

# 20



YOUTH PASTOR SUMMIT

# 24

# NASHVILLE

## EVENT GUIDE

### EVENT SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

#### **MONDAY- April 22, 2024**

**Event Times:** 2:15 PM to 9:00 PM (Central Standard Time Zone)

- 11 AM to 2 PM – New 2 Ministry Pre-Conference
  - 50 Spots Available, Lunch and resources provided. Register for this as part of your YPS Registration.
- 2:15 PM – Registration
- 2:30 PM – Doors Open
- 3:00 PM – Mainstage Session Block One
  - Worship with **LU Praise**
  - [Dr. Jay Strack](#), *President & Founder of SLU*
  - [Shama Mrema](#)
  - [Shane Pruitt](#), *National Next Gen Director for the North American Mission Board*
  - [Dr. Bill Brown](#), *SLU Scholar in Residence*
- 5:30 PM – Dinner break on your own
- 6:45 PM – Mainstage Session Block Two
  - [Shama Mrema](#)
  - [Ben Trueblood](#), *Director of Student Ministry at Lifeway Christian Resources*
  - Worship with **LU Praise**
  - [Eugene Cho](#), *President of Bread for the World/Visionary of One Day's Wages*
- 9:00 PM – Conference Dismissed

#### **TUESDAY- April 23, 2024**

**Event Times:** 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM (Central Standard Time Zone)

- 8:00 AM – [Youth Ministry Booster](#) Coffee Fellowship for Early Risers
- 8:30 AM – Registration/ Doors Open
- 9:00 AM – Mainstage Session Block Three
  - [Shama Mrema](#)
  - [Rebekah Lyons](#), *Author, Speaker, Podcast and Retreat Host*
- 10:40 AM – Lab Session A
- 11:40 AM – Lab Session B
- 12:30 PM – Lunch provided by event sponsors
- 1:30 PM – Mainstage Session Block Four
  - Worship with **LU Praise**
  - [Brent Crowe](#), *Vice President of SLU*
  - [Derwin Gray](#), **Lead Pastor of Transformation Church**
- 3:30 PM – Conference Dismissed

## EVENT THEME

### Inverse: The Counter Cultural Teachings of Jesus

Youth Pastor Summit (YPS) is a conference designed to motivate, inspire, and equip every leader who invests in the lives of the next generation. YPS is a unique experience where there is an intentionality towards creating and cultivating an environment that **fosters collaboration, community, and soul-care**. YPS is a great opportunity for leaders to be refueled, recharged, and refreshed!



This year at YPS, the theme for **YPS 2024** is **I N V E R S E**. *Inverse simply means, "something that is the opposite or reverse of something else."* When Jesus spoke, His teachings were the inverse of what culture was and is saying. It was the opposite of what we would assume to be true. **This year we will explore some of the most challenging and controversial teachings of Jesus.** One of the most common truths that have regularly been applied to the person of Jesus is the fact that **He comforted the afflicted and afflicted the comfortable.** Yes, Jesus said and demonstrated the most loving, accepting, and grace-filled things. However, He also taught complicated truths that even perplexed the people who knew Him best. Why? Because **Jesus taught both grace AND truth!** So, if we want to have the power to truly change our lives and this world, learning how to navigate the tensions between Jesus' teachings on grace and truth is essential. Therefore, during **YPS 2024**, we will highlight four counter cultural claims made by Jesus, as it relates to **Unity, Love, Compassion, and Submit to the Calling**



**W E L C O M E to the I N V E R S E!!!!**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Venue & Parking Notes:

**New Vision Baptist Church – Worship Center**  
1750 North Thompson Lane, Murfreesboro, TN 37129  
Park in lots with direct access to Welcome 1 (left side of the map)

**What to Pack:** Make sure to pack a pen, notebook & a bottle of water for you to have during the conference.

**Meals:** Dinner on Monday is on your own. Take advantage of restaurants close to the church because traffic could get bad around the church at 5 PM and you will want to make it back in time for our evening sessions. Lunch will be provided on Tuesday. Make sure to stop by our sponsor tables and say thanks!

