

Modesto Network hosts citywide worship service

by Marian C. Fritzemeier

Kids arrived in all shapes and sizes, ranging from sixth-graders through college students. Some were 4'5" while others towered over them at 6' 6". Some came by bus, while others drove. But they all came for one purpose – to worship God...together.

"I wanted my students to gain a vision that they are part of something bigger than just our youth group."

The Church of Modesto (CA) Youth Pastors' Network brought 1,800 youth together for the First Annual Church of Modesto Citywide Youth Worship Service on Sunday morning, April 30, 2000.

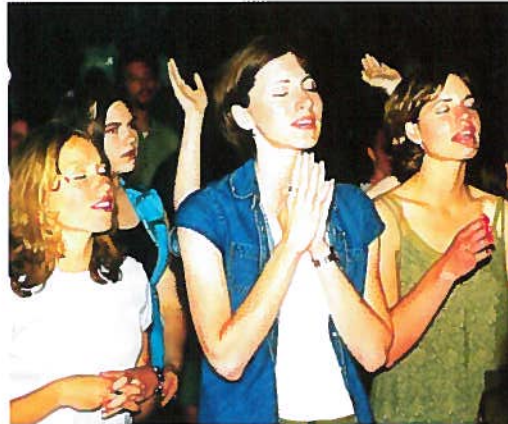
Youth pastor Marvin Jacobo said, "I lead just one flock and I wanted my students to gain a vision that they are part of something bigger than just our youth group."

Worship team leader Chris McPherson recruited a youth worship team representing seven different churches, and students were given worship song programs to facilitate more active participation. And participate they did!

Marian Fritzemeier is the wife of Rick Fritzemeier, a Network Coordinator who serves as executive director of Stanislaus County YFC.



For help on planning a citywide youth service, contact Rick at rjf@scyfc.com.



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A lighthouse symbol provided the backdrop as Chris began the event by asking, "Is there anyone out there who has found Jesus?" The electrified crowd hollered a resounding, "Yes!"

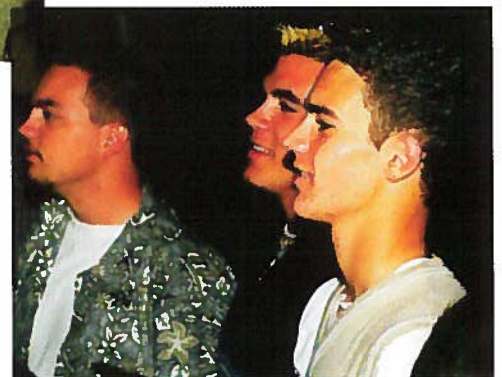
He then led the crowd in corporate prayer. "We are meeting together because of what *You* did on the cross for all of us. *You* have called us to this city to be lighthouses for *You* – a catalyst to reach our friends, family, classmates and teachers."

Students prayed in clusters for their campuses, specifically asking God to:

- ➔ Protect their schools and friends from the evil one.
- ➔ Give them a passion for Him.
- ➔ Pour out His Holy Spirit on their city, their schools and their lives.

Then, guest speaker Derron Higgins addresses the crowd. "Wow! This is what the body of Christ looks like in Modesto!" He challenged the students that there is no greater mission field than their campus. As an invitation was given, students came forward and prayed with their friends to receive Christ.

Students were given the opportunity to pray alone in order to get their lives right with God. Several came down by them-



selves, while others walked hand in hand with their friends. An overwhelming sense of the Holy Spirit's presence filled the room as the students flocked to various parts of the gymnasium to pray.

Numerically, the First Annual Church of Modesto Citywide Youth Worship Service was a success, but what impact did the event have on the students and adult leaders who attended? Thirteen-year-old Jamie said, "I came today because it was something different. I liked the worship songs and how everyone came down to pray." According to Hannah, a high school senior, "I liked seeing everyone worshipping together. The best part was being united, not divided."

Melissa had the opportunity to pray with Brady, a girl she had just met, who turned and asked her, "Will you go down to pray with me?" Brady ended up committing her life to Christ. **MM**



NATIONAL
NETWORK
OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

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Marian Fritzemeier
Stanislaus County Youth for Christ
PO Box 335
Modesto, CA 95353-0335

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Dear Marian,

I want to thank you for your contribution to the latest issue of the *National Network of Youth Ministries Magazine*. It is my feeling that many youth workers have been touched and challenged by your article on "Modesto's Citywide Youth Service".

What a thrilling event! Your article made me feel as if I was there personally participating with the youth! I pray that the Lord will continue to bless you and your husband as you minister to the youth in the Stanislaus County region.

You will find a couple copies of the magazine enclosed. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you should need a few more.

Lord bless you and thanks again!

Sharon Albritton
Contributing Editor

See:

Enclosures