



PRAY 21

Teens and Adults
Praying Together

Timothy Eldred Q & A

Q: Is this campaign for all faiths or just the Christian faith?

Christian Endeavor is asking for adults to believe with youth that God has created them for significance and service. He is the one to whom we are praying. While I choose to submit my prayer in Jesus' name, other faiths are welcomed to participate in this challenge to accept God's call on this generation to transform the world through His love.

Q: Do you really believe praying with youth or prayer is significant?

It's amazing that during times of tragedy like we experience on April 16 at VT the nation believes in the power of prayer. People use words like "my prayers are with you" but when we call people to pray with youth prior to devastating circumstances, we question the validity of prayer.

Q: Why do you think young people really care if adults pray with them?

This is a generation of promise just waiting for someone to believe in them. There's nothing more powerful than a trust-building relationship between a caring adult and young person combined with the power of prayer. It says, "You're important. You're significant. You're valuable to me, and I believe in you." Praying with youth provides students with exactly what they seek.

Q: Do you think young people will fail if an adult doesn't pray with them?

Like so many local and national leaders, we believe God has a plan for young people to transform their world. We believe in His ability to work divinely, but we believe He works most often through relationship.

Q: Couldn't these adult / youth relationships be dangerous considering the stories of people who take advantage of youth? Aren't you just putting young people at risk?

We do certainly live in a society where children are too often victims of some very disturbed people. This National Campaign is designed to take place within the context of a local congregation, and while there can be predators in the church, the materials are created with safety built in through background checks and small group gatherings much more than 1:1 isolated relationships. Nonetheless, local leaders will need to take precautions to make sure healthy relationships are being created and youth are being protected.

Timothy Eldred Q & A (continued)

Q; What do you believe will be the practical result of this message on America and its youth?

This emerging generation is full of hope but short of examples. They have potential to truly transform the world beginning in their local communities. The problem is that previous generations, including mine, have not left them a great legacy to build upon. Pray 21 puts the hope in young people, trusts God to guide them, and challenge you and me to support their mission. If we can accomplish that, trusting God to use young people to be change agents for good in this world, it was successful.

Q: What if that doesn't happen?

We may or may not see multitudes of young people miraculously changed overnight through Pray21, but it is the start of a systemic change. I only have to look at history to see how one person who believes in their significance has made significant changes for good in the world. It doesn't have to be big to be significant. Change your campus, your culture, your community, your college, your country. Change yourself. Live out your potential to show God's love to hurting people.

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