

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Barefoot Ministries Acquires *The Journal of Student Ministries***

Kansas City, MO – February 1, 2010 – Barefoot Ministries, a company of the Nazarene Publishing House, acquired *The Journal of Student Ministries*, a magazine for faith-based youth workers, from Student Ministry Partners of Nashville, TN.

Chris Folmsbee, senior manager of Barefoot Ministries, states, “We are extremely excited to add another initiative to our growing collection of innovative tools and resources aimed at helping youth workers guide students into spiritual formation for the mission of God. The acquisition of *The Journal of Student Ministries* will better help us serve the church by providing robust theological ideas and realistic methodological practices to work alongside all of our other youth worker training and publishing initiatives.”

For nearly a decade, Barefoot Ministries has served hundreds of churches, a variety of denominational affiliates and ministry organizations throughout North America by providing books, magazines, media, training events, curriculum and web-based ministry solutions.

Smitty Wheeler, president of Faith-Based Media Group and the former executive director of the *Journal of Student Ministries*, noted, “This past summer we made the decision that *The Journal of Student Ministries* needed to team up with a larger ministry partner that not only shared our vision of empowering and equipping youth leaders but had the experience and expertise to take us to the next level. We are excited that Barefoot Ministries shares our vision, and all of us associated with *The Journal of Student Ministries* believe that Barefoot is the perfect fit in helping us better serve our readers’ needs and in ultimately growing the kingdom.”

Faith-Based Media Group will continue to coordinate the advertising sales efforts, and Managing Editor Tim Baker will remain in his current role of coordinating the content and serving the journal’s authors. Mike King, president of Youthfront, Inc., a Kansas City-based non-for-profit youth ministry organization, and author of the acclaimed *Presence-Centered Youth Ministry* (Intervarsity, 2006), will be the new executive editor of *The Journal of Student Ministries*, which will now be called ***Immerse: A Journal of Faith, Life and Youth Ministry***. King stated, “I’m really excited about working alongside Chris Folmsbee and the Barefoot Ministries team to explore new and fresh expressions for training, equipping and resourcing youth workers for the changing landscape of North American youth ministry theology, philosophy and practice.”

“We realize that the success of a print magazine or journal in today’s shifting economic and cultural times is a challenge, to say the least. However, we feel confident that an innovative format to both the print side and to the website, coupled with a fresh voice calling youth workers toward missional thought and practice, will help us emerge as a journal that youth workers feel the absolute need to engage with and contribute to,” says Folmsbee.

For advertising information, contact Smitty Wheeler of Faith-Based Media at [smitty@faithbasedmediagroup.com](mailto:smitty@faithbasedmediagroup.com) or by calling 615-261-8048. For more information on Barefoot’s acquisition of *The Journal of Student Ministries*, contact Audra Marvin, operations coordinator, at [acmarvin@barefootministries.com](mailto:acmarvin@barefootministries.com) or by calling 1-866-355-9933.

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