



**ENGAGE** your world

September 9, 2009

Dear Principal,

We live in an ever-changing world where young people today often have more questions than answers about how to deal with crises about their identity, purpose, personal struggles, and the peer pressure they are facing in life. In an effort to escape, they often turn to destructive sources for fulfillment and direction. Because of this, I am writing to let you know about Engage Your World, a high-impact youth initiative that is coming to Ottawa and area from February 22 to 26, 2010.

Engage Your World is coming to high schools in the Ottawa region with well-respected, seasoned speakers whose hard-hitting honesty and transparency comes from hearts that truly care about young people. Our speakers will talk candidly and show the youth how to make wise choices in order to steer away from suicide, self-injury, gang involvement, bullying, and substance abuse using everyday illustrations and music that resonates well with youth. Your students will listen, learn, and change the way they think about the issues they are facing.

The presentations will last for one hour. Your school can choose one topic out of a variety of topics for the presentation. We respect the religions restraints of schools so we are careful to not give a Gospel presentation. Each evening, we will host a concert at a neutral community center, which will have a presentation of the Gospel. With permission from you, we will announce these evening events at the end of the daytime school presentations.

The BGEAC is working in partnership with Exousia Youth Network, a group of full-time and volunteer youth workers in the Ottawa area to bring Engage Your World to Ottawa. This project will reach out to young people by equipping them with practical life skills on how to live and thrive in their communities. The message of this initiative is positive and values-based. It will teach your students to feel good about themselves by showing them how to take an active role in the quality and direction of their lives.

To find out how you can get your school involved, please contact Paul Racine, director of Exousia Youth Network and local organizer, by phone at 613.260.0450, or via email at isa4031@rogers.com. Additionally, you can visit our website at [engagenow.ca](http://engagenow.ca).

I look forward to working with you as we seek to bring the important message of how to deal with the ever-changing pressures of the world to your students.



Dion Collins  
BGEAC Youth Ministry Manager  
1.800.293.3717  
[billygraham.ca](http://billygraham.ca)

# ABOUT US

*Engage Your World is a partnership between the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada (BGEAC) and the Exousia Youth Network operating out of Ottawa.*

## **About Billy Graham Evangelistic Association**

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada (BGEAC) is well-known for the powerful outreach ministry of its founder, Billy Graham. Its mission is to demonstrate unconditional love and provide strong values to as many people as possible, by every effective means available, and to equip others to do the same.

The BGEAC has a proven track record of working with students in private and public schools—we have successfully worked with hundreds of schools across Canada over the years. The vision of BGEAC youth ministries is to see young people encouraged and strengthened to overcome life's toughest challenges—combining personal development with leadership training in a fun, engaging environment.

You can learn more on our website at [billygraham.ca](http://billygraham.ca) or by calling 1.800.293.3717.

## **About Exousia**

Exousia is a supportive network of church and parachurch-based staff and volunteers committed to the spiritual transformation of the National Capital region through the continual development of relevant and radical youth ministry.

Exousia exists to serve youth and youth workers in the National Capital region.

## **Contact Us.**

You can direct questions to Paul Racine, director of Exousia Youth Networks at 613.260.0450 or [isa4031@rogers.com](mailto:isa4031@rogers.com). You can also contact Dion Collins in the BGEAC's youth ministry department at 1.800.293.3717, or [dcollins@bgea.ca](mailto:dcollins@bgea.ca).

# PROJECT BRIEF

A project of the BGEAC, Engage Your World was born out of a vision to see young people empowered and encouraged to overcome the challenges they are facing today.

In response to the escalating rates of suicide, self-injury, gang involvement, and drugs or substance abuse among young people in Canada, Engage Your World seeks to provide hope, as well as real answers to the questions and crises that youth face today.

Ottawa was selected as the first city to host this initiative, and we are working with schools that will allow the BGEAC, in partnership with the Exousia Youth Network, to bring in powerful, high-impact speakers to challenge, educate, and encourage young people in junior and senior high schools. Speakers come from a variety of backgrounds, and present various topics according to their areas of specialty.

For each school hosting a presentation, technical requirements for the hour-long presentation include a white wall or screen for projection, and chairs for the students and staff. Engage Your World will provide all other electronic audio-visual equipment.

The BGEAC recognizes that the public school environment is considered neutral and schools cannot legally support any one faith or religion. Therefore, our speakers will only present a general, positive, values-based message designed to empower the students with practical life skills useful in improving the quality of their lives.

## **Schools may choose one of the following topics:**

### **1) Anti-bullying - Anthony McLean**

Anthony McLean is an anti-bullying expert whose desire is to see students transform their schools into places where everyone belongs. A trained actor, his style of presentation is both fresh and animated. He resonates well with young people.

*“The students were engaged. The message was clear. This presentation echoed the message our Safe Schools committee is working on. It was perfect!!!” – Kiki Karaliadis - Principal, Blake Street Public School, TDSB*

### **2) Media, Faith, & Culture - Brett Ullman (for Christian and Catholic schools only)**

Our world calls to us through our iPods, magazines, movies, and television sets. How do we exist in an overwhelmingly media-saturated culture and what is our response to it? Rather than being negatively shaped by pop culture, can we influence it and maintain a healthy balance in our lives? Brett Ullman is an expert on media influences and talks about how youth can live as strong, positive-minded people in a culture dominated by media.

