

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the middle of the semester for those who are in the traditional undergrad programs. Thanksgiving is right around the corner and I am already quite aware of Christmas, since my wife Brenda has already made plans for me to put up Christmas decorations! At this time of the year, some of us are getting fatigued, discouraged by the load we carry, and fighting seasonal illness.

When the Apostle Paul sensed these same kinds of overwhelming circumstances, he wrote, "But we do not lose heart" (2 Cor. 4:1,16) The Message paraphrase says it this way: "We do not throw up our hands and walk off the job." Paul explains that we don't give up because in Jesus, we have received a "treasure" – God's all-surpassing power (v.7). This message from Paul is so important that he states it twice in the opening verses, "Therefore... we do not lose heart" (vs. 1,16).

Today, you may feel hard-pressed or perplexed. I want to encourage you not to give up. The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead, God's Spirit, is in you! Will you take a minute right now? Stop what you are doing, put your hands out in front of you, hold them open to heaven, and say this to God: "I am so thankful for your Son Jesus, who came and left his Spirit for me to embrace. I acknowledge I can't do this in my strength, so I need your Spirit to revive me today. Touch my body and make me whole, touch my mind and give me clarity, touch my spirit and bring me peace. I trust you for what I need today, tomorrow, and forever. I submit myself to you, for your leadership and guidance in my life. In Jesus name, Amen."

Before you close your hands and move on to your next busy appointment, sit for a moment with your hands and your mind open to listening to the Spirit. He will speak to you; he will minister to you, he will inspire you to keep going and build you up. If you feel him saying something specific, write it down so you can remember this moment.

*Father, Thank you for your inspiring and life-giving Spirit that lives in us. When we meditate on you, you always give us what we need to keep going. We acknowledge our complete need and reliance on you through every season of life. In Jesus name, Amen.*

#### **COMING UP THIS WEEK**

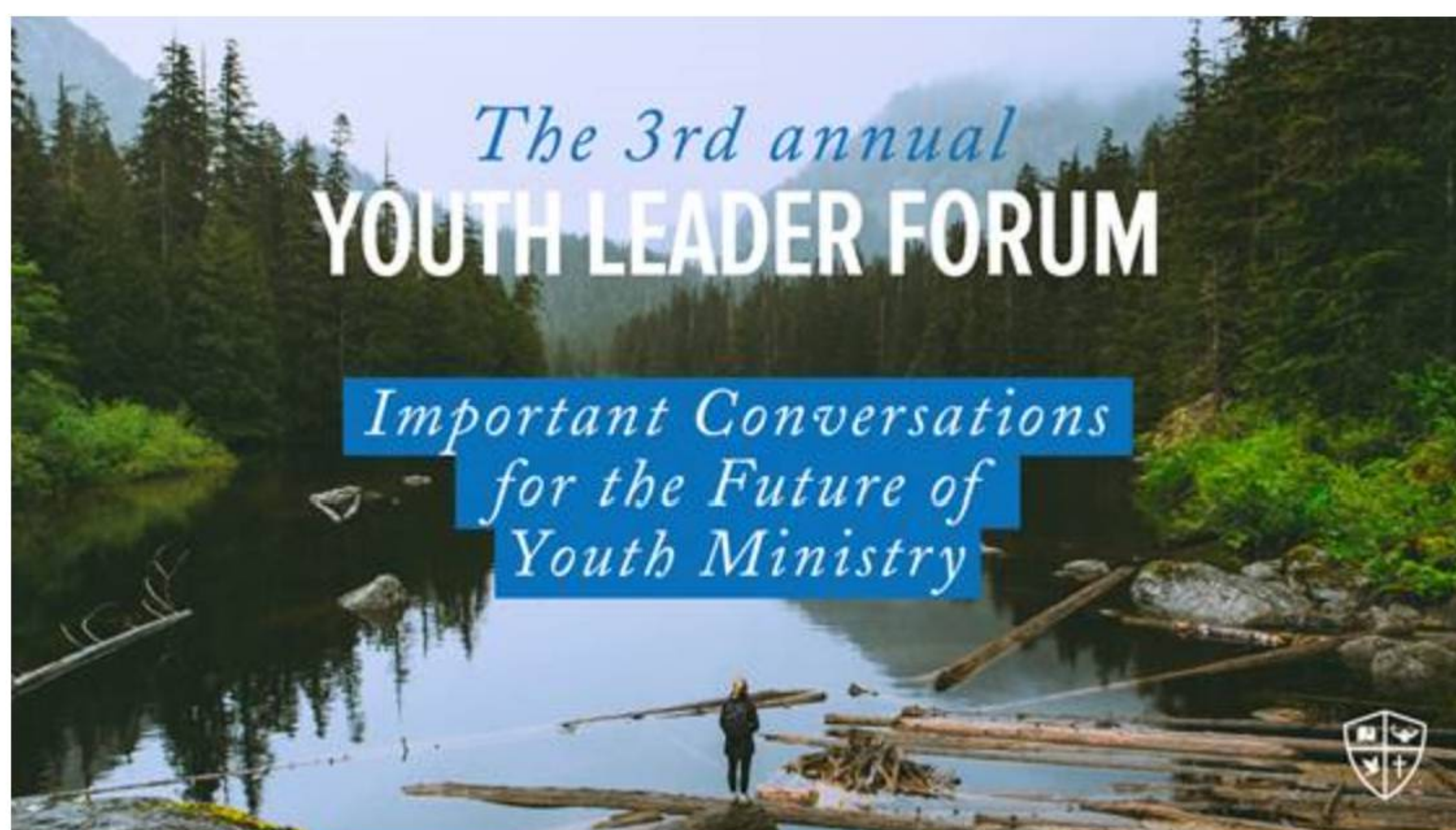
**Mon, Oct 15** | Chapel: Wesley Rodgers | Butterfield Chapel Balcony, 10 & 11:20am

**Mon, Oct 15** | Pursuit with Pastor Alberto Bello | Butterfield Chapel, 8:30pm

**Wed, Oct 17** | Chapel: Pastor Lacey Hartman | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

**Thurs, Oct 18-Fri, Oct 19** | 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Leader Forum | Northwest University

(<http://www.northwestu.edu/cctf/forum/>) – **NU students can attend for free!**



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Money Magazine Top 20 Most Affordable Private Colleges

