

What will your story be in 2010?  
Make it one to remember on a Youthmark Mission Venture.

# STORY



2010 Youthmark Mission Ventures —  
Equipping Teens to Write *Their* Story as They Live *His* Story.

# STORY



Every teen is writing a story.

## Every teen is writing a story.

It's the story of life—the constantly-unfolding account of experiences, friendships, failures and successes. And for a teen who follows Christ, it's the story of an ever-growing relationship with Him.

As a teen grows in faith, certain experiences can leave a lasting impression. Some can make a **life-changing impact**. And when that occurs, an unforgettable chapter of life's story is written. We're seeing it happen every year in the lives of hundreds of teens when they take part in a **Youthmark Mission Venture**.

A Youthmark Mission Venture is an opportunity to break free from the status quo. It's a chance to go to a different place, to meet different people, to do something extraordinary. It's a time to write one's own story while communicating *His* story—both in word and deed.

**What story will the teenagers from your church write in 2010?** If they participate in a Youthmark Mission Venture you can be sure that their story will be punctuated with purpose. These remarkable expeditions of outreach and service enable teens to touch others' lives with the love of Christ. And in the process, their own lives are transformed.

“ This really helped me grow spiritually and challenged me to share my faith more and more! Working on my testimony was really helpful because I learned more about who I am and what it really means to be a Christ follower.

— Kevin Johnson, High School Student ”



# The **STORY** Has a Purpose and a Destination



## A New Place. A New Person.

The story of every Youthmark Mission Venture begins with a purpose and moves toward a destination. The purpose is to provide teens with **a real-life, hands-on ministry and mission experience**—a priceless opportunity for personal growth and spiritual enrichment. The destination is not merely a new place but a new person—a teen's life deepened and energized by God.

And it isn't just the time spent on the trip that makes the difference—it's also the unique preparatory phases leading up to the Mission Venture and the follow-through emphasis after the teens return home. The Youthmark strategy encompasses all the elements—*before, during* and *after* each mission experience.

Youthmark is offering three distinct Mission Venture packages for Summer 2010—**YMV Basic**, **YMV Select** and **YMV Complete**. These options are designed to meet the needs and fit the goals of virtually any youth ministry. Through **YMV Basic** or **YMV Select** you can lead your group **anywhere in the world** that you want to go. Or, with our most popular option—**YMV Complete**—you can select from one of these six possibilities in the U.S. and Canada...

- **Pacific Northwest** (serving in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia)
- **Gulf Coast** (serving in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi)
- **Desert & West** (serving in Arizona, California and Nevada)
- **Mountains & Mid-America** (serving in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, Kansas, South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas)
- **Alaska** (serving in Southeast Alaska)
- **City Venture** (serving in a unique urban outreach in three major cities)

On Mission Ventures into these six areas, well-trained and spiritually prepared teams of youth will get out of their comfort zones and into some of the most neglected places in North America. The goal is not for teens to have a great time (even though they will) but to **make a great impact for Christ and His Kingdom**.



Pacific Northwest



Gulf Coast



Desert & West



Mountains & Mid-America



Southeast Alaska



City Venture

NEW FOR 2010

# The **STORY** Requires Character Development



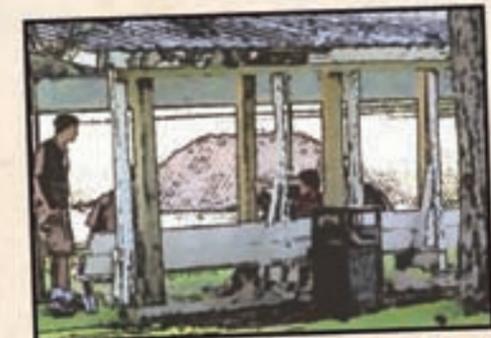
## Developing Character, Declaring Christ.

One of the keys to a memorable story is **effective character development**. Think of a great book you've read or a great movie you've seen. Chances are, the greatness of that book or movie was rooted in the way the characters were developed and in the qualities they revealed.

