

Press Release

July 12, 2017

Global Youth Initiative Names New Executive Director, Mike Harder



Earlier this month, Global Youth Initiative (GYI) named Mike Harder as its new Executive Director. Mike is a 32-year ministry veteran with experience in a variety of church settings and youth ministry.

He has served in various capacities with Sonlife Ministries since 1990 – including stints as a trainer, regional coordinator, and Baltimore SEMP leader. Mike also serves as the vice chairman of Sonlife’s board. As a frequent seminar and conference speaker in North America and Europe, he has authored several articles and a recent book on mentorships and youth ministry, [Engage: A Youth Worker's Guide to Creating a Culture of Mentoring](#).

Most recently, Mike served as the executive pastor at a Philadelphia start-up church where he was responsible for mentoring staff, founding a second campus, serving as the primary pastor at the new campus, establishing a counseling center, and leading a multimillion dollar renovation of a historic church building. Mike also started a not-for-profit organization to rally churches to care for the city’s most at-risk population.

In Mike’s new role, he will be serving with the executive and leadership teams of GYI, both of which include leaders of various global mission organizations. He will identify emerging leaders, coaching and mentoring them in the life and ministry of Christ to help expand the movement.

GYI is a global alliance of organizations and strategic leaders who are passionate about seeing this generation reached and mobilized for the cause of Christ and the fulfillment of the Great Commission. The GYI alliance grew out of Sonlife Ministry and was created in 1998 when founder Dann Spader gathered with mission leader friends to form this alliance.

Together the alliance members have equipped thousands of ministry leaders who, in turn, invest in young leaders around the globe. GYI helps its partners build disciple-making ministries, identify emerging leaders and equip them to walk in the way of Jesus - making disciples who make disciples.

GYI currently has multiplying ministries in 67 countries. Its goal is to grow to 100 countries by 2020.

Mike replaces former executive leader Steve Hudson. Steve will be assuming the role of executive pastor at his home church in Minneapolis. He will also continue to invest in GYI through mentoring relationships with emerging leaders around the world. Founder Dann Spader will continue to serve the alliance as a writer, speaker and mentor.

Mike studied at Messiah College and Evangelical Seminary. He and his wife Teresa have three children: Nathan, Lauren and Arianna.



You can find out more about Global Youth Initiative and its partner ministries at <http://gyi.cc> or by contacting Mike at mike@gyi.cc or at 267-342-1840.