

Ryan Reed

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Questions for Potential Youth Director

1. Please list all schools and degrees you have completed, along with your year of graduation, major and GPA for each.

- Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, May 2010
Master of Divinity, Missional Theology and Ecclesiology
Master of Arts, Youth Ministry (Renamed: Emerging Adulthood and Spiritual Formation)
GPA: 3.4 on 4.0 Scale
- Alderson Broaddus College, Philippi, WV, May 2006
Bachelor of Arts, Christian Studies
Minor, Education
GPA: 3.8 on 4.0 Scale

2. Please attach a link of a recent message you've preached.

www.ryanr.org/academic "Captivity and Freedom." A quick note about the talk: while I have loads of experience serving middle school and high school adolescents during both college and seminary, I have limited experience giving talks. During my internships and staff assignments, I typically was in a supportive role to the leader of those respective ministries and rarely taught. I believe that I have great potential to find my voice. I am on my way, and I love teaching! I feel this talk represents my style well - relational, inter-personal, heavy on multi-media and illustrations, and teaching-oriented with lots of movement (though you may not perceive this piece through the recording). As I told a friend of mine, if my talk was to represent a diet commercial, it would be akin to a 'skinny picture' -- obviously I have lost weight by working out, but I am still 8 weeks away before attaining my 'killer abs!' :) Admittedly, this talk needs refinement, and I have much further to go in developing this aspect of my ministry. But I am looking forward to cultivating this skill in whatever placement God leads my wife and me.

3. What are your spiritual gifts?

Teaching/Discipling, Visioneering, and Relationship-building.

4. What is your Myers-Briggs profile?

My wife, Stacy, and I completed the tests and used its findings to guide us through our pre-marital counseling sessions. I proudly admit that I am an EFNP - typical, I hear, among Pastors and other idealistic public servants.

5. Describe a ministry you have grown, and how you have grown it.

During my sophomore year of college, I commenced a new Young Life start-up club in the hills of North-Central WV with only a friend, 2 students, and a picnic bench (and occasionally Burger King when donors allowed!). We met weekly for the next three years, save the summer, and grew to 11 leaders (myself tasked with the



responsibility of overseeing all volunteers and volunteer meetings, students, programs, and administrative work), over 60 regularly attending students (swelling to 100 when school schedules permitted), and 2 gender exclusive small groups with over 10 students each. Given the personal challenges and cross cultural shock of leading in a coal mining town, I believe we grew so quickly and consistently because the hearts of both the leaders and myself broke for adolescents. Period. Each one of the leaders was close friends and sold out to the high calling of serving high school students. We loved them hard and gave them a community to which to belong, a passion on which to stake their lives. We crossed our boundaries into their world. There, we earned the right to be heard and shared the wonder, mystery, and pleasure of following Jesus.

Moreover, we also grew because I allowed the indigenous students and leaders within that community to lead and guide me. Each of us recognized that I possessed skills within that community to open Scripture and teach its content, along with provide leadership and guidance for its direction, but I did not know its burdens and joys. I needed to be taught the fine art and privilege of living among the people of Grafton, WV. And subsequently we reached out to the students there in ways that directly addressed their needs and aspirations.

6. Who is the most recent person you've led to Christ. Tell about your experience in 2-3 sentences.

Rob Lawrence, age 26, Spring 2010. We met on an airplane, traveling from Florida to Newark, and through a wily conversation, he learned that I was a seminary student studying to become a Pastor. Most of the time, this knowledge kills the conversation; rather, Rob proceeded to tell me about his ailing mother, personal pressure to succeed at Cornell, and his crisis of faith. We conversed all the way to baggage claim and exchanged contact information, which has eventually led to an extraordinary friendship, where just 2 weeks ago, he and his wife partook in my wedding celebration.

7. List the books have you read in the last 3 months?

Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics*, 4.3.2 - currently reading
Darrell Guder, *Missional Church* - currently reading
David Bosch, *Transforming Mission* - currently reading
Bible, 2 Chronicles - currently reading Scripture from the beginning
N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope*
N.T. Wright, *Scripture and the Authority of God*
Rob Bell, *Jesus Wants to Save Christians*
Rob Bell, *Love Wins*
Jeffrey Arnett, *Emerging Adulthood*
Ed Stetzer, *Lost and Found*
Kenda Creasy Dean, *Almost Christian*

8. What is your long-term career goal?

To continue serving adolescents and emerging adults, preferably in depressed areas, and then eventually achieving my doctorate for the purpose of serving as a chaplain and/or professor in a college or seminary.

9. What was your best recent ministry success?

At the risk of sounding corny... since before our engagement, my wife and I dreamed of a wedding ceremony that achieved two outcomes: to bring together our separate communities and make them one; and, to bear a faithful witness to our Risen Lord in both word and act. We rented a mountaintop mansion for the festivities and



invited all of our friends and family to stay with us. For three days, we ate, drank, played, sang, and worshipped, celebrating our new marriage, family, friends, and the love of God in all of our lives, even among many of our friends and family who do not yet know Jesus. In the final moments following the ceremony as many packed to leave, my wife and I received several responses, namely from our non-Christian folk, who exclaimed that they had never before experienced God so real and authentic. On our honeymoon, we gave thanks to God for his presence and for allowing our wedding to be a witness to others.