The story of every Youthmark Mission Venture begins with the development of a specific kind of character—**spiritual character**. This element is crucial because mission participants are trained to tell not just **their** story but **The Story**—the unique message of life and hope in Jesus Christ. Through strategic lessons in **STORY: The Mission Prep Workbook**, teens learn about the spiritual character of some of the very first believers—men and women in the early days of Christianity who were bold in faith as they communicated God's message. By studying those individuals and by yielding to God's leading, teens grow in understanding and commitment. As God develops his own character in them, sharing their faith becomes a joyful expression of relationship to Christ and the life they have found in Him.

A guiding thought for every Youthmark Mission Venture is the same one that the Apostle Paul wrote to Philemon: *"I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ."* God's plan is for His children to have a rich, full life, and He desires for each one to be a proclaimer of this faith in order to more fully understand what they have in Him. On the mission itself, teens see firsthand how their own story is being written every time they tell *His* story.

“The Mission Prep Workbook challenged me to do things I normally wouldn't do and I learned a lot from it. It prepared me for questions and faith-challenging obstacles that were ahead of me on our mission trip.”  
— Kaylee Thomson, High School Student



# The STORY Builds



## Retreating in Order to Advance.

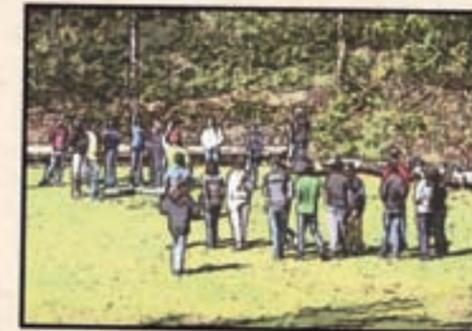
It's one of those ironies of youth ministry: *A retreat can empower you to advance.* That is definitely what happens in preparation for a Youthmark Mission Venture when teens gather for a very different kind of spring retreat—one geared to meeting the challenge that lies ahead. In fact, that's the name of these strategic events in 2010: *Challenge*.

*Challenge 2010* is an ideal time for leaders to connect with their own students, but also to get to know hundreds of others who will be participating in the 2010 Mission Ventures. All of these weekend events are held at retreat centers central to major sending areas. Each retreat begins on a Friday evening and concludes with a brief recap session after dinner on Saturday night, in time for groups to return at a reasonable hour for Sunday at home. *Challenge* is an exciting, jam-packed experience in which teens prepare spiritually and practically for their 2010 Mission Venture!

For participating churches outside an area where spring retreats are taking place, Youthmark hosts one-day "Spring Training" events. Based on the same programming and materials used at the *Challenge* retreats, this intensive training equips students and staff to take their mission to their campus, club and community.

“As a result of the spring training and specifically the Challenge, I was able to talk to a friend of mine from school who is a Mormon ...and the conversation is still going!  
— Catherine Nalley, High School Student”

“We had a great time at the retreat...it has given our group a new strength to follow Jesus and share that with those around us. Thanks again for your help and insight!  
— Jenee DesLongchamp, High School Student”



# The **STORY** Takes Off



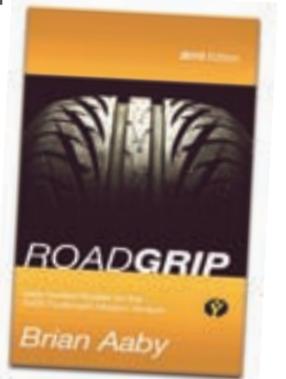
## Leaving on a Jet Plane (or a Church Van).

After months of preparation, prayer, fundraising, more preparation (and lots more prayer), the day finally arrives when team members gather and take off on their Mission Venture. Sometimes the departure is on an airplane, but more commonly of course, a church van. Regardless of the mode of transportation, there's a spirit of anticipation as the experience takes on a new reality.

