



2010 RICE
YOUTH
SYDNEY

AUGUST 14 & 21

“...We have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience before the sight of God.”

- 2 Corinthians 4:2





FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RICE:

Did you know there are young people who were just starting high school when they were invited along to the first ever RICE event, who met Jesus that night, and are now just starting university?! Some of them are joining the RICE Leadership Team in 2010 so that they in turn, can run an event for others who might be just starting high school to meet Jesus just like they did 8 years ago! And so the cycle goes on.

This is one of the most amazing things about what God is doing with the RICE movement. It is far more than just a one-off evangelistic event. God is bringing a whole generation of youth to Himself and uniting them around His mission to bring the news that Jesus is Lord to the youth of our city.

This is indeed a cause to rejoice, to pray and for your church to be actively involved because this new generation will be leading your churches in no time at all. In fact, this is a great year for your church to get on board as we are aiming to have an even bigger impact on our city as RICE becomes overtly multicultural so as to win even more for Jesus.

So as the RICE movement grows, have we changed our focus? As you turn the pages of this booklet you will see that the heart of the RICE movement has always been young people meeting Jesus. And so these youth events are still the heartbeat of RICE. Why? Because God's heart is to seek and save the lost (Luke 19) and we want God's heart for this movement.

I pray that as you read, your heart is moved and aligned with God's, so that you are encouraged, thankful, and ready to support the work God will do through RICE this year! I am praying that we will be a blessing to your church.



In Christ,

Steve Chong (With Naomi, Reuben and Jacob)
Director of the RICE movement &
Lead Pastor Kirkplace Presbyterian Church, Kogarah



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RICE YOUTH:

This is the 8th year that God has sustained and grown RICE Youth Sydney. What burdens my heart as I live in this city of Sydney is the hurt and loneliness I see in young people.

I often see this loneliness so evidently as I drive into the city on a Friday or Saturday night – seeing a generation that is so concerned of what others think of them, they give their bodies for the impermanent concept of acceptance and happiness. I see it in the self portraits that people paint for themselves in their virtual worlds. I see it as the youth retreat in their own world as they spend their meals with their family in front of a DS or plugged into their iPod.

This city needs Jesus, and God is using RICE Youth Sydney as one avenue for his Son to be declared to the youth of this city. God is compelling thousands of Christian youth to engage with their unchurched friends to come & know Jesus, bringing more and more young people each year. The Spirit is convicting & humbling hundreds of youth and growing them as they come into our evangelical churches. God is behind this movement and we are so privileged to be serving our Lord in these times of growth.

We yearn to see every culture within Sydney have the opportunity to hear the truth about Jesus. We yearn to see a generation filled by God's Spirit, transformed by hope, freed from bonds of slavery to the world, and at the core have a life changing relationship with Jesus. "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died." 2 Cor 5:14



Sam Mak (With fiancée Millie Sharp)
Director of RICE Youth Sydney & Youth Pastor of
Kirkplace Presbyterian Church, Kogarah

“Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible... I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.”

-1 Corinthians 9:19,22





WHAT IS RICE YOUTH SYDNEY?

RICE Youth Sydney is the major evangelistic arm in the RICE movement. It is an Inter-Church event that is about evangelising to the youth of Sydney with the gospel of grace and love manifested in the person of Jesus Christ – thus where the name RICE originated from (Rice Inter Church Evangelism).

RICE Youth is a collective of church youth groups from all across Sydney. Our primary aim is to organise two fun, exciting and culturally engaging annual events that give young Christians the opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus to their non-believing friends.

RICE is also in touch with Anglican YouthWorks, Presbyterian Youth, Challenge Conference, Christian groups in high-schools, Bible Society NSW, Moore Theological College, Sydney Missionary & Bible College and serves as a contact point for churches and youth groups for these organisations.

At RICE Youth we understand that our presentation of the gospel must succeed in capturing the hearts and attention of this generation and therefore must be 'culturally engaging'.

As Keith A.Davy states in his book 'Telling the Truth':

"...This generation is media savvy, cyber literate, adult in experience if not in maturity, experiencing a remote-controlled reality, feasting on a smorgasbord of options, and living for the now with no guarantees for the future."

Through understanding youth culture we are able to identify the core issues of youth and draw relevance from the Gospel into their real life situation. There are countless methods that a youth group has in seeking to win more youth for Christ. RICE Youth Sydney represents one possible avenue out of many, available to youth groups in Sydney to do this.



Quite simply, we are to be telling the truth of Jesus plainly. We do not aim to deceive or trick people into following Christ. The Gospel message is a deeply moving and universal message - it has the power to save the lost and cannot be distorted or changed.

RICE Youth Sydney focuses on running two evangelistic events every year. The events are held over two consecutive Saturdays in August: the first Saturday event held during the daytime, the second Saturday event held at night.

Though each event is unique, together they make up a 'complete' package of what RICE Youth Sydney is striving to achieve.

