

Wanted: Full-Time Youth Pastors

Rev. John Belden

Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church is seeking men to fill several positions for full-time youth pastors. There are only two qualifications, you must be a Christian and you must have your own youth. If you are interested in this position, you need not apply. You're hired. You can start today.

Your first assignment is to repent before God and seek His mercy for neglecting your responsibilities as the spiritual leader of your home. When you rise from your knees, go directly to you wife and children and seek their forgiveness for this neglect as well.

This position will then require you to spend an enormous amount of time with your wife and "youth group." This means you must put aside your selfish desires to "play" with your four-wheelers, play-stations, golf clubs, etc. Your family is now the center of your life. This is your full time job.

Your next assignment is to begin the habit of personal Bible reading and prayer. If you're not feeding yourself, you certainly can't feed your family. And God will not bless your labors if you are not regularly praying for your family.

Then you will be required to have "youth group" every day in your home. This means a daily habit of family worship. Usually, the best time is around the dinner table when everyone is there. This time should include Bible reading, singing, instruction, and prayer. You might want to start with the Proverbs. They're designed to instruct children.

If something gets in the way of this, cut it out of your schedule. It's not as important. Remember, you have a full time position now. You are a youth pastor. If you are too busy for this, you are too busy.

Next, establish a regular habit of public worship. If you are not an active member of a church attending regularly, shame on you. Stop making excuses. Your "youth group" needs to see that worshipping God is the most important thing in your life. If they don't, do not expect them to think God is very important.

Don't worry if the younger ones cannot sit still or get much from the sermon. This is all part of the training process. It takes time. This is why your family worship is important. It will prepare them for public worship. Remember what Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them."

Then spend time talking to your youth group, teaching them about God's commands. "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" (Deut. 6:7). In other words, teach them all the time, in the course of your everyday talk.

Use their sins as opportunities to teach them about the grace of God in Jesus. Tell them you are also a sinner and that your only hope for forgiveness is in Christ. When they lie, say, "Do you see why you need a Savior?" And be sure they hear you confess yours sins. Nothing turns a child off like hypocrisy.

This position pays very well. The rewards are immeasurable. By God's grace, through prayer, you should see results that will bear fruit for eternity. You will have the joy of watching your children raise your grandchildren this way. You will have the pleasure of knowing that you have left a godly seed.

Don't worry about there not being enough positions available. There are so many vacant positions in Letcher County we have no fear that we will run out. If we do run out, we will rejoice and praise God.

If you haven't caught on by now, this is not really a job offer. It's a job description. If you are a Christian father, it's a description of the job you already have. "And you fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). You've had it since the day your child was born. Have you been doing your job?

John Belden is the pastor of Neon Reformed Presbyterian Church in Neon,
Kentucky. For more information, please visit our web site at
<http://www.neonrpc.org>.