Each Youthmark Mission Venture is designed with a **hub-and-spokes structure**. The hub is the central point for coordination and communication, typically the largest city in the region. The spokes extend out from the hub to communities within a few hours' drive. Those communities are the places where the concentrated work of the Mission Venture takes place. On the **Mission Launch Weekend**, all teams meet at the hub location for worship, prayer, fellowship, review and last-minute instructions. It's an exciting, energizing experience!

On Day 1 of the Mission Launch Weekend teens begin to track their journey through a unique publication called **RoadGrip**. This important booklet guides each participant in studies and applications tailored to their mission experience. The insights from each day's *RoadGrip*, coupled with guided discussions at night, adds greatly to the value of the mission experience. Prioritizing time in God's Word, prayer and application on the mission helps teens to form the habits they need for a balanced Christian life.

**The 10-day mission isn't just for those on the trip.** Back home are loving parents who are constantly thinking of and praying for their children. That's why Youthmark created **HomeBase**—a unique devotional resource designed for the parents of teen mission participants. *HomeBase* provides a spiritual connection with what their sons and daughters are going through. This acclaimed resource enhances parent-teen communication and facilitates the transition back to life together at home after the Mission Venture.



# The **STORY** Gets Exciting



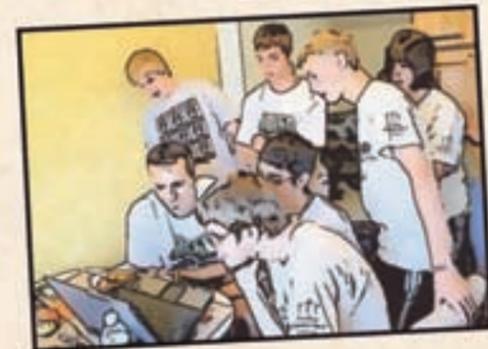
## Taking on Challenges, Daring to Make a Difference.

As teens play their various roles on a Mission Venture the activities can range from the mundane to the monumental. **Specific projects and priorities are determined by what is most needed in the place where they're serving.** Responsibilities might include the sweaty work of a community improvement task or the noisy work of leading a Vacation Bible School for elementary school kids. And every Mission Venture involves lots of opportunities for **teen-to-teen interaction and faith-sharing conversations.**

A Mission Venture is not a vacation, but it can be (and usually is) much more exciting than a vacation. In fact, it has the potential for life-changing influence on a teen's heart. When a young person enters a different world and shares the love and hope of Christ with people in that world, the results are **transformational.**

A key element of the Youthmark strategy is daily, ongoing communication. For example, every team is provided with **a unique Youthmark.com blog site** to stay in touch with family and friends back home and across the country who are praying for the success of the trip. This is a proven forum for leaders and students to communicate prayer requests before and during the mission trip, or to give reports or post pictures to show everyone what's happening. In 2009, these sites averaged about 200 blog viewings per day, per team.

*“Our trips were great and I'm looking forward to next year.... My personal highlight was watching the students do what they were trained for. Every one of them did a great amount of preparation for this trip and it was exciting to see them step up and use that preparation in being bold and sharing Christ with other students.”*  
— Derek Edwards, Youth Pastor, Black Diamond, WA



# The **STORY** Gets Serious



## Touching Lives in Unlikely Places.

A Youthmark Mission Venture is anything but your typical missions trip. From day one, our driving objective has been **to make an unexpected impact in unlikely places**. We want to take the love and truth of Jesus to communities that are neglected, needy and often desperate...

Places like the **small towns along America's Gulf Coast**, where the devastating effects of Hurricanes *Katrina*, *Ike*, *Rita* and *Gustav* are still evident years after the storms—towns that haven't received the attention of New Orleans or Biloxi, and never will.