RICE YOUTH SYDNEY EVENTS: FEVER



RICE Fever is a daytime event and a platform for the gospel of Christ. It aims to present the gospel in its authority and relevance to the youth and to serve and love them in a uniquely direct way. The thrust of the first event has always been, and continues to be a low-confrontational, relaxed and approachable environment where the love of Christ can be actively displayed through music from well-known artists, games, entertainment and an exciting festive atmosphere.

Of course, the ultimate way to serve and love these youth, as Jesus did for us - is to present them with Christ's invitation to join his kingdom. Motivating our every move is the desire to see a youth culture transformed to serve God. RICE Fever this year climaxes with one gospel talk and leaves youth with the opportunity to actively respond with each other, with leaders through our evangelistic team, with God, and with third party charity organizations.

RICE Fever is a buzzing, active labour of love from a wide pool of service and talent, designed first and foremost to serve the youth the way Christ served us.



RICE YOUTH SYDNEY EVENTS: RALLY



RICE Rally is an exciting night event where every aspect of the program culminates in a single highlight: a clear and faithful talk presenting the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ! Christ-centred Bible teaching is of the utmost importance at RICE Rally; in previous years, this responsibility has been given to gifted evangelists including Sam Chan, Al Stewart, Ray Galea, Mark Driscoll and Matt Chandler.

The topic for the talk is specially chosen to provide thought provoking questions about Jesus and Christianity. All elements of the night – including music, videos, dance and skits – revolve around this topic and serve to steer the youths' thoughts towards Christ and what He has done for them. The evening also includes testimonies by youth who became Christians at RICE, who high schoolers in the audience can relate to and identify with.

RICE is committed to serving the church, and in particular, the growth of youth groups. This is achieved through effective follow up methods, such as the use of the 'RICE Expo', where high schoolers are able to find out information about youth groups in their local area.

In the past, RICE Rally has seen many lives changed for Christ. By God's grace, He will continue to use this event for the sake of His kingdom. May hundreds, if not thousands, bow down to our Lord Jesus on this night in August!





OUR AIMS & MOTIVATIONS:

“For Christ’s love compels us because we are convinced that one died for all”

It’s this verse in 2 Corinthians 5:14 that drives our entire vision.

The primary aim of RICE Youth Sydney is ‘to bring the Gospel of Jesus to the youth of Sydney’ by reaching high-schoolers through their youth groups and Christian contacts at school and elsewhere.

RICE Youth Sydney also aims to:

- Train youth leaders to initiate and turn relationships into “Relational Evangelism” - training in gospel conversations that are real and built on relationships with the youth.
- Provide opportunities for youth leaders to try out new & different areas of ministry in order to develop new gifts. At each year’s events, RICE Youth Sydney becomes a platform where youth leaders are further equipped to serve at their local church.
- Give youth leaders practical experience by working in teams to plan and organise large scale evangelistic events as well as training in how to get high-schoolers mobilised and excited about evangelism.
- Train youth leaders in following up those seeking to know more about Christianity, providing opportunities for leaders to build relationships and mentor new Christians from the RICE Youth Sydney events.
- Network youth leaders with other youth leaders from all over Sydney to enable the sharing of ideas and strategies for youth ministry as well as the building of friendships and ministry partnerships.

The motivation of RICE Youth Sydney derives from our belief in the saving power of Jesus’ death and resurrection. We believe that it is through the clear preaching of the Word of God and the working of His Spirit that people can come to a living relationship with Him.

So what makes RICE Youth Sydney so unique?

- With nearly 300 leaders contributing to the event, the large pool of skills allows for an event that no single youth group could ever accomplish. Each year sees young leaders develop skills in diverse areas, such as drama, video production, stage management, cooking, design, music, construction and so on in order to create events that are filled with creativity, large in scale and substantial in scope.
- It is well observed that youth are attracted to large scale events. In RICE Youth Sydney 2009, there were close to 5000 young people who came along to the events, with well over half being non-Christians. Such a large number of youth can gather much excitement and enthusiasm, and in the recent years we have seen the boldness and strength of the Christian youth rise up to encourage their non-believing friends to attend the events.
- RICE Youth Sydney also serves to build up Christian youth, enriching them with the message of the Gospel, empowering them to share this message with others, encouraging them through worshipping with fellow young Christians and enlightening them with a bigger picture of the Worldwide Church. Promotion of the RICE events in high schools has seen many Christians discover other Christians in their own class, year and school.
- The churches involved as well as the youth who come to RICE Youth Sydney come from all across Sydney. New Christians have been able to get connected to their nearest church. And so RICE Youth Sydney is able to help churches reach out to their local community.
- RICE has seen an organic and unforeseen development of networking between local churches all around Sydney. Churches, leaders and youth – out of their own joy for serving – continued to work collaboratively outside of the RICE events to reach out into their local community.
- Further, as young leaders from one church meet and serve alongside experienced leaders from another, expertise is passed on and the result is the training of leaders even across churches.