**Event Format:** Through a mix of inspiring, equipping, and educational segments, attendees will get to walk away encouraged and resourced with practical tips, tools, and approaches on how to effectively do ministry in this season. YPS is a unique experience where there is an intentionality towards creating and cultivating an environment that fosters **collaboration, community, and soul-care**.



**Registration:** In order to expedite your registration and to minimize gathering in the lobby, please bring a copy/screen shot of your registration in one of the forms below. Having one of the options above will ensure a smooth check-in for you and your team the morning of the event. **Registration Proof (any of the options below will work):**

- Printed Copy or Screen Shot of your Registration Email
- Printed out or/Screen Shot of your registration account with YPS Nashville Listed – you can access this from here:  
<https://events.circuitree.com/studentleadership/Account/Login/?returnUrl=%2Fstudentleadership&skip=False>

**Wristbands:** You will receive a YPS wristband when you check in. You must wear this for the duration of the event as it is your access into all sessions and meals.

## SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES AT YPS

**SLU All Access Lunch & Learn on Tuesday for Educators:** Student Leadership University's mission is to partner with local churches, schools, and organizations to aid in the development and equipping of a generation of student leaders to think, dream, and lead. We are excited to welcome you to YPS. As part of our dedication to supporting **Christian school educators**, we invite you to join us for lunch, fellowship, and a discussion on the theme of "Being Intentional to Develop Godly Leaders." This gathering will also give you the chance to meet [Dr. Dana Dionne](#), SLU's Chief Programs Officer, who will facilitate the discussion. Additionally, we will share information on how you can earn CEUs by attending YPS! [Click here](#) to let us know you are coming. Anyone who pre-registers will be entered to win a SLU Giveaway!

## TUESDAY BREAKOUT DESCRIPTIONS

Labs are designed to inspire and equip you and your team. We encourage every participant to take full advantage of the practical and relevant training sessions the labs will provide. Make sure your group splits up and attends as many breakout sessions as possible on Tuesday. Breakout Descriptions will be updated in this document and send in the pre-event email two weeks prior to the event.

## 10:40 AM BREAKOUT LABS

### **Lab 1 in Main Worship Center**

[Luke Lezon](#), *Author and Lead Pastor of Lifebridge Church*

**The Countercultural Next Gen Ministry** – One of the most challenging question church leaders face today is knowing how to effectively engage, structure, and manage a life-giving Next Gen ministry. In this lab, we will discuss best practices for Next Gen ministry, and how to speak open and honestly to a generation that desires to live countercultural in the midst of a very polarize society.

### **Lab 2 in Children's Building (200)**

[Dr. Bill Brown](#), *SLU Scholar in Residence*

**Hot Topics** – Dr. Bill Brown will coordinate a Q&A session and discussion about complex topics for today's Youth Pastors: LGBTQ+ issues, apologetics, and teens' most asked questions. Also, he will ask YOU questions about your programs: what's working and what's not.

### **Lab 3 in The Chapel**

[Ryan McDermott](#), *Director of Students and Young Adults, Christ Fellowship Church*

**Decoding Gen Alpha** – A new generation is upon us! Gen Alpha is the generation born since 2010, now as old is 14, and they are beginning to shift the way that marketers, educators, church leaders and others think about their work. What do we know about these digital natives who are knocking on the doors of our student ministries? As Pastors who care deeply about the "next" generation, let's talk about how we can engage them right now!

### **Lab 4 in 501 EF**

**Matt Chewning**, *Lead Pastor, Netcast Church*

**From Student Ministry to Church Planter:** Statistically speaking, new churches reach, baptize, and disciple more people than established churches; but many leaders wonder if they have what it takes to plant a new church. In this session, Matt Chewning will share his experience from going from Corporate America, to seeing a student ministry grow from 30 students to 500 in a year; to then planting and leading Netcast Church in Greater Boston. If you're interested in a discussion around discerning God's call and reaching more people for Jesus, join us for this breakout.

## **11:40 AM BREAKOUT LABS**

### **Lab 1 in Main Worship Center**

**Bethany Barr Phillips**, *Worship Leader*

**Counter Cultural Approach to Worship through Discipleship:** In a time where worship is connected to a church, brand, or group, how can we be certain those we serve are seeking purity over popularity? If you find your students are only "doing" worship and not living as worshipers, it's time to redefine the terms and reinstate the right culture. In this breakout, we'll discuss a counter-cultural approach to worship by way of discipleship, and how to shift the current culture of position and popularity to purity and passion for God.