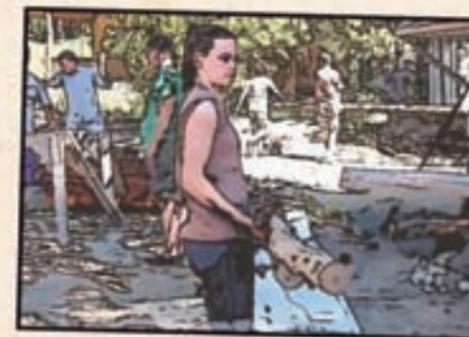
Places like the **rural communities of the American West** where the percentage of teens in crisis is far higher than outsiders would ever imagine.

Places like **the inner city** where youth are a present-but-unseen element of society, the majority of them living in broken homes and surrounded by broken lives.

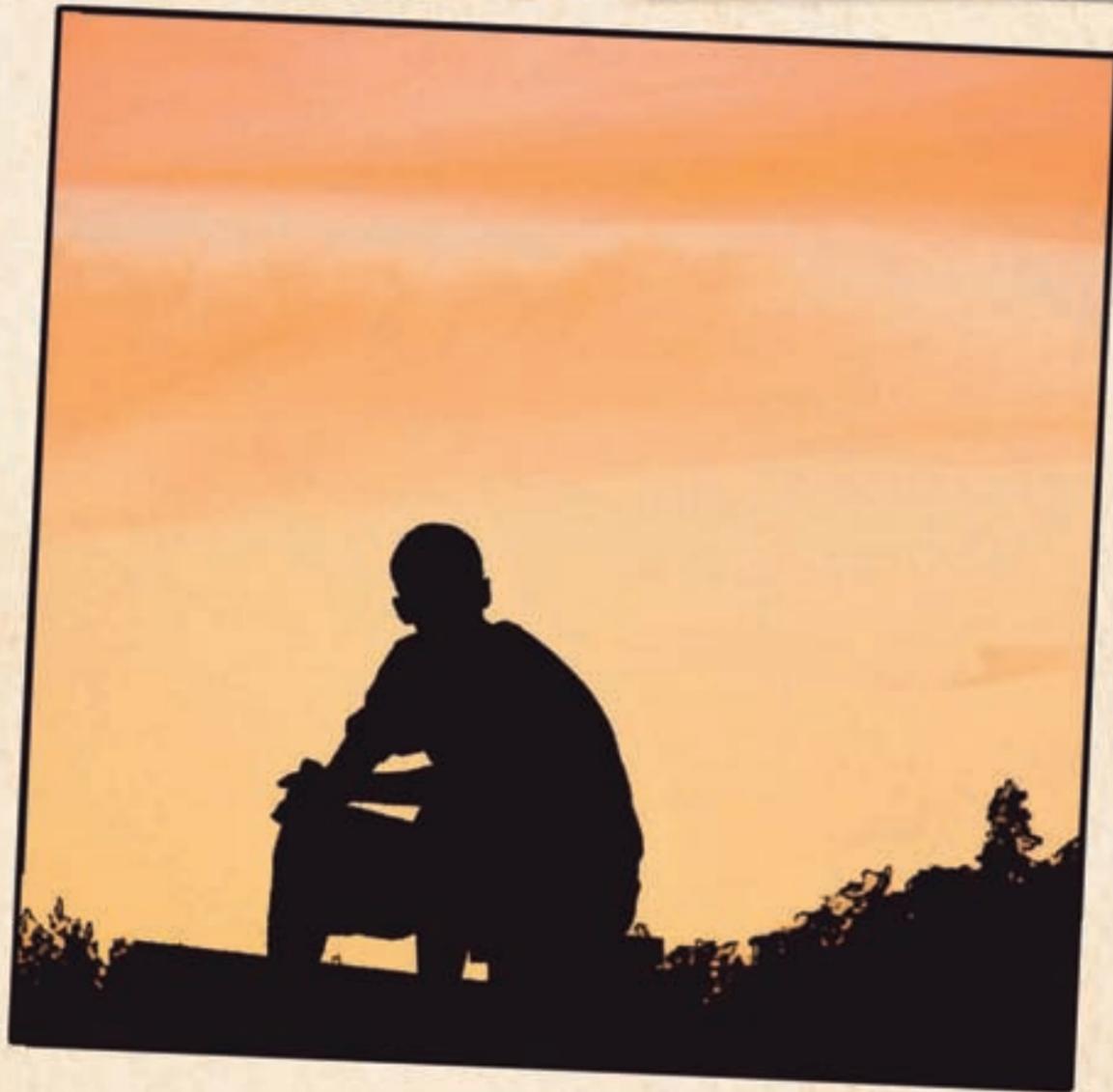
**Jesus would go to these people...and so should we.** That's the passion and determination behind every Youthmark Mission Venture, and that's why the experience has such a transformational effect on participants and recipients alike. Nothing makes a greater impact on a teen's heart than this kind of person-to-person ministry.