QUOTES ABOUT RICE YOUTH:

"It has been three and a half years since the first time I attended RICE and I will never forget the life changing experience I had. Through the RICE Rally, I learnt more about Jesus Christ and how he died to save us. Before all this, I knew about God and I believed he existed but I was never interested to learn more. But that night, I felt compelled to learn more about this mysterious person and how great He is. This led me to a youth group which helped me and grow in my faith and love for the Lord. Now that I have finished my time at the youth group, I have decided to lead there and it has further improved my knowledge of the Gospel and provided me with the ability to teach and spread the word of God. I would DEFINITELY recommend RICE to everyone because we can discover the infinite grace and love of God in an awesome and fun way."

- Terrence Zheng (Burwood Chinese Presbyterian Church)

"Serving with RICE Youth for the past 6 years and coming across so many youth leaders who are fired up to serve God and their peers has been a real encouragement for me as a youth leader. Especially after my own initial excitement had diminished. Knowing this and the eagerness of the youth in knowing Christ, reminds me of the reason why RICE Youth exists and why it should continue to be supported for the glory of God!"

- Johnson Lee (Beverly Hills Chinese Baptist Church)

"Christian high schoolers are always faced with the challenge to stand strong for their faith as they are confronted by a generation of increasing atheism and secularism. RICE is such a didactic movement because each year God has delivered the gospel message to this generation, while training and motivating Christians to continue in their ambassadorship for Christ. I have witnessed the transformational power of Jesus working in many of my friends' lives as they abandoned their rebellious, teeny-bopper lives for a life focussed solely on Jesus. Now as a youth leader, I look forward to the exciting task of bringing the gospel to the youth of Sydney and seeing this generation develop a burning passion for Jesus that will illuminate this city."

- Ivan Lee (Beverly Hills Baptist Church)

QUOTES FROM RICE SPEAKERS:

"I was blown away at RICE. The Gospel was presented clearly and faithfully - with energy and excitement - to 1000s of youth. Check it out for yourself and give it your full support!"

Sam Chan - speaker at RICE Big Day Out 2006, RICErally 2007 and lecturer at Sydney Missionary & Bible College.

"To be part of RICE for one night was one of the highlights of my life. God is doing a wonderful thing in this extraordinary ministry. It is leading the way for the rest of us to follow"

Ray Galea - speaker at RICErally 2006 and Senior Minister at Rooty Hill Anglican Church MBM.

"My family and I had an amazing month in Sydney. One of the highlights was the RICE event. It was an overwhelming joy to see thousands of students whose hearts were open or opening to Jesus Christ."

Mark Driscoll - Speaker at RICErally 2008 and Pastor of Mars Hill Church in Seattle.

"I believe that in RICE we see the spirit of God at work bringing young people to faith in Jesus, and raising workers for a massive harvest. Those of us who have a heart to see Asian Australia, in fact all of Australia, and beyond, honour the Lord Jesus should be keenly supporting RICE, with prayer, energy, time and money. Now is the day of salvation, now is the time to act."

Al Stewart - speaker at RICErally 2005 and Director of the Department of Evangelism (Evangelism Ministries)

"Year after year for whatever reason God moves - That's why you should be here at RICE. God changes peoples hearts, He moves in their lives, He saves 12 year olds, 18 year olds, 15 year olds. You should be here because God is doing this."

Matt Chandler- Speaker at RICErally 2009 and Pastor of The Village Church in Austin, Texas





HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There are a number of ways in which we need your help:

- **Church Involvement** – We would love your church's involvement. It is our prayer that RICE Youth Sydney can be used by your church this year in such a way as to further strengthen your church's youth ministry (spiritually and also numerically). With you, we want to see your leaders grow and be trained and so we would love you to send them to be part of this year's RICE Youth Sydney team.

- **Youth Leadership team** – RICE Youth Sydney is an event that would not occur if not for the service of the youth leaders. Your continued support, encouragement and prayer for your youth leaders would be greatly appreciated as they serve and drive the various efforts of the youth ministries of your church.

- **Financial support** - Another way you might help is financially. RICE Youth Sydney is a not-for-profit organisation that needs finances each year to continue to hold these great evangelistic events. All the money donated and raised helps the running of the whole RICE movement and more specifically continues to help subsidise the running costs of the RICE Youth Sydney events. If you would like to serve us in this way, please contact the RICE Youth Sydney secretary: secretary@riceyouth.org

- **Prayer support** – As RICE Youth Sydney is an event dependent wholly on the power of God, your partnership in prayer is of great value to us. Please be in prayer for the youth leaders involved in the RICE Youth Sydney events, for the events themselves and for the youth to be bold and courageous in spreading the Gospel to their friends. Finally, please continue to be in prayer for the non-believing youth of Sydney, that through the grace and power of God, many will come into a saving relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.



CONTACT US:

If you have any questions please contact:

- The Secretary of RICE Youth Sydney at secretary@riceyouth.org
- Or visit our website: www.riceyouth.org | www.ricemovement.org
- Or follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/RICEyouthSydney

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