

Young Life

Glenn Cook



Young Life's Mission is to introduce adolescents to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith. Their vision is that not a single kid would find themselves alone and without spiritual guidance at the most critical time in their life.

I have been on staff with Young Life for more than 20 years, and have lived in the Capital Region since 2000. My wife, Becky, and I and our three children (Caroline 17, Graham 15 and Audrey 11) reside in Burnt Hills, right across from the high school, allowing our home to be a gathering place for kids and leaders on a regular basis. We are members of Grace Chapel of Clifton Park.

I serves as an Associate Regional Director for YoungLife Greater Northeast Region, which includes Upstate New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island. This role has three main components:

- Supervise and lead the Young Life staff in Eastern NY and Western New England (ENY/WNE).
- Start new Young Life ministries and areas in ENY/WNE.
- Coordinate the training of all new YL staff across Greater Northeast Region (all of Upstate NY and New England).

The vision behind this strategic role is to lead the effort toward establishing incarnational outreach ministry in every one of the 595 high schools and middle schools in GNE/WNE. I am creating strategies, building teams, and developing leaders in an effort that is already changing the direction of Young Life ministry in our part of the world.

Some of the Progress we made in 2016:

- The training and equipping of my replacement in the local area, Aaron Batkay, has gone even better than expected. Aaron is a gifted leader, and will be ready to take on full responsibility for leading the local Young Life work.
- With the help of Grace Chapel's strategic funding, we were able to hire Eli Bickley to a student staff position in Saratoga. Eli was already working with kids in that community. The additional funding gives him greater freedom to be with kids and build his team.
- Burlington Vermont took its first kids to camp this summer since we started the redevelopment of that area over two years ago. We also were able to hire an additional staff person there this fall. Two years ago, I didn't know

enough people to fill a day with meetings. Today, there are two staff people, working in two different communities, developing relationships with hundreds of kids.

- Over the last year, we were able to build a team of adults in Plattsburgh who are working to establish a new YL area there. We have money raised, and many relationships built with community and church leaders.

Some of my Goals for 2017:

- Hire Brad Varner as an area developer for the Adirondacks and North Country by February 1, 2017. Brad's first task will be to help me to develop a volunteer leader team in Plattsburgh.
- Establish an independent prayer team/committee in the Upper Valley (Dartmouth) by June 2017
- Complete the transition of leadership for the local YL area by October 1, 2017. If all goes well, Aaron will take over officially as the Area Director, and my role locally will be limited to serving as Club Leader with kids in Burnt Hills.
- Develop a relationship with the Job Corps site in Glenmont in hopes of establishing a relational outreach ministry to the 150 students who live there.

Physical, Emotional and Spiritual Needs for 2017

- For wisdom as Glenn and Becky parent their own adolescents into the teenage years
- Wisdom as Glenn continues to navigate change in his role; safety for me and the family when I travel.
- Prayer for the team of local leaders; their physical, emotional, and spiritual health as they give of themselves for the sake of kids and Christ.

Read more about Glenn's work at <http://glennccook.com>. His blog is a good place to get stories about what is going on. Here is a link to a good representation: <http://glennccook.com/2015/12/17/never-alone-again/>

Get in Touch:

Check out Glenn's *amazing* site at glennccook.com

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Ways to Give: Give to our ministry through glennccook.com, or by sending a check to the Young Life office at PO Box 28 Burnt Hills, NY 12027.