“*Brian — Perhaps we could talk on the phone instead of through email. I have so much to tell you it would take me a year to type it all. I could summarize the week like this: “Totally amazing and life changing!”*”

— Pastor Rob Tibbits, Vinton, LA  
[Host Pastor for a Gulf Coast Mission Venture]



# The **STORY** Goes On



## Writing the Next Chapters of a Life Story.

Let's consider that question again: **What story will the teenagers from your church write in 2010?**

As they prepare for, participate in and return from a Youthmark Mission Venture, your teens will write memorable chapters of their life story—chapters filled with unforgettable images, impressions and perspectives. But the writing doesn't stop when the mission is over. **The Story goes on!** More chapters are written as teens who have lived some amazing moments incorporate those experiences into their daily life at home, at school and in their relationships.

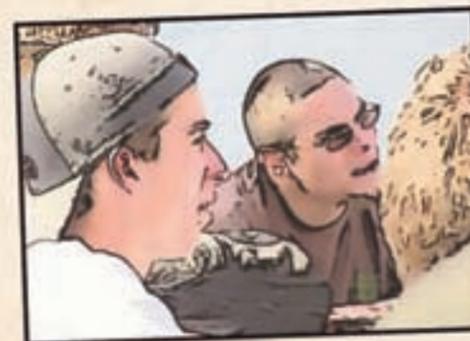
But how can this dynamic keep going strong? Youth leaders are all too aware that many teens who come down from the "spiritual high" of a mission or retreat will come down hard. Recognizing that, Youthmark created **a specific resource to help teenagers merge back into "normal" life** at home while keeping the passion for the missional life they experienced on the trip. **Merge** is a guided study that enables the entire youth group—including those who didn't go on the Mission Venture—to come together in spiritual unity and understanding.

“*The entire trip was amazing and our teens came back ignited for Jesus.*

— Joe Monto, Youth Pastor, Kent, WA”

“*That might have been the best trip I have ever been involved in. There could not have been a better thing for our youth group. Some of our students grew more in one week than I have seen in the two years that I have been leading them... Our students are still as excited as the day we got back.*

— Rob Holster, Youth Pastor, Spring, TX”



# Writing Your **STORY** in 2010

JULY 2010						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	
5	6	7	8	9	10	
12	13	14	15	16	17	
19	20	21	22	23	24	
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## The Youthmark Mission Venture Strategy —

A balanced approach that incorporates four key elements:

- Comprehensive Training
- Creative Resources
- Strategic Events
- Personalized Consulting

The strategy comes together in powerfully effective ways through the following components...

### Youthmark Mission Ventures: *The Complete Guide* [2010 Edition]

The title says it all. This publication is a complete guide to all things YMV—from a detailed timeline to all the forms, letters and email messages you will need to send out before, during and after your mission. Also featured is a list of 200+ questions you'll want to have answered before you venture forward. *The Complete Guide* is provided in book and e-book formats and includes copies of the *YMV Leader's Workbook* and the Leader's Edition of *STORY: The Mission Prep Workbook*.

### Youthmark Mission Ventures: *Leader's Workbook* [2010 Edition]

This resource will guide you as a leader through many of the nuts and bolts of organizing a teen mission trip. From your first parents' meeting to the debriefing of your mission trip this leadership notebook will help answer your questions and address your concerns.

