



URBAN YOUTH INITIATIVE

For Kids. For Christ. For the Future.

November 29, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The Urban Youth Initiative, Inc. (UYI) was honored recently to welcome Dr. Jeffrey Ryan Futrell, founder and president of Young Man University, as a guest instructor for our first-year youth workers in the course Urban Youth Evangelism and Culture, which is part of our three-year Urban Youth Ministry Institute curriculum. He gave an impassioned and effective presentation on present-day gang culture, during which he provided useful information to our students regarding the attraction of gangs to inner-city communities, the glamorization of gang involvement, the sociology of gangs and the destructive outcomes of gang affiliation.

Dr. Futrell was able to clearly and powerfully outline the dangers of the presence of gangs in our neighborhoods and in our schools, as well as bring his personal experience to bear in giving practical advice to our first year class for speaking alternatives into the lives of the young people that they serve who may be flirting with gang association, or who may even be actively involved in a gang.

The information provided by Dr. Futrell in his class presentation was relevant, relatable and applicable to situations that our youth workers either have encountered or may encounter in the future. We therefore affirm that his coming to us was time well spent for our students in preparation for their vocation of youth outreach. We are grateful for our association with Dr. Futrell and for the impactful, transformative work done through Young Man University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Arnold, Jr.".

Michael S. Arnold, Jr.,
Assistant Director
Capacity Development