### **Lab 2 in Children's Building (200)**

**Steve Cherico**, *First Priority Greater Nashville Executive Director*

**The Weight of Words; How the Words We Choose Create the Culture We Lead** – From the beginning of time, words have mattered. The scriptures are filled with the reality that everything in and of the world was created through the speaking of the word by God himself. With this in mind, we will discuss a process to examine our words and the weight they carry in every facet of youth ministry we lead.

### **Lab 3 in The Chapel (240)**

**Amanda Mejias**, *Lifeway Girls Brand Specialist*

**Your Role in Stewarding Her Growth** – How do you help girls love Jesus even after they're no longer in your ministry? You are here because you have been entrusted to disciple and minister to teen girls. We all desire to see a healthy and vibrant ministry full of students walking with Jesus! Let's talk about how to not grow weary or complacent in stewarding this time with your girls.

### **Lab 4 in 501 EF**

**Dr. Jonathan Denton**, *Assistant Professor of Christian Studies/Student Ministry at CSU*

**Investing in Inverse Families: Casting a Vision for Family-Equipping Ministries** – Parenting in today's culture is tough. Equipping families to live Inverse lives is equally as tough. In this breakout, we will discuss one of the great themes of Scripture: every generation is to reach the next generation with the gospel and prepare the next gen to live inversely to the culture. Looking at Psalm 78, we will prepare you to shape parents, families and volunteers to make disciples of the next generation.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is the New 2 Ministry Pre-Conference Gathering at YPS?**

Get what you need before the conference even starts! A 3-hour lunch and learn for those who are New2Ministry (2ish years or so). A roundtable session that is wildly practical, conversational, pro-active, and specifically tuned to set up you, a new-ish youth ministry leader with an action plan for how to better build a healthy ministry. Our friends at Lifeway Students want to connect and equip you with the strategy and stuff you need to lead well now. You can sign up for this as part of your regular YPS registration. Space is limited to 50 people.

### **Where can I hear the SLU Scholar in Residence at YPS?**

**SLU's Scholar in Residence**, Dr. Bill Brown, will speak during the mainstage from YPS as well as answer questions you have submitted (both through registration as well as texted in during the event) in an exclusive breakout session crafted uniquely for YPS attendees in attendance. **Vision for Scholar in Residence Program:** It is SLU's desire to give you, our audience of student ministry practitioners and educators, space to wrestle with worldview type questions that relate to the fast-changing landscape of your student ministries and communities. The vision for this space is that the discussions are crafted and cultivated under the wisdom and guidance of a thought leader. We can think of no better voice to launch this initiative and shepherd these discussions in their inaugural year than Dr. Bill Brown.

**Is YPS really only \$15?**

Yes! Through the generosity of Lifeway Students and other sponsors, this conference is being provided for only \$15 to all advanced registration attendees, \$20 for onsite walk-up attendees. Lunch is provided on Tuesday, but you are on your own for the rest of your meals as well as lodging if needed.

**Who should attend YPS?**

Youth Pastor Summit is geared to all youth pastors and key youth leaders (staff or volunteers). It is also open to Christian educators. **All attendees must be 18 years or older.**

**Can my spouse attend?**

Of course! We love when couples do ministry together. Make sure you register them, so they are guaranteed a spot. Each attendee of YPS must be registered for the event and each attendee must register with their unique email address.

**I have a small child; can they attend with me?**

We think families are great and time together is important. However, this event is **only for those who are 18 and older** and who have graduated high school. We want everyone to have the best experience possible at this event, so please make arrangements to leave your children at home or arrange childcare outside of the conference.

**Can I transfer my ticket to someone else?**

If you are registered as a group, we will do a one-time transfer of any of your participants, without penalty. Transfers are not available on individual registrations. This one-time transfer must occur a minimum of ten business days before the event. To make a transfer on your account, email us at [yps@studentleadership.net](mailto:yps@studentleadership.net) from your group leader's email indicating the individual(s) you are canceling and the name, email, and DOB of the new registration(s). We will only make a transfer(s) on each group registration one time, and once you have made a transfer, your group is then finalized.