

## WHAT GOD WANTS DONE

This past year I read the *Experiencing God* devotional and was challenged to take on a God-sized task that only God could accomplish. The more I thought about it I realized that a God-sized task is the one I am already doing. Only God can bring salvation and spiritual growth to broken, drug addicted, anti-social youth.

I also asked myself the question, "How do I know God wants to use this ministry?" and here is what I came up with.

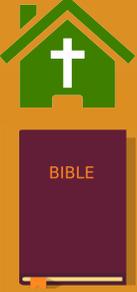
1. God tells us in his word to visit those in prison.
2. God provides the funds for me to serve full-time.
3. God provides the volunteers to assist.
4. God gives favor with the probation department.
5. God moves the youth to attend the services.
6. God moves the youth to submit request slips.

In April I watched a young man walk into my church service at Juvenile Hall for the first time who is being accused of killing his mom. After hearing about the crime a month prior, I began praying for a way to reach this 13 year old. After 35 years of working with troubled youth, I feel like I am doing something I have never done before. He attends church and wants my support but is not open to traditional discipleship.

The prayer request slips used each Sunday at Juvenile Hall have a place for the youth to mark "yes-no-not sure" to a question asking if they are a Christian. For the first half of the year I noticed that many of the slips had "no" or "not sure" selected. Praise God for sending us youth who need the to hear gospel.

## WHAT COUNTS

Our office received over 400 religious preference forms from youth signing up to attend Protestant services throughout the year. Overall contacts for the PCM were a bit higher than last year. Maybe this was caused by more "Protestant" youth being

MY MINISTRY CONTACTS		
Church Services:	1988	
Bible Studies:	503	
Chaplain Requests:	354	
Counseling:	265	
Discipleship:	92	
Aftercare:	307	
Outreach Activities:	256	

arrested but who knows. More youth than normal needed one on one counseling sessions as a result and the number of discipleship contacts was also up from last year. The weekly average of one on ones inside each of the facilities was fifteen and the number of weekly aftercare contacts over the phone or in person was six.

I held the seven usual outreach activities at the four facilities that all turned out well. Select youth at each of the camp facilities also got to go on one field trip during the year.

## WHAT CHANGED

I started the year hoping to continue field-testing the pamphlet I wrote on resisting temptation with the goal of having it self-published. All that changed when I was given the opportunity to pick the theme (childhood trauma) and teach about it at the PCM Staff & Volunteer Training night in April. A pamphlet or workbook dealing with overcoming childhood trauma took all of my attention after receiving positive feedback and realizing there is a need for this type of material from a Biblical perspective.

Having three key individuals willing to endorse the project has also been encouraging. A friend of mine who knows the printing industry also thought it was good and is willing to help me get

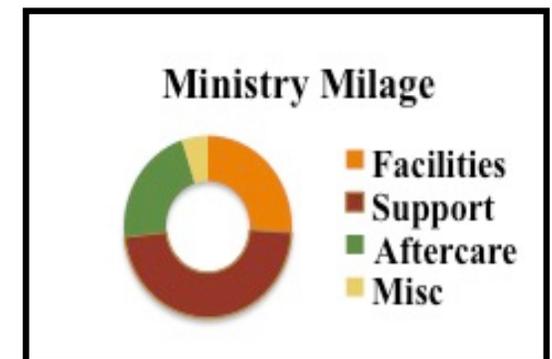
copies printed in time for me to share at the "Correctional Ministry Matters" conference on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Now that a juvenile court judge determines if a minor with violent charges should be tried as an adult, certain attorneys of the guys I am working with are interviewing me to get information to benefit their clients. I've noticed that the number of eighteen year olds being sent to prison has dropped and our ministry is able to provide extensive ministry with these youth who do their time locally. On average, I have been able to meet 35 times a year with those I am discipling and counseling.

I have probably sponsored around 75 volleyball outreaches (guys only) over the past thirty years but this year I stopped them. They were replaced with a Game Night Activity that accomplished the same goal of rewarding the youth who attend our services. There was one at YGC (girls included) and one at YLA.

## WHAT HAPPENED

Several years ago, all ministers lost the ability to have special visits at the adult jails. Making contact with inmates who ask me to see them was done during normal visiting hours, which can be very time consuming and frustrating. Two years ago, significant effort was made to get the special visit status reinstated but I was



denied. This year I felt led to knock on that door again which showed no sign of opening. With the help of God and the Chief of Probation, I was given approval! I can now meet with jail inmates (through the glass in a visiting booth) at any time. This allows me to maintain contact with youth I have been working with and increase the chance of providing aftercare with them. I was told that I shouldn't publicize this decision but wanted to share it with you since it was the biggest ministry blessings of the year.

**WHAT WAS TAUGHT**

For the first few weeks of 2017 I finished up the series I had started the year before on tough bible questions. Then I decided to go through the Gospel of John for the second time but this time I prepared thirty-one messages instead of twenty.

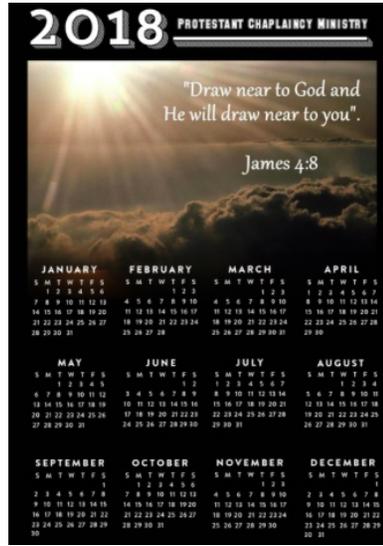
For the Bible Study at the Youth Guidance Center, I taught a few lessons from the Beatitudes and then team taught a series on discipleship topics and the Book of Philippians along with Chaplain Sheri and our volunteer Gina. All my lessons come along with a handout and PowerPoint (keynote) presentation.

**WHAT ELSE**

On the same Sunday in May I had a staff at Juvenile Hall and at Joplin un-expectantly stay afterwards to thank me for what our ministry does for the youth.

Fifty-four times during the year I stopped to write down an answer to prayer or praise item. Two of the guys I worked with in Unit A at Juvenile Hall graduated from high school in June and both of them added a word of thanks in their speeches for the contact I had with them.

Last year I was given the opportunity to speak at three adult Sunday School classes, one home group, and at a Teen Challenge Graduation.



Every November I start getting asked when the new calendars will be on our church literature table. I found an inexpensive way to print nicer calendars (see photo) and order 150 as a gift to everyone at the Joplin Christmas Outreach and to everyone who attends church the week before and after Christmas.

Awhile back Chaplain Steve Lowe said, "Crime would go down if every Juvenile Hall in America had a ministry similar to ours." Thank you for your part in keeping me full-time on the mission field. I am looking forward to another year of serving.

*Chaplain Rick Johnson*

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2017

ANNUAL REPORT

**PHOTO OF THE YEAR**



My most liked photo on Facebook this last year (81 likes) was the one taken at the National Day of Prayer gathering out front of Juvenile Hall. The second most liked photo was the one I posted of the cross on the hill along the 91 freeway that survived the big fire we had.

**QUOTE OF THE YEAR**

An ex-offender who is crime free for seven years is just as likely to commit another crime as the average citizen.

Jay Jordan