### *STORY: The Mission Prep Workbook* [Leader's Edition]

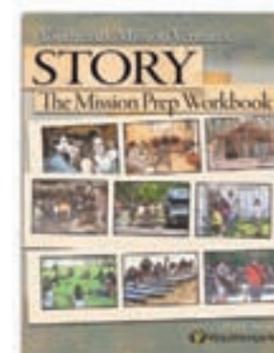
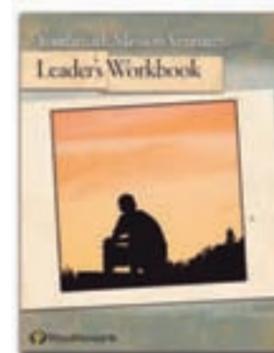
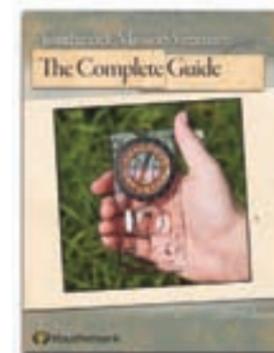
*STORY: The Mission Prep Workbook* is the most prominent tool in preparing a team to meet the challenges of the mission. The Leader's Edition of this vital resource includes ideas, insights and "extras" to help youth leaders discern the best ways to guide the training process.

### *MissionTips*

*MissionTips* is a monthly resource for youth leaders, delivered via email in PDF format. This valuable publication provides reminders, applications and helpful hints as a youth ministry moves toward, through and out of the summer months.

### *STORY: The Mission Prep Workbook*

*STORY: The Mission Prep Workbook* is a crucial resource in the Mission Venture process. As part of multi-year plan, Youthmark creates a unique publication for each year of Mission Ventures. In 2009, teams trained with *MOVE: The Mission Prep Workbook*—an exploration of the first five chapters in the Book of Acts. In 2010, *STORY: The Mission Prep Workbook* picks up where *MOVE* left off, delving deep into Acts 6 thru 13. As teens study the character development in Stephen, Peter, Paul and others, they discover how God is developing His character in their lives as well! *STORY* is a two- to four-month study and can be used for individuals, small group and in large group settings. It comes complete with Bible Studies and Spiritual Discipline activities.





## PARTNERSHIP: Funding Strategies for Mission Ventures

The Youthmark approach to funding for Mission Ventures is highly effective. Better yet, it is low-key, easy-to-implement and faith-based. In 2009, not a single team was under-funded on any Youthmark Mission Venture. Based on an approach to building partnerships instead of just raising money, this publication is both highly valued and highly appreciated.

## CHALLENGE 2010: Youthmark Spring Retreats

As mentioned earlier, the *Challenge* spring retreat is an ideal time for leaders to connect with their own students, but also to get to know others who will be participating in the 2010 Mission Ventures. All of these weekend events are held at retreat centers central to major sending areas. Each retreat begins on a Friday evening and concludes with a brief recap session after dinner on Saturday night, in time for groups to return at a reasonable hour for Sunday at home.



*Challenge* is an exciting, jam-packed experience in which teens get ready for their 2010 Mission Venture! For participating churches outside an area where spring retreats are taking place, Youthmark hosts one-day “*Spring Training*” events. Based on the same programming and materials used at the *Challenge* retreats, this concentrated day of training equips students and staff to take their mission to their campus, club, home and community.

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## Mission Launch Weekend

Each Mission Venture has a **hub-and-spokes structure**. The hub is the central point for coordination and communication, typically the largest city in the region. The spokes extend out from the hub to communities within a few hours’ drive. Those communities are the places where the most intensive work of the Mission Venture takes place. On the Mission Launch Weekend, all teams meet at the hub location for worship, prayer, review, and last-minute instructions. It’s an exciting, energizing experience!

