

# Nobody Stands Alone

## The Vision:

Together we can grow in service to one another, and service to our youth. Together we will enable and empower students to stand with one another. Together we will challenge students towards prayer in their schools, towards community amongst fellow Christians, and towards partnership in reaching their friends.

This coming year we have adopted a theme for the BCOQ Youth. The theme NOBODY STANDS ALONE clearly indicates our commitment to stand with one another in ministry partnership. Believing that:

- ❑ Together we are stronger than alone
- ❑ Together we can effectively reach students with the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ❑ Local ministries working together are more effective
- ❑ Together local ministries can powerfully impact their communities and schools.
- ❑ Students in community are able to better care for one another and help to combat the prevailing sense of isolation.
- ❑ Local schools will be impacted by students in prayer together. These students will grow closer to one another and invoke the power of the Spirit in their local schools.
- ❑ Together youth workers can encourage one another, serve one another and resource one another.
- ❑ Together we can do what we can never accomplish alone.

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Why choose to participate in this theme with others?

1. The BCOQ YOUTH Department has been working on a graphically designed slogan: NOBODY STANDS ALONE:



**NOBODY STANDS ALONE**

We hope to have this logo, or the other logo (top of page one) imprinted on a large vinyl banner (Approx. 3' x 10'). This banner can be hung in your youth ministry room, setting the tone each meeting, in a professional and exciting format.

Since the BCOQ Youth Department is ordering a banner, the set up costs will already be absorbed, so for your ministry, a banner (or more) will be reasonably priced (approx. \$150. If your ministry would be interested in purchasing a "NOBODY STANDS ALONE" banner for your church, contact us soon and we can arrange for that to happen!

2. Creating **momentum** in ministry is often the "missing link" in struggling youth ministries. To help you create momentum, and sustain it through a ministry year, we have done some brainstorming on a possible pathway of topics, events, and curriculum for this coming year.
3. We also plan to work in partnership with you... as you develop creative topics, programming, games, dramas and other ways of developing the theme... we want you to share your ideas with others. Together we can use our gifts to serve our students!!

If this is of service to you, we are thankful. If this will not assist you and your ministry, then please do not feel fettered in any way to use these suggestions or events. Again – we believe that together we are stronger than alone, and that **NOBODY STANDS ALONE**, is a theme which when developed carefully can effectively assist the local youth ministry in discipling students in their Christian walk

Some potential topics which you could develop for this coming year:

1. Nobody Stands Alone in suffering
2. Nobody Stands Alone in accountability
3. Nobody Stands Alone in weakness
4. Nobody Stands Alone in Prayer
5. Nobody Stands Alone in reaching friends
6. Nobody Stands Alone on the battlefield
7. Nobody Stands Alone in your community (partnership with city churches)
8. Nobody Stands Alone in Celebration
9. Nobody Stands Alone in Service
10. Nobody Stands Alone in giftedness (we are the body of Christ)
11. Leaders don't stand alone (not lone rangers)
12. Nobody Stands Alone in the impact of sin
13. Nobody Stands Alone when experiencing victory over sin.
14. Nobody Stands Alone in Confession.
15. Nobody Stands Alone in love (love one another)
16. Nobody Stands Alone in Discipleship.

# NOBODY STANDS ALONE

Following is just one suggested pathway in the development of a year long commitment to our theme. I have not included every event for obvious reasons – your youth ministry must determine its own purposeful calendar, and then participate in what is best for you. Also, your church, youth network, community or association may have events of which we are not aware, but which are important for your youth ministry to join.

Here is a suggested pathway to think about your year at a glance, participating at strategic times with the larger community of believers, and growing closer to Christ as a youth ministry on a weekly basis. :

1. Early in September set the **vision** before your youth, that this will be a year committed to the development of community (committed to one another), to the development of group prayer, and to a concerted effort to impact local schools – through prayer, and outreach. (Contact Darren for more information on developing a vision, mission, and values statement for your ministry).
2. Purchase a banner from the BCOQ Youth Department, and have your students and leaders brainstorm ways in which **NOBODY STANDS ALONE** can be best implemented in your local setting.
3. Challenge your students to participate in local **See You At The Pole** events. It may mean that your students be catalytic in their schools to make this happen, or that they join with other students who are already meeting together in prayer or Bible Study groups at the local school campus.
4. Organize a Pre-SYATP prayer time/rally – with other churches from your community, or even just with your ministry – but sometime prior to September 20<sup>th</sup> (SYATP traditionally happens on the Third Wednesday morning of September), come together with your students and empower them to make a difference on their campuses. There are SYATP videos and other material available. Visit [www.syatp.com](http://www.syatp.com) or contact Mars Hill Media at 1-800-580-6479 for other video material. Mars Hill has a video (from 1997) called “Echoes of the Spirit: A Generation called to prayer” that is pretty good in encouraging your students in prayer (though American – there is a Canadian version too).

