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## ***YOUTHWORKS!, INC. ACQUIRES YOUTH SPECIALTIES***

**MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Dec. 17, 2009**—On December 16, 2009, *YouthWorks!, Inc.*® completed the acquisition of *Youth Specialties (YS)* from Zondervan. *YouthWorks!*' purchase includes the entire *YS* brand and the events division; however, the publishing division will continue to operate under Zondervan.

The acquisition blends the ministry of *YouthWorks!*—a multi-denominational family of ministries that plans and implements life-changing, Christ-centered missions trips and ministry experiences—with the complementary work of *YS*—the international leader in training and equipping youth pastors and youth ministry leaders.

This move realigns *YS* under the umbrella of the youth ministry-minded organization of *YouthWorks!*, which honors the legacy of the *YS* founders, positions *YS* for new success and significantly expands the reach of the *YouthWorks!* family of ministries. *YouthWorks!* currently operates in more than 80 U.S. cities and Canada and has served more than 400,000 participants through 10,000 churches. *YS* serves more than 10,000 churches and 100,000 youth ministry workers worldwide.

*“Both YouthWorks and Youth Specialties were founded to serve the Church by serving youth,”* said *YouthWorks!* founder and President Paul Bertelson. *“We are excited about the complementary aspects each offers and believe the acquisition will enhance both ministries.”*

For more information on the acquisition visit <http://www.YouthWorks.com/Announcements/YS.asp>

### **About *YouthWorks!, Inc. (YW)***

*YW* was founded in 1994 as a youth missions ministry with a goal to become a broader resource for the Church—to “Help the Church Be the Church.” In 2008, *YW* expanded its ministry vision to include planning and facilitating ministry experiences for children, youth and families. Today, *YW* is a family of ministries—*YouthWorks! Missions, SportsLife Camps, GreaterWorks, YouthWorks Foundation* and *Recharge*. With the addition of *Youth Specialties*, *YW* is poised to serve children, youth, college students, multi-generational families of all ages, and youth workers. Headquartered in Minneapolis, MN—with regional offices in Chicago, Philadelphia, Birmingham, AL, and an affiliate in Vancouver, BC—*YW* operates in more than 80 cities and has served more than 400,000 participants and 10,000 churches since its inception. [www.YouthWorks.com](http://www.YouthWorks.com).

### **About *Youth Specialties (YS)***

For nearly 40 years, *YS* has worked alongside Christian youth workers of nearly every denomination and youth-serving organization. Each year, *YS* serves more than 100,000 youth workers worldwide through training seminars and conventions, resources and the Internet. *YS* produces the *YS National Youth Workers Convention* for more than 15,000 youth workers each fall; and in the spring hosts the *YS One Day™* training day for 20,000 youth workers. [www.YouthSpecialties.com](http://www.YouthSpecialties.com).

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