## Your Team’s Blog

Blogging is an excellent way to communicate with mission participants, family members, congregants and all prayer/financial supporters throughout the entire mission process. On the [Youthmark.com](http://Youthmark.com) website a specific site is created for each team participating in the 2010 Mission Ventures. This has proven to be the ideal forum for leaders and students to communicate prayer requests before and during the mission trip, or to give reports or post photos to show everyone what’s happening. In 2009 the site averaged about 200 blog viewings per day, per team—a marvelous testimony to the faithfulness of the ministry partners back home.



## YMV2010 T-Shirt

How could we do something great and memorable without a customized T-shirt? The YMV2010 T-shirt worn by all Mission Venture participants does its part to build team identity.

## RoadGrip

This important booklet guides each participant in studies and applications tailored to their mission experience. The insights from each day’s *RoadGrip*, coupled with guided discussions at night, greatly enhances the experience of the mission. Prioritizing time in God’s Word, prayer and application on the mission helps to form the habits teens (and adults, too) need for a balanced Christian life.

## HomeBase

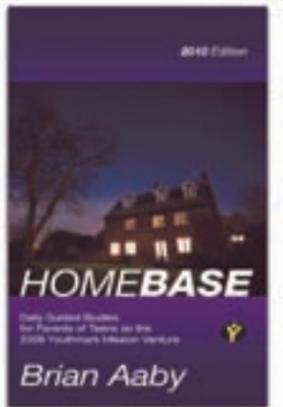
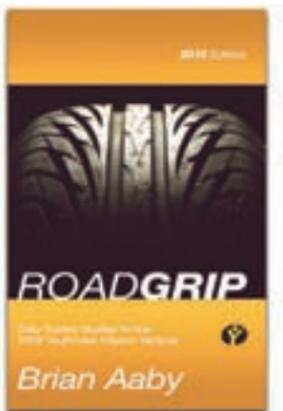
The 10-day mission isn’t just for those on the trip. Back home are loving parents who are constantly thinking of and praying for their children. *HomeBase* is a unique devotional resource designed for the parents of mission participants, providing a spiritual connection with what their sons and daughters are experiencing. This outstanding tool enhances parent-teen communication and facilitates the transition back into life together at home.

## Merge

Youth leaders know what it’s like to come off the “spiritual high” of a mission or retreat. *Merge* is designed to help mission participants return to “normal” life at home without losing the passion for the missional life they experienced on the trip. This guided study assists participants in the first few weeks home in continuing to understand God’s Word and apply it to the mission of everyday life.

“The Mission Venture team that came to Pine Valley has left an indelible imprint on how we do discipleship, outreach and ministry in our church. We now have young people that are going out to college and other places, standing and growing strong in the Lord, and coming back to invest and serve in our community in the summer. In addition to what we do at home, we are hoping to go on mission to another community in 2010! Thank you...and praise the Lord!

— Pastor Joe Murrell, Pastor, Pine Valley, CA  
[Host Pastor for a Desert & West Mission Venture]



## “Downright Affordable Pricing”

“Downright affordable pricing”—that’s how one church leader referred to the cost of a Youthmark Mission Venture. And downright flexible, too, because you can choose from three different price structures, with a sliding scale in each one based on the number of participants. With costs ranging from less than \$400 to under \$150 per person, there’s a solution to fit virtually every situation.

PRICING SCHEDULE – 2010 Youthmark Mission Ventures						
No. of Participants	1-12	13-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50+
<b>YMV Complete</b>	\$397	\$377	\$367	\$347	\$337	\$327
<b>YMV Select</b>	\$257	\$247	\$237	\$227	\$217	\$207
<b>YMV Basic</b>	\$197	\$187	\$177	\$167	\$157	\$147



Gulf Coast



Mountains & Mid-America



Desert & West



Pacific Northwest



Alaska



City Venture

## YMV Complete — Youthmark’s All-in-One Mission Strategy

**YMV Complete** is Youthmark’s all-in-one mission strategy. Just as the word implies, it is *complete*—all the guidance, all the resources, all the events, all the assistance you need for a successful trip. For 2010 we’ve targeted five major regions of the U.S. plus the inner city (for a pilot program called *City Venture*). When you sign up for one of these missions you’ll work with a Youthmark Regional Director to go step-by-step through the process of planning, preparing, launching and leading your unique venture. One of the first steps on that journey is choosing the area where your team will serve. Here are the possibilities...