Visit <http://www.canadafire.org/ver1/default.asp> for information about an organization called Canada Fire that can help you with this focus.

**Send pictures** of your students praying with others around flag poles at your schools. Have a student or two write a “journal” about the experience, and the impact that they believe it is having in their school. Share “God Stories” with each other in your youth ministry the next week, but also forward the stories and pictures by snail mail or email to the BCOQ office, so that we can develop a story book of God at work across the Convention!!

Contact us with the SYATP information for your community, and we will help you in developing a **press release** to send to your local newspapers. Have the newspapers (or t.v.) stations be a part of the rally, as they come and videotape or report on the prayer. Since this is a global phenomenon, it will be of interest to them!!

5. Consider participating in the **2000ACTS event** hosted by the Canadian Youth Network. This event at Cops Coliseum saw over 10,000 students and leaders come together last year for the purpose of being commissioned into service in their local communities. *This year the focus will be on developing prayer groups on local school campuses.* Visit [www.2000ACTS.com](http://www.2000ACTS.com) to discover more about this exciting event on Sept. 30. It is an all day event (noon till about 9:30 p.m.) with lots of worship, great music and great speakers. This year Darian Kovac, the 19 year old visionary of Canada Fire <http://www.canadafire.org/ver1/default.asp> will be speaking to the students at their level!
6. Throughout the fall, spend time developing **small groups** in your youth ministry. Maybe you are saying: “we are a small group” – well make it intentional. Pray together, build community amongst your group and train students as both leaders and participants. Speak on issues of: The power of prayer, community of believers (use Acts 2:42ff as a key scripture passage). Visit the BCOQ YOUTH website often, and check the NOBODY STANDS ALONE section to share your ideas, and glean ideas from others. For more assistance on actual topics call Darren. For assistance in finding solid Small groups material or other youth ministry resources Call Bernice Queck at the Read-On bookstore for small group materials. (1-416-622-8600 x308)
7. Develop a **mentoring program** amongst parents and other older church members. Use II Tim. 2:2 as the verse to challenge people to invest in the lives of others. Be watching as we develop a “mentoring” portion to our “resources” section on the website. These mentors can assist even a volunteer youth leader in the development of a youth leadership team, for the purpose of discipling students in your ministry.

8. Encourage your **students to share** at youth group about what is happening in their schools – about prayer groups that are working, about Bible Studies that are occurring, or about friends who are being challenged to consider Jesus Christ for the first time. Send videos or written transcripts of your student stories to the BCOQ Youth office, so that we can post them, or use clips of stories in encouraging the wider BCOQ family.
9. **Assist your students in reaching** their friends, by training them in the virtues of true friendship, by equipping them with a knowledge of how to witness to their friends, and by offering events which the students can invite their friends to – connected with the church. Strategic outreach events, or non-threatening events like Wonderland, or paintball, or go-carting, or a water park...etc.
10. **Connect** with other youth workers in your community. Pray together for the local schools and the Christian students that together you care about. Divide up your time, so that youth workers are visiting each school, not all targeting the same school.
11. **Visit your students** at school. Get permission from the school administration, but go and visit your students during lunch. Bring a pizza with you, and just sit down at a table with your students... their friends WILL join you!! Just hang and build relationship.
12. I recently heard about a “kewl” way to **build community** in your youth ministry and to serve your community at Halloween. I heard about this idea from Whitby Baptist Church where Joshua Sklar is the youth pastor.... **Trick or Treat for Hope**. Have your students go out into the community, equipped with badges or letters (on church letterhead), and rather than dress up and collect candy... have them collect canned goods for a local food bank or mission. If you work at this early enough, local newspapers can run a story about what you are going to do (have a picture of your youth group and an explanation of “Trick or Treat for Hope”. Contact us if you would like help on **developing a press release** for your community newspaper.
13. In November, Youth Workers are encouraged to attend the “**Increasing Your Personal Impact as a Youth Worker**” retreat at BLEC. This retreat will build into your life like few other things do. A special time, being taught about the inner issues of leadership, spending time in community, and being ministered to through music and good times.

