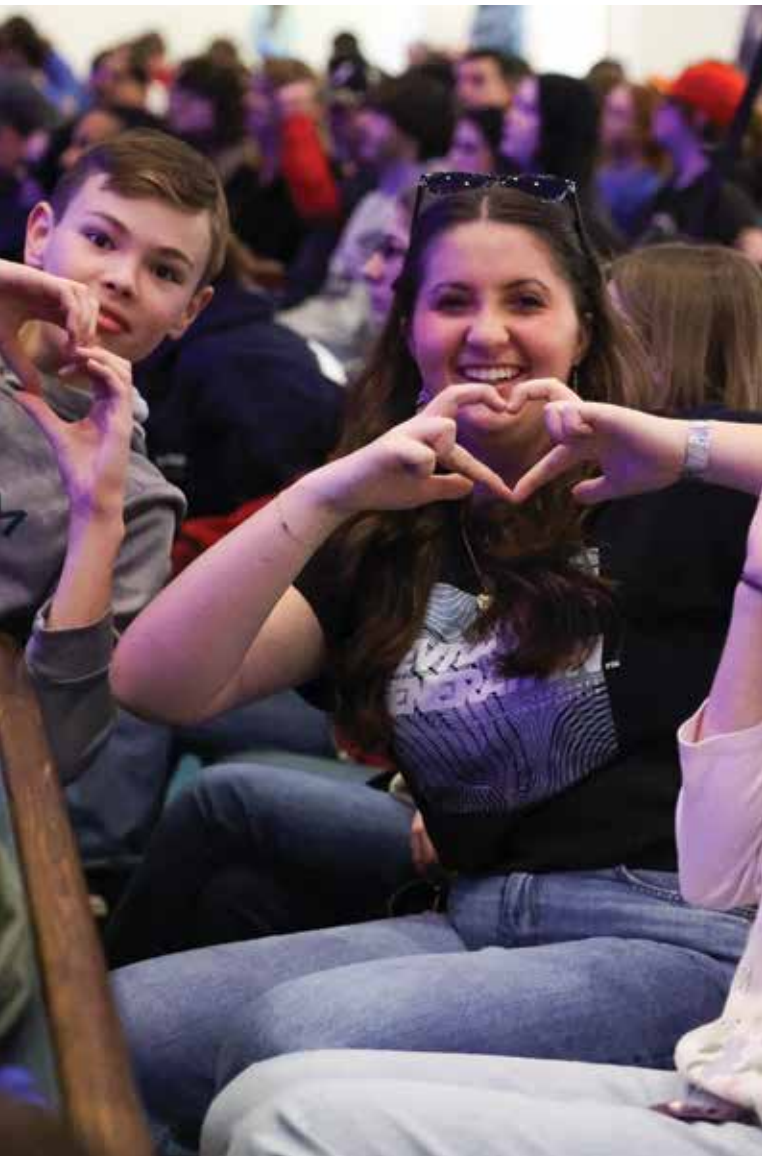




## LASTING IMPACT: living for Jesus



The annual Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) took place once again at **London Bridge Baptist Church** in Virginia Beach, VA. This year, over 1,200 students from 65 churches across the Commonwealth gathered to worship, learn about the Gospel, and be inspired to share it with boldness and confidence.

Pastor Mark Turner, a former student pastor at **Nansemond River Baptist Church** in Suffolk, VA was the featured speaker. He is a church planter in West Philadelphia, PA, and speaks at Fuge Camps during the summer. Pastor Mark's messages were biblically sound, relevant, and focused on the Gospel. He spoke on the invitation to follow Jesus from Matthew 11:28-30, the vision of lostness from Matthew 9:35-38, and the mission of the Gospel from Matthew 28:16-20.

The Museum, a talented worship team from Atlanta, GA, led the students into God's presence and guided them to the throne of Jesus in praise. This contemporary Christian music band serves at their home church by leading worship every month. They also lead worship at several summer camps.

YEC opened with the Skit Guys, who kicked off Friday night with humor, but the fun didn't stop there! On Saturday afternoon, students got to unwind at a huge silent disco party.

Pastor Justin Beville, the student and young adult pastor at **Franklin Heights Church** in Rocky Mount, VA, shared, "My students really enjoyed worshiping and studying God's Word with students from across the Commonwealth. It encouraged them to see so many others striving to live for Jesus."



Pastor Mark Turner  
*Speaker*



The Museum  
*Worship Leaders*



The Skit Guys  
*Special Guests*

Throughout the conference, many decisions were made for Christ. One church brought 25 students and six of them made decisions to follow Christ. Pastor Wayne Lowe, senior pastor at **Second Chance Baptist Church** in Petersburg, shared that four students from his group dedicated their lives to Christ. Pastor Doug Echols, senior pastor at **Bethel Baptist Church** in Yorktown, spoke about a student who realized the importance of being obedient to Christ and committed to baptism. Praise the Lord for the work He did during the conference and for the lives He touched.

“ ... great encouragement to my students, many of whom were facing difficult seasons.”

YEC is more than just a weekend—it’s an opportunity for student ministries to come together, encourage one another, and be challenged to live out their faith. Each year, YEC serves as a catalytic ministry opportunity for churches as they begin a new year with Jesus-centered student and young adult ministries.

Pastor Justin Beville reflected, “Each year, YEC lays intentional groundwork through the speaker, musicians, and event staff that helps students and leaders grow in their faith. This year, YEC provided great encouragement to my students, many of whom were facing difficult seasons. They left confident in the truth that Jesus loves them and is for them. One parent even sent me a video a couple of days later—her students were still singing the worship songs from the weekend. That’s the lasting impact of YEC.” ■