### Gulf Coast

**Launch Dates:** June 18 and July 16 — Two trips to choose from! Devastation from Hurricanes *Katrina, Ike, Rita* and *Gustav* is still evident in small towns throughout the Gulf Coast. The opportunity to come alongside the hospitable people of this region and share the love of Jesus is one to be considered.

### Mountains and Mid-America

**Launch Date:** June 18  
Geographically diverse Mission Venture opportunities! Teams may choose to serve amidst the spectacular beauty of the Rockies, the rugged red rock hills of Utah or the sweeping plains of the Midwest. Spanning at least nine states, the Mountains and Mid-America ventures will be a blessing to all who participate!

### Desert and West

**Launch Date:** June 25  
From the scenic California coast to the picturesque deserts of Arizona and Nevada, the Desert and West Mission Ventures offer great diversity and even greater opportunity. Decide on one of these regions and Youthmark will help you to get ready for a life-transforming adventure.

### Pacific Northwest

**Launch Dates:** June 25, July 9 and July 23 — Three trips to choose from! Unknown to many Christians, the beautiful Northwest remains one of America’s most unchurched regions. Perhaps God is calling you and your team to reach out to this spiritually challenging region.

### Alaska

**Launch Date:** July 8  
Our launch will take place in Alaska’s capital city, Juneau. From there, some teams will travel via the Alaska Marine Highway to remote, rural destinations. Some will work in the bustling tourist towns and others will serve among Alaska’s native people. In every setting, the experience will be unforgettable.

### City Venture

**Launch Date:** July 9  
Major cities were prominent in the establishment of the Church and the spread of the Gospel. 2010 marks the first year for *City Venture*, but it certainly won’t be the last. Teams who take on this challenge will experience what it’s like to share Christ’s love and truth in a visible but often neglected place—the inner city. This urban mission will be one to remember!

WHAT YOU RECEIVE	YMV BASIC	YMV SELECT	YMV COMPLETE
<b>Services and Events</b>			
Scouting, Set-Up and Hand-Off			●
<i>Challenge 2010</i> Spring Retreat / Spring Training		●	●
Mission Launch Weekend			●
<b>Resources for Leaders</b>			
YMV 2010: <i>The Complete Guide</i>			●
YMV 2010: <i>Leader’s Workbook</i>		●	●
<i>STORY: Mission Prep Workbook</i> Leader’s Edition	●	●	●
<i>MissionTips</i> Monthly E-Letter		●	●
<b>Resources for Participants</b>			
<i>STORY: Mission Prep Workbook</i>	●	●	●
<i>RoadGrip</i> (Guided Study for Mission Participants)	●	●	●
<i>HomeBase</i> (Guided Study for Parents)	●	●	●
<i>Merge</i> (Guided Study Following the Mission Venture)	●	●	●
<b>Other Benefits</b>			
YMV 2010 T-shirt			●
Personalized Youthmark Blog		●	●
<i>PARTNERSHIP: Mission Funding Strategies</i>	●	●	●

Thanks for taking the time to read about **Youthmark Mission Ventures**. 2010 promises to be an awesome year of service, outreach and spiritual growth for youth across America. I hope that the teens from your church will experience one of these remarkable opportunities.

**Youthmark Ministries** is committed to strong partnerships with local churches from coast to coast. Through innovative resources and transformative programs, **Youthmark** is enabling churches to engage, equip and energize teens to follow Jesus Christ wholeheartedly and to proclaim **His Story** to all peoples!

We are at your service, and we're ready to answer your questions, discuss your dreams and explore the possibilities for your youth ministry.

May God bless you richly!

Serving Him,



Brian Aaby  
Founder & President



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