# PROJECT BRIEF

*"Brett's presentation was visually attractive, his materials were fresh and current, and he spoke with sensitivity to the different perspectives represented in our class. In short, Brett's presentation and his heart advocate that we be passionate pursuers of God. We should be present in our culture while seeking to transform a desperately needy culture." – Dr. Brett Andrews - Director of Leadership Development and Resources, YFC Canada, & Associate Professor of Youth Ministry, Emmanuel Bible College*

### 3) **Your Story**—The Wounded Embrace - Brett Ullman

Nearly one in ten North American teens struggle with self-injury. Thousands of young people are under-confident, scared, and seeking release from their personal struggles in ways many adults would prefer not to contemplate and, sadly, ignore. Brett examines the current influences of modern culture and the many reasons young people hurt themselves. He candidly addresses topics such as cutting, suicide, sex, and violence. He strives to empower struggling individuals to overcome the barriers to positive self-growth.

*"Open and honest the way teenagers want to and need to hear the truth, that's what sets Brett Ullman apart. I dare you to try his seminar - If only more youth speakers were this engaging." – Eric Spath - Speaker, World Vision*

### 4) **Racism, Gangs, and Substance Abuse** - Fresh IE

Fresh IE has a powerful personal story. His passion is showing youth how to escape from the strong influences of drugs, gang activity, and racial discrimination. He has a proven track record of success in high school tours.

*"Fresh IE engaged the students and showed commitment to improving the lives of others through his stories. We found his music and performance to be appropriate for high school audiences. We have no hesitation in recommending him as a presenter in the high school setting." – Dr. S. Figley – Principal, Nutana Collegiate Institute (Saskatoon, SK)*

*"Dear Fresh IE - Thank you for the wonderful assembly you provided to our staff and students. You were able to meet the students at their level in order to open their eyes to the dangers of drugs and alcohol. You held their attention—we could have heard a pin drop when you told your personal story. Perhaps most impressive was the number of students who stayed after the assembly to meet and talk to you in person." – Jaime Brescani – Principal, Miller Comprehensive High School (Regina, SK)*

### 5) **Manic Drive (Band)** - Schools can request the incredible Manic Drive to perform, accompanying any of the speakers. However, due to time restrictions for set-up and tear-down, their performance at your school is subject to availability.

# SPEAKERS BIOS



**Anthony McLean** performs a multimedia assembly for students that drives home an anti-bullying message of empowerment. His goal is to help students understand their responsibility in making their school a place where everyone belongs. Anthony's background in theatre gives him a lively and animated approach to audiences. He is also an avid rapper who engages youth with spontaneous freestyle raps in his presentations.



**Brett Ullman**, often introduced as an expert on media influences in the lives of young people. He travels extensively all over North America speaking to adolescents, leaders, and their parents on topics including sexuality, substance abuse, and self-injury. Driven by a desire to discuss, explore, and share the tensions of living in a media-saturated world, Brett's seminars are engaging and challenge attendees through high-impact, technology-driven presentations.

# SPEAKERS BIOS



**Fresh I.E** Born in Winnipeg, MB, Rob Wilson (Fresh I.E.) is a two-time Grammy Award nominated rap-musician with a passion for empowering young people. He speaks boldly to youth, confronting issues like racism, drugs and gang violence and offering ways of escape. With a powerful personal story, Fresh I.E. is an ordained minister and runs the Joshua House drop-in centre in Winnipeg.



**Manic Drive** group leaders Shawn and Michael Cavallo display the caliber of musicianship only achieved by seasoned veterans. They began their musical genesis at the ages of 7 and 8 and have since toured extensively on the intercultural scene. Manic Drive has recorded four self-released albums with the savvy, independent Whiplash Records label. They recently signed with Sony Music Entertainment.

# Q & A'S

- **How long will the presentations be?**

The presentations will last one hour.

- **Will the presentations have a Christian focus?**

The BGEAC respects the religious restrictions of many schools so we are careful not to give a Christian or proselytizing presentation. The speakers will only present a positive, values-based message designed to empower the students with practical life skills useful in improving the quality of their lives. All young people need life-skills for dealing with the difficulties they face in life, regardless of their religious persuasion.

- **What equipment should we provide for the presentations?**

Technical requirements for the hour-long presentations include a white wall or screen for projection, and chairs for the students and staff to sit on if desired. Engage Your World will provide all electronic audio-visual equipment.

- **What are the set-up/tear-down time requirements?**

We require about 60 minutes prior to the presentation to set up and test the sound system. We will also require 30 minutes after the presentation to tear down.

- **If we cannot accommodate all our students into one assembly, can we have multiple presentations?**

Yes. We are able to make multiple presentations so that all your students have an opportunity to hear and be empowered.

- **Are there any costs associated with these presentations?**

The suggested donation is \$500. We do, however, accept donations of any amount if there is no room available in your student development budget.

OTTAWA REGION FEBRUARY TWENTY - SECOND TO THE TWENTY - SIXTH