



# Everything changed for me

I was an extreme sport Stingray biker before there was BMX. I was 16 years old when I saved enough to buy my first motorcycle. My Yamaha Enduro gave me everything I needed. I could go anywhere, school, job, and an occasional off-road adventure. I was an adrenaline junkie. I loved going out alone. I found an abandoned quarry where I could test my 125hp enduro for all it was worth. It was my first time. I pulled back the throttle and launched up an extreme vertical hill climb. You might guess how it ended.

At the top of that steep hill I shot into the sky like a rocket. My bike landed in a tree. It got stuck on a branch and I fell to the ground. Then I looked up and saw it falling. I quickly rolled out of the way. I was okay. But the fork on my motorcycle was mangled. Alone, and before cell phones, I pushed my twisted wheels 5 miles home.

Looking back, I see this was a pattern in my life. I often threw caution to the wind, and people got hurt, including me. To get me to slow down, it often took a breakdown of some kind. I have scars on my nose because I literally ran into a brick wall while running down a hill in the dark. Ouch!

Then everything changed. I surrendered my life to Jesus. The apostle Paul writes,

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Cor. 5:17 KJV)

Every time I look in the mirror, I still see the scars on my nose. I know my past and how easy it is to continue in my former pattern of life. In another letter Paul writes,

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all.” (1 Tim. 1:15 NKJV)

No, I do not believe he was continuing to sin. But like Peter who denied Christ, Paul knew who he was. Paul was willing to be known for his past sins in order that Jesus would receive more glory and so that more people would understand the grace of God in Christ.

God is calling us to a season of reflection, to slow down, to be pruned, and to be more fruitful. This month,

Youth With A Mission international is calling YWAMers around the globe to create space for God, to put our roots deeper into God. To get quiet and wait on him.

— Continued inside

As our little YWAM team responds to this call, we also grieve the loss of one of our own. Amy Off. This past month, Amy died suddenly after a 30-day battle with cancer. We grieve, and we have been shaken, but we also rejoice. She did not lose her battle against cancer. Though her body gave way, she knew her identity in Christ. And today, she is with Jesus in glory. We will miss Amy.



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In this newsletter, you will learn more about the ministries of YWAM Ocean City, including Converge internships, our plans for a Gap Year Discipleship Training School, and the Impact Summer Youth Camp. You will read testimonies of the recent Discipleship Training Short-Course, and a few of our YWAM staff and volunteers serving in South America.

You will also learn about staff and volunteer openings and how to get involved as YWAM local staff and remote associate staff. Thank you for joining us with your prayers and support as we allow God to use us to connect, equip, and send emerging leaders who serve him in every area of influence.

Because everything changed, ■

—John Henry, Director  
Youth With A Mission, OCNJ



## Staff Openings

The ideal YWAM Ocean City staff member is versatile, able to devote their passions and talents to training schools and local ministries, as well as offer support for the Converge internship program. If you are passionate about serving and connecting with this community as a pioneer, and a global community through Converge, visit [ywamocnj.org/join-the-team](http://ywamocnj.org/join-the-team) to learn more.

We're seeking remote and local staff to join these teams:

**Training:** As we grow our programs, we'll need school leaders and staff for seminars and schools, including the Gap Year Discipleship Training School.

**Tech:** This team will primarily support the software development for the Converge platform. Experience in software development, web design, video production, and/or general tech support are key for members of this team.

**Marketing:** This team will promote our programs and events through social media, and lead the development of content for the website, blog, and other communications. They will support and implement strategies for host enrollment and student recruiting.

**Recruiting:** This team will minister on college campuses through worship, intercessory prayer, evangelism, and by helping students find the perfect fit internship for their passions and studies. ■

## "Rich, Indeed" in the Dominican Republic

by Maria Castillo

**T**he Discipleship Training Course team gathered for three hours a night, two nights a week for two months! Six of us, plus our dedicated teacher, Amy Off, were forever changed by this class. Before I made the final decision to take this course, Amy called me and said, "Maria, I was reviewing some of the teachings, and the best way to describe the material is "really rich." I took the plunge.

United in our common desire to "see Him more clearly, love Him more dearly and to follow Him more nearly" (as the song Day by Day from Godspell says), we came each night, expecting that He would show us "great and wondrous things in the Word that we knew not yet." And each night we received.

The amazing thing about the class was that — while our goal was to know Him better — through the process, we came to know **ourselves** better, and in the best way possible; we learned to view ourselves and each other as the Lord God designed us and views us, unique and with a divine purpose. But it wasn't to stop there!

The next phase for me and for

Mee Mizrahi was to take this message on a Missions Trip to the Dominican Republic with a group called Building Homes, Building Relationships.

For six days in a town called Los Cocos, our team constructed two homes and ministered to the children in the neighborhoods where we built. It was my first missions trip. What an experience! As I ministered to some of the children and to some of the teens working with us, I experienced so many special moments of revelation that echoed the teachings from DTC. I'd look at the people, living in a difficult environment and see the light of God shining through their circumstances.

