for creating a youth ministry. Sad, I know.

The REALLY sad part is that I kept those books hidden. I wanted the kids to think that I was making up all those great ideas. I wanted them to think I was the greatest, the most talented, the craziest and the most awesome youth leader in the world. I did not want them to know that I had no clue about what I was doing. I didn't want to let on that I had never been trained to be a youth pastor. So I kept those books hidden from the kids and continued to use those books as I tried to impress those teenagers to follow Christ and influence their friends to become Christians too.

What a dork I was!

That was a LONG time ago. I'm still a dork, but I've learned a thing or two about ministry with teenagers. I've learned that a youth leader can't just take material and indiscriminately put it into play in their youth ministry. There is no "just add water" youth ministry material. All of the phenomenal

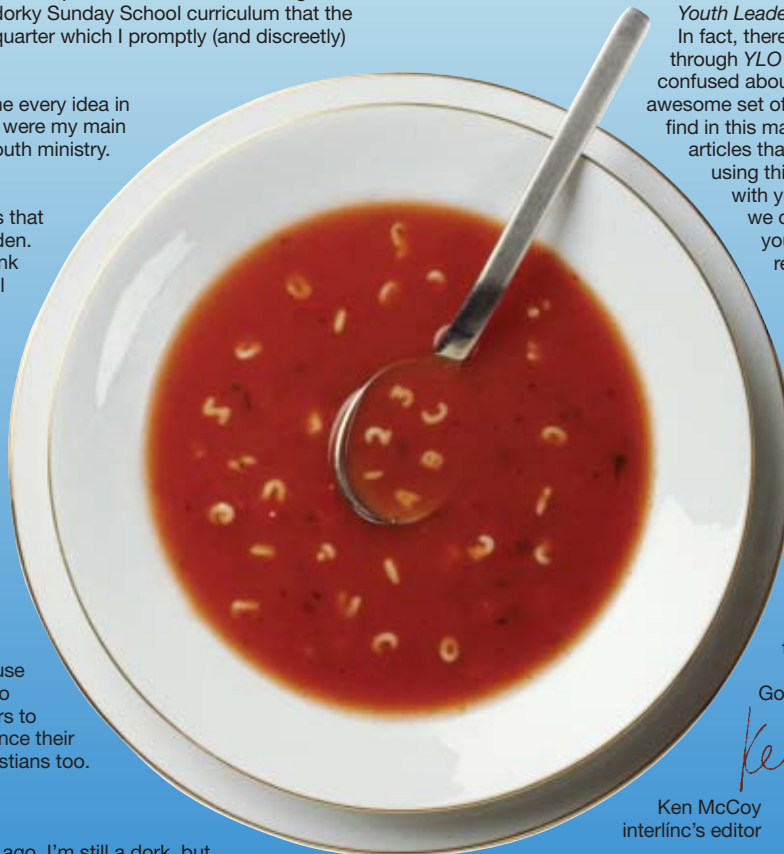
resources that are available to a youth leader today require preparation, skill, work and planning to utilize fully and see results in the lives of kids.

Youth Leaders Only is no exception. In fact, there is so MUCH available through YLO that some people get confused about how to use this awesome set of tools. That's why you'll find in this magazine several "How To" articles that will help you get started using this material in your ministry with young people. Because we cannot adequately train you to use all of the resources of YLO, we've hit just the highlights.

I really hope you're not as dumb as I was, and keep this material squirreled away somewhere out of sight in your office. I hope you will use every bit of this material and share it with the other youth leaders you know. It's too good a resource to waste – even if it does require more effort to use than "just add water"!

Godspeed,

Ken McCoy
interlinc's editor



PS. There's a new section in this magazine – we call it "**re:Tuned**" – ideas about how to use a bunch of popular secular songs to teach godly truth to teenagers. Check it out, and let us know what you think of it. Thanks!