

Spring Newsletter

Serving Troubled Youth Since 1981

Easter 2023

A special communion service was planned during Easter week for the Youth Guidance Center (Wednesday) and the Youth Leadership Academy (Thursday) during their bible study and church service. At least half of those attending had never taken communion so the service was made as meaningful as possible to help them remember it.

I have the second Sunday of the month off and Chaplain Tim was happy to be serving on Easter Sunday. I arranged for Daniel from Teen Challenge to provide worship along with Tim. Attendance was the highest it has been in a long time with 30 youth attending at JH and 24 attending at YGC! Probably every youth who is signed up as Protestant was at either of the services.

Christ-centered Easter Cards were also distributed to each of the units for the youth to use to send a greeting to a family member.



The year began with a mission's conference, an invitation to speak at a church on a Sunday, and a volunteer training night to schedule and plan. It had been almost three years since our last training and I wanted our volunteers to start the year united. I shared last year's ministry totals, Chaplain Steve gave an executive summary, Brian shared a testimony about being a mentor (see photo), an Assistant Director at Juvenile Hall gave a probation update, and the volunteer coordinator for probation came to encourage our volunteers.

After that I presented a short training called, "Back to Basics" and one of the things I shared was how the gospel is an invitation. The way Jesus invites backsliders back into fellowship with him (Revelation 3:20) is also the way he invites sinners to begin having fellowship with him. God doesn't coerce anyone into believing in him but stands at the door and knocks.

You can urge someone to agree with what you believe but saving faith is when a person makes the decision on their own. Evangelism needs to be about winning the heart and not the debate. If you talk someone into becoming a Christian, you will also have to talk them into staying one.

There are four French words used in the term "RSVP" but in English it means to respond to an invitation. Our volunteers are trained to use a prayer of salvation after each gospel presentation. By doing this, the youth realize the Lord's invitation is something they need to respond to personally.



Volunteer Recognition

The Orange County Probation Department sponsored another volunteer appreciation ceremony recently. Over half of all volunteers are religious ones and most of the others volunteer with the hopes of getting hired in the future.

Seven of the PCM volunteers were able to attend so Chaplain Steve and I were there to congratulate them. But after the volunteers were appreciated, they started honoring the chaplaincy staff of both ministries.

Both the chief of probation (see photo) and a director who helped with the ceremony, made very positive comments about both ministries and said how thankful they were that we have been there so long.

I received a very nice plaque for my 29 years of service in Orange County along with a pin and challenge coin. The plaque replaced a twenty year old one I had received for something else and looks great above my desk at home.

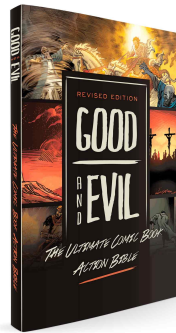
The number of youth inside the facilities usually decreases all of December and into January, but not this year. Because of that, attendance at our church services has been above average. For two months, over half of the youth at YGC were going to the PCM church service each Sunday!

For the first two months of the year, I was doing 15-18 one on one sessions each week. Three of the youth I have been meeting with for discipleship completed the requirements and recently received a certificate of achievement and their own Life Application Study Bible.

Now that attendance is so much better, I feel good about inviting special guests to minister at our church services. Here are those who've served so far this year.

Frank Baldus:	Open Air Campaigners
Jay Bentley:	Pastor of CC Durango, Mexico
Shane Parr:	Director of Teen Challenge of OC
Angelique Rivera:	OC Rescue Mission Graduate
Daniel Delgado:	Staff Member at Teen Challenge

Chaplain Steve Lowe is also joining me for the rest of the year on the 5th Sundays of the month.



The Good and Evil Comic Book Bible was discovered at the CMCA Conference last year. I was given response cards for the youth to mail in but the bibles were never sent to those who requested a free copy.

Last month, Chaplain Clint (PYCM Chaplain in San Antonio) gave me the name and email of Michael Pearl at No Greater Joy Ministries who has been providing the bibles for him. So I requested a complimentary case but got a case of Spanish editions by mistake. The

English versions were sent later and I was told to bless a couple Spanish Churches with the ones I don't need.

Since I have a limited supply (26), Chaplain Nick (PYCM Chaplain in San Bernardino) told me to do what he does with special items. The youth will be earning their own copy by memorizing the books of the New Testament. Thanks for taking the time to read my latest newsletter. I pray the rest of the year goes as good as the first part!

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