Everyone on our team wanted to spill forth the message that each one of the children and adults we met was fearfully and wonderfully made by a God who loves them and wants to be their Father.

I came back from this trip with an insatiable desire to return. In the meantime, I've looked for opportunities to speak life into my students at the university by telling them of a God who created them for a unique and divine purpose. Thinking back to Amy's description of the course, I say "It was rich, indeed!" ■



**FEATURED INTERNSHIP:**  
**Catholic and Protestant Unity**

Work together on a community campus in California with people from a variety of cultures and faith expressions. Serve as a web designer, creative writer, or with general office work. Spanish translators are especially needed.

[www.ywamconverge.org](http://www.ywamconverge.org)



## Converge: 2018 Internships

**H**ave you searched the Converge platform for the perfect internship based upon your spiritual journey, personal interests, or professional skills? Converge interns will not only serve in exciting projects throughout the world; they will have the opportunity to collaborate with dedicated people on the field and other interns from the same fields of study who share their passion for a cause.

We were so excited to have 49 internships available through 8 organizations on 4 continents for summer 2017. But we were too late. For months we struggled to find qualified software experts to fix bugs. By the time we were ready, we only had a few weeks to recruit. So we are reaching out again for hosts and for students for 2018 internship opportunities.

### Truth: We need your help to spread the word!

If you're as excited as we are about connecting students to internships where they can gain real world experience and make lasting contributions to communities throughout the world, please take a minute right now to share, tweet, or call a missionary or friend doing God's work with any organization. Tell them about how they can get prequalified interns by setting up their internship opportunity on the Create an Internship form. And tell a few students about our featured internship for 2018. More will be added soon. ■

Use the Reach Out form on [ywanconverge.org](http://ywanconverge.org) to keep updated.

## Gap Year Discipleship Training School

**W**e will continue to train young people for missions. We are praying and recruiting a staff team for a new Gap Year DTS in 2018. The Gap Year DTS will be extended to eight months with an international outreach at the end. This unique DTS will be a lot like an internship, with regular classes and local outreaches. In addition to all the benefits of the DTS, participants will learn life skills and gain experience serving various organizations in the community, including support for the Converge program. Let us know if you or someone you know would be interested. ■

## Voices from the field

■ "What is it like to be a foreigner? To be a foreigner who leaves his home to live in a different country with a different people who speak a different language? Jesus knew what it was like. He left his home in heaven to live among men. There is a freedom in having your home in heaven because no matter where you go, no matter what language you surround yourself with, a missionary whose country is in heaven will become the medium to bridge people to Christ."



— Matt Verderose is a videographer from South Jersey. He has updated several Converge videos. He participated in the School of University Ministries and Missions in Ecuador and he is now studying videography in Brazil.



— Glenis Acosta is a member of our associate staff team. She was in our first Discipleship Training School, participated on our first Converge internship to Albania, and completed the SUMM in Ecuador. She is coordinating a Converge Latin America Office and translating the platform into Spanish.

■ "Recently, God has been speaking to me about his provision and that nothing is too big for him to do. God recently told me that he wanted me to continue with YWAM and get my counseling degree, saying that he will provide for me, and that is his promise."

— Jennifersara Alpert was a student in our first Discipleship Training School. She recently completed the Foundations of Counseling Ministries course at YWAM Perth, Australia and is returning next month to take her next course, the Bible Core Course.

■ "After finishing my School of University Ministries and Missions (SUMM) in Ecuador, me and other 5 people started an adventure to travel around six countries in South America (Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile) to support YWAM campus ministries in those countries and to work with churches sharing with them our passion for the universities."



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[WWW.YWAMCONVERGE.ORG](http://WWW.YWAMCONVERGE.ORG)

# Impact Summer South Jersey

## Youth Camp



This summer, YWAM Ocean City will be partnering with Dynamic Center for Fine Arts to host a youth camp focused on discipleship, missions, and local outreach. This camp will feature daily times of worship and prayer, teachings from local and international YWAM speakers, and performing arts ministry workshops followed by local outreach and evangelism. Joining us for the camp this summer will be a DTS outreach team from YWAM Byron Bay, Australia.

### CAMP INFORMATION June 28 — July 3, 2017

Drop off is at 9:45 a.m. every day. Pick up will be in the evening following outreach activities. Participants will be bused back to Dynamic Center for Fine Arts and/or other pick up locations. A schedule of times and locations will be made available before the start of camp.

**Camp Cost:** \$150 (\$50 Non-refundable registration fee due with application) Balance due by June 15th.

**Location:** Dynamic Center for Fine Arts is located at 2609 Shore Road in Ocean View, NJ.



For more information, contact Jessica Kalisa via email: [jkalisa@ywamocnj.org](mailto:jkalisa@ywamocnj.org) or telephone: (609) 382-6232.