DNA Infusion is a 2-week YWAM leadership event that will give understanding about Youth With A Mission’s “DNA” and help better equip you to lead YWAM into the future according to the ways of God.

The scripture often uses analogies of seeds, trees, roots, vines and fruits. Think of it like this: we need to fertilize our roots in order to produce good fruit that remains. We must rehearse the words of the Lord, identify and understand the values and principles that embody our unique call as YWAM, and then make sure that they stand as the firm foundation for what we become in the future. That’s why it’s called DNA Infusion: “DNA” refers to the essential genetics of our missions tribe that we believe God wants to multiply into successive generations of YWAMers for health and fruitfulness. But in addition to carrying the genetic code, every individual YWAM leader must have personal character and a Biblical understanding of leadership to propel us with strength into the future.

There is a simple truth about DNA: it is least altered the closest to its source of origin. DNA Infusion is led by one of “the originals,” Darlene Cunningham, the co-founder of Youth With A Mission. Whenever possible, Loren, the Founder of YWAM will join her in speaking at the DNA events. David Hamilton, University of the Nation’s Vice President for Strategic Innovation, also has an outstanding history of YWAM leadership, pioneering and innovating that spans more than three decades. He will share the majority of the teaching time with Darlene.

SEASON OF REVELATION
We as a mission are in a wonderful season of revelation at a global level and at the grassroots. For the Cunninghams personally, much of their current awareness and ponderings began with the richness of the 50th anniversary year in 2010, being with approximately 30,000 YWAMers, alumni and friends (including the Wee-YWAMers) at 44 locations in 35 nations. That was compounded by fresh insights from the Lord about “the way forward” at the YWAM Global Gathering in Singapore in 2014 and YWAM Together hosted by the UofN and YWAM Ships in Townsville, Australia in 2015. YWAM Together 2016 in Kansas City, with 3,500 attendees, added a new dimension by including “YWAM the movement,” as alumni and friends of YWAM participated together with current YWAMers. The gathering focused on YWAM’s call to the seven Spheres that influence society; a call to End Bible Poverty Now by getting the Bible into the 1776 Bible-less languages on earth; and the deepening partnerships between YWAM and other ministries in the body of Christ, especially the prayer movement. Loren and Dar probably have more hands-on and heart-connection with our global family than at any time in our history, since YWAM became bigger than “Cunningham and Cunningham.” © All of these things have a big impact on what we say and where we focus when we talk about leadership and YWAM DNA.

We are believing for a fresh “infusion” from God to flow into each DNA event – and that the leaders gathered will also form a catalytic, faith-filled environment for NEW things to emerge. We are also trusting God for networks of relationships to be forged through prayer and discussion that will be like the “triple-braided cord” spoken of in Eccl. 4:12 that cannot be easily broken when we face challenging times in the future.

DNA SPEAKERS & TOPICS
From Darlene Cunningham, you will receive a positive infusion of practical “where-the-rubber-meets-the-road” wisdom. Darlene will focus
on Jesus - the perfect model for leadership – in very specific, down-to-earth ways. And she will always, always point you to the faithfulness of God. She is a people-developer, translator of vision and implementer as well as a “potential extractor” – she often sees giftings within people they don’t even know they have, and calls them forth. She is uniquely qualified to give insight to YWAM leaders because she understands the lifestyle, pressures and joys of the mission from an inside perspective.

Loren will give us the “big picture” of world missions and how every individual and every ministry functions to fulfill God’s forever dream of reaching every creature. The urgent need in his heart these days is a passion to End Bible Poverty Now, making the word of God available to every home on earth by 2020. David Hamilton will also help to paint the global picture of what God is doing in missions globally, along with specific strategies of how to reach every creature and disciple all the nations. He is a man of faith, and the father of many mission innovations such as 4K, Uniskrypt, the SourceView and SphereView Bibles and a new, many-tiered SourceView Bible App that allows us to search the scriptures in never-before depth.

Darlene may draw in additional YWAM international leaders to complement the DNA team at various locations. In addition, she will lean into the wisdom and input from the YWAM leaders hosting the event to try to make sure that topics and issues are covered that are most relevant to you in your region. But she will also look for each participant to bring his/her gift and input to the table. The environment will be very interactive, with much discussion and opportunity for questions and answers. DNA Infusion will be the combination of all these contributions, under the direction of the Holy Spirit. The Cross of Jesus will be central to all that takes place and the Bible will be our textbook!

Here are a few topics likely to be covered:

- Jesus, our leadership model
- Belief tree
- YWAM DNA: our origins and future
- Character qualities of a godly leader
- Current words of the Lord to YWAM global leaders
- Co-creating with God
- YWAM’s apostolic/pioneering call
- Implicational thinking and question asking
- How to engage to End Bible Poverty Now
- Families in missions
- Understanding God-given domains of authority & spheres of societal influence

DNA TEAM PROCESS

Here’s how the DNA team works together: Darlene will give primary leadership to the event and coordinate with David regarding the sequence of speakers and content. They do this in a very “fluid” way – seeking the Lord, getting feedback from the regional leaders (who have given input on key content in advance), adapting and adjusting according to the needs and the participants who are present, etc. It will also be greatly influenced by the current words of the Lord to the mission regarding the trends and direction mentioned above. Therefore, the DNA team will not release a schedule in advance regarding who is teaching on what topics in which time blocks.

DNA Infusion is an integrated event, with worship, teaching, intercession, discussion, application, scripture meditation, strategizing, questions and answers all interwoven. It’s important that all participants attend every session and are present from the start to the finish of the event. We also believe that the prayer, discussion and networking that will happen around the dinner table and other informal contexts among those gathered can be as important and God-directed as the content that is shared “up front” in the classroom.

The schedule will be quite full. Whenever we do not have “required” class time, we will likely offer optional sessions on a variety of topics that participants can pick and choose from, drawing in people from the DNA team and others who have a contribution to bring. Our philosophy is, “Let’s maximize the opportunity. Let’s spread the banquet table as full as we can, and let those who are hungry come and eat.” But we will also look for some opportunities to relax and simply enjoy each other’s fellowship together.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

What are the expected outcomes for the DNA infusion? We trust that those who come will be refreshed, that you will gain biblical leadership wisdom and equipping, that kingdom networks of relationships will be forged, that strategies for the region (and the world) will be birthed, and that new ministries will be encouraged and launched from this faith-filled environment, as we hear from the Lord together. But possibly the more important question is: What are YOUR expectations? “According to your faith, so be it unto you” Matthew 9:29.

Dawn Gauslin, International coordinator, YWAM DNA Infusion
“MAKE THE BANQUET TABLE ACCESSIBLE”

The Lord spoke a word to our DNA team a few years ago, encouraging us to “take the banquet table to the people, so that all may eat.” This is our goal in making this training available at a regional/area level:
- It allows those serving on the field to meet face-to-face with founding leaders of YWAM
- It provides an opportunity to learn and discuss in teams with friends and fellow leaders who share a similar call, bringing greater strength at a grassroots level
- It is more accessible geographically and visa-wise
- It is more financially accessible
- It is available not only in English, but in the local language(s)

Each event is being offered in conjunction with the local/regional/area YWAM leadership, who will give input into the content and who are responsible to set the registration process and fees and cover logistics.

CRITERIA FOR APPLYING TO ATTEND A DNA INFUSION:
1) must have completed a YWAM DTS
2) must be committed to serve with YWAM long-term
3) must be currently serving in a YWAM leadership role or have recognized leadership potential.

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