



Worth Seeing *Viewing Others Through God's Eyes*

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People Are Not Projects to Be Fixed

What motivated you to write *Worth Seeing*?

Amy L. Williams: Twenty-nine years of youth ministry stories that the world needs to hear. Knowing that if people knew the stories behind my youth, they would view them differently, not write them off, and move towards them with compassion. That we need to learn how to give people a chance to be heard, to be seen, to be loved.

Who did you have in mind as you wrote *Worth Seeing*?

Amy: *Worth Seeing* is intended for these primary segments of readers:

- The youth worker and church leaders who are looking for new ways to deepen personal and ministry relationships. They want to help others to see people on the margins with compassion and understanding by removing elements of fear and judgment, leading to building community.
- The average churchgoer that desires to honor God's love for others by expanding their own worldview.
- Community leaders hoping to connect and engage more deeply with community members and inspire them to continue the work they are currently engaged in.

What is *Worth Seeing* about?

Amy: *Worth Seeing* is about challenging the reader to see other's worth through a different lens, God's lens. This book trains the reader how to move beyond seeing and judging the surface of a person. The reader will tap into their own arsenal of compassion, empathy, and understanding—not just for the unseen—but everyone they encounter, including themselves. What is distinctive is the voice of the author, a female gang intervention specialist and juvenile justice advocate.

What lessons do you hope to convey to readers?

Amy:

- We must look at others, especially those on the margins, through the eyes of God, as worthy, valuable, his own.
- Everyone has a story, and we must take the time to learn these stories so we can develop compassion and action.
- If God is the Great I AM, then we are the great I am NOTs. Know your role in this Kingdom calling.
- People are not projects to be fixed.
- We are to be light in someone's darkness, hope to the hopeless, always pointing them to God.



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BIO



Worth Seeing

Viewing Others Through Gods Eyes

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While most of society views high-risk youth with fear or disregard, Amy Williams has come to see them through God's eyes—as having tremendous value and potential. With stories and practical tips from three decades of ministry, Amy challenges perceptions and increases compassion for these youth and others who are often pushed to the margins of society.

Amy L. Williams, "Hope Dealer to the Dope Dealer"

AMY L. WILLIAMS has been involved in youth ministry for nearly three decades, ministering to teens involved in gangs, youth on probation/parole and those lost in the criminal justice system. As a certified Gang Intervention Specialist, Amy lives and works in the Latino gang neighborhood in Chicago's Humboldt Park community where she is a "Hope Dealer to the dope dealer," doing street outreach and walking life with young people on her block.

Amy is currently the project coordinator for the Illinois Youth Center (IYC) for New Life Centers Chicagoland. Her role coordinates and brings restorative justice programming and peace circles into the St. Charles, Warrenville, and Chicago juvenile prisons. She also organized the first North Park Seminary Juvenile Justice Cohort for leaders working with youth in the criminal justice system.

Amy has been a youth pastor, a reentry coordinator, and a youth mentor and advocate. She is a graduate of both University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and National Louis University.

Her areas of expertise and passion include:

- Youth and Young Adults
- Gang Intervention and Strategies
- Juvenile Justice
- Mass Incarceration
- School to Prison Pipeline
- Community Development
- Mentoring (youth and youth workers)
- Youth Culture

She formerly served as a(n):

- Advisory Board Member for the National Institute for Juvenile Justice Ministries (IJJM)
- Steering committee member for the CCDA (Christian Community Development Association) Mass Incarceration Task Force
- Advisory Board Member for the North Park University Center for Youth Ministries Studies (CYMS)

For more about Amy visit ahopedealer.org.



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