14. Your Junior High Students will love “**Junior High Getaway**” at Muskoka Woods in November. Think about this great weekend, with guest speaker: Dave Overholot.
15. Christmas – Celebrate Christmas with an event that is designed for your students to bring friends. We started a tradition in our local youth ministry that grew to be huge. We did an annual **Christmas Semi-formal Banquet**. This was an outreach event that included getting all spiffed up (the girls love this, and the guys come because the girls love this!!), a catered meal, an awards ceremony, special music or other entertainment, and an outreach message. A great way to bring your teens together, and their friends will love it too. Christmas is a great time to do outreach because people expect “religious talk” – so help them to understand the real meaning of Christmas. Have your students help you to design such a banquet.. and be involved in the programming. The awards banquet is a great place to have good fun with your students... Crazy awards “Most likely to be wearing a new hair colour tonight award... with nominations and a winner...” Etc. Because it is a banquet, you can charge money per person to help off-set the cost of the meals, speaker, or other entertainment. Be intentional in your outreach to students... encourage your students to prayerfully bring a friend. Pray for the event at your youth ministry prior to the event happening.
16. In November be preparing and registering your students for the up and coming (January 26-28) winter retreat for High School Students... **BLIZZARD 2001**. Theme: NOBODY STANDS ALONE, use this event as the peak event in your year with your students. Enforcing the teaching you have been doing all year. Bo Boshers will teach and pastor the students, while coaching us all as youth leaders. The PennyMerchants will lead us into powerful times of worship, and the great team competitions will bring your students together, and introduce them to other BCOQ youth.



Registration for Blizzard will begin in late October, and registration materials will be sent to your church. Each church must register as a group, since we believe that leadership and small groups are critical components of this weekend.

We will also be asking each registered group to send us photos of your students – together, as we form a NOBODY STANDS ALONE multi-media collage for the weekend!!

17. Spend February **debriefing** from the retreat. Have your small groups and teaching times be reflective of what we experienced together at Blizzard. Have students share testimonies about the life change from the weekend.
18. Those who are within driving distance of Toronto will also be preparing for the "**Centre Court Event**" with the Raptors at the ACC in Toronto. This great outreach opportunity gives your students a chance to bring a friend. In fact work real hard at having every student in your youth ministry invite one non-churched friend!!
19. February and March are often down times in our lives. The sky is bleak, the weather is mostly icky (particularly in Southern Ontario), and the sun is not giving us as much energy as otherwise. Spend time during these months doing glamour topics... talk about spiritual warfare, missions, friendships, dating or sexuality. Plan on doing some fun stuff – Winter outings, sleigh rides, indoor rock-climbing, tobogganing, paint-ball or laserquest... etc.
20. **March Break.** A great time for ministry. Do a children's camp at your church, involving the high school students as leaders. A great ministry to the community. Or do a service project – at your church, in your community or elsewhere. Consider a **missions opportunity** like the one that the BCOQ Youth will be promoting. Do "Random Acts of Kindness" – something that is fun and community building for your students, and gives kindness to others. Visit old age homes, or a prison...  
At the very least, have some fun together – plan a day time event or a couple events in the evening on march break that are just lots of fun.
21. In April – consider the World Vision **30 Hour Famine**. This is a great event to teach your students about world events and development issues. It is a great outreach to involve students from local schools. Consider partnering with a local school and doing the event at the school with the students and teachers there. A potentially great event to build community, and another way to build awareness in your community. Send a press release to your community newspaper promoting the event and the money that you will raise for a good cause!
22. In April, bring yourself, and any other youth leaders you know to the **Gen Next** – Youth Leaders Conference at Mac Divinity College. A great place for you to be trained and renewed in ministry. Get specific skills, be challenged as a leader, and goof off and have lots of fun as we all come together.
23. May. Consider **Encounter** as a way to really end your year with a bang. A great way for your students to have one last important weekend together. Come as a group to enjoy nature, worship together, and be

challenged through teaching. A great way and place to end the small groups that have now been meeting through the year... they can meet together at Blizzard, and now again at Encounter.

24. June... Debrief with your students, and review the year. Can you say that your group is more committed to the idea that "NOBODY STANDS ALONE"? What has that statement meant to your group?

Send your stories, pics and comments to the BCOQ Youth Department and let us publish the stories. In fact, do this throughout the year, as God moves in the lives of specific students. Send us memorable pictures – from an event, a Baptism, a retreat, a school event, a group picture... and we will be able to use them on our website or in our various snail publications.

25. Summer – Challenge your students to go to camp – as campers, as staff, as LIT, as counselors, in the kitchen or on the docks... challenge your students to consider camp as an alternative to a summer job or lazing around. How about a group missions trip – to Toronto – serving with Urban Promise, or somewhere else – a First Nations Reserve, or helping a local mission.

26. Next year we will consider a topic for the entire year again. Let us know if this kind of assistance is helpful!!

This is only a suggested pathway, with suggestions that may or may not work in your given situation. I realize that many churches have traditions and events that you will want to participate in, or that you may join in a local youth network, or as an association in youth ministry. This pathway is not meant to supplant those ministries or events. Rather, our desire is to see each local youth ministry best equipped to reach and lead the students that God has given them.

# **Nobody Stands Alone**