

June, 2008

## Dear Partners for Equipping French-Speaking Youth Leaders,

Sometimes Jesus, the bread of life, is hard to swallow. For example, He told his disciples, *I am the living bread...this bread is my flesh...Many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him* (John 6:51, 66)



Joel Dumaine

That's what Joel, a pastor and one of our Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry Forum participants in Quebec City, Canada, experienced when he called the Forum **mind-choking!** He was struggling to swallow what Jesus says about ministry. Yet in the end, he ingested it.

"I really appreciated my time with you during the Jesus-Focused Forum. It was **mind-choking**. Now it's time to pray and find God's mind about how to implement this." – Pastor Joel Dumaine

## A Choked Mind

Why was Joel's mind choked?

In Quebec less than 1% of the 7.5 million people classify themselves as born-again followers of Christ. *Thus, the majority stuffs secular culture down the throat of a Christian minority.* When a youth leader tries to reach kids in that environment, it is mind-choking!

More importantly, Joel's youth ministry background, as in so many churches, is to do large group events with little or no training of adult leaders or discipling of students. *So the "mind-choking" occurred not because of information overload, but because of transformation overload.*

But Joel and the other youth leaders realized that for kids' lives to be transformed by Jesus, they must train leaders and disciple students – not something their church tradition has done in the past. *So he was learning to swallow a paradigm of youth ministry vastly different from his past experience.*



Quebec Forum Training Session

## Food for Thought

During the Forum Eric Ball and Benoit Thierren met with twenty of the key youth leaders from the Pentecostal Church of Quebec. Going through Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry they had plenty of food for thought. Of those who wrote their thoughts after the Forum, here are two.



Benoit Thierren leading JFYM



Jean-Marie Janvier

“When I arrived for the Forum, I didn’t have very high expectations because all the conferences I’ve been a part of in the past never made a real impact on my life. But I can say without a doubt that this Forum has really changed my vision about youth ministry. Through the Forum God gave me the direction and the tools I needed to move forward and apply the changes that are necessary. I realized that I can’t give something that I don’t have. And I realized that I can’t see the life of my students change only by preaching on Friday nights but that I need to build a relationship with them...”

– Jean-Marie Janvier

“God surpassed my expectations for the Forum! My vision for youth ministry has been sharpened and I realize more than ever the importance of my leadership role...this Forum has been a wake-up call about my leadership role in my youth ministry.”

– Maxime Gagne



Maxime Gagne

## Nourishing Change

To adjust to an entirely new diet in one weekend – now that’s hard to swallow! *Yet, because these leaders chose to change their diet by chewing on Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry, Jesus will feed them and their kids. Highly nourishing!* And, along the way, they will reach thousands of teenagers with the gospel of Christ.

Will you join us in saving churches from choking, and nourishing them instead? Your gifts and prayers make it possible to do that in places like French Quebec!

Jesus is Lord,

*Barry*

Barry, with Eric Ball, Reach Out’s International Director

