



National Leadership Forum

2003 Mission America Coalition Annual Meeting

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Friends and Fellow Youth Workers:

We are writing to invite you to participate in a historic opportunity. From **October 5-8**, youth workers from around the country who are tired of ineffective, status quo responses to prevailing youth culture problems will be meeting as a group during the National Leadership Forum to **foment revolution**. Not a rhetorical revolution like those so often promised by cliché Christianity, but something transformative, substantial, and real.

Our time together will be unconventional. During the Youth Track, there will be no seminars, workshops, or keynote speeches. No how-to presentations. Instead, we will follow the Continental Congress model established by our nation's first revolutionaries. Youth workers like you representing diverse geographies, cultures, and ministry backgrounds from around the country will talk frankly about the crises we confront everyday with the goal of coordinating a counteroffensive against the gates of hell that bind too many of our kids. Our prayer is that we leverage the occasion of the Forum to collectively publish a document, adopt a plan of action, or agree to some other effort aimed at reengaging youth culture in a relevant and meaningful way. What specifically such an initiative might look like remains to be seen.

Please understand that the Youth Track will take place in a broader context, which establishes the **potential for greater significance**. Mission America – a coalition of more than 400 national ministries and denominations such as Billy Graham Association, Campus Crusade for Christ, Focus on the Family, World Vision, Southern Baptist Convention, and the Assemblies of God – has convened the Forum to examine why evangelical Christianity has become increasingly irrelevant to urban communities. They have invited not just their members, but any leaders active in Christian ministry. The dynamics of the overall conference mean that anything we produce at the Youth Track will carry the added credibility of this historic event.

Please prayerfully consider joining us at the National Leadership Forum. For more information about the Forum, or to register online, visit www.NationalLeadershipForum.com. Financial assistance for registration fees and alternative housing opportunities are available if needed.

In His Service,

Jeremy R. Del Rio, Chair
On Behalf of the Design Team