

Outreach Activities

Outreach activities are not that easy to sponsor anymore. There were movie nights at YLA and YGC where *The Case for Christ* was shown. In June I had a Big Brother/Sister Night at YGC with the staff from Northeast of the Well. I had a Big Brother Night and a field trip to the Harvest Crusade scheduled with YLA but both were cancelled due to staff shortages.

Both JH and YLA wanted a Christmas Activity which were held in the gym of the MRC on consecutive Mondays in December. More youth in JH attended than expected and all twenty-six youth in YLA showed up for theirs. I was very encouraged with how they turned out and all those who volunteered did a great job.

Having Pastor Enrique play keyboard, sing in Spanish, and share how he went from being locked up to being a pastor was also a highlight of the year.

Teaching Series

Most of the messages I teach are also taught at the Friday evening Street Light Church service. I began the year in the Book of James and taught eleven messages. Then I went through sections of Luke and taught sixteen lessons about Jesus and the outcast. The rest of the weeks were filled up with holiday themes or by what my special guests taught.

Two different youth began attending our services at different times and I arranged to bring in translators to work with them. In May, we were allowed to hold church services in the intake unit again and then a second intake unit opened so another service was added.

My Ministry Contacts

Church Services:	1530
Bible Studies:	369
Chaplain Requests:	417
Counseling:	163
Discipleship:	135
Aftercare:	291
Christmas Outreach:	98



Prayer gatherings were held for the National Day of Prayer and in September for See You at the Pole. Both events not only had county employees attend but individuals from other ministries who came to support me.

I paid to take an online class on Spiritual First Aid and will use the material at this year's volunteer training night.

I was not happy with the quality of the NIV Bibles we used so I made the decision to purchase NLT Bibles from Tyndale and 117 bibles were given to youth who requested one. Thank you for your part in making this ministry possible.

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2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo of the Year

The most liked photo on my FaceBook page last year was from Pastor Appreciation Sunday at Street Light Church. But my photo of the year is of the Zoom Meeting Chaplain Steve and Jan Lowe hosted for Pacific Youth Correctional Ministries staff and board members on September 30th. It was good to hear how the Lord put each person on the team.

Insight of the Year

Naomi was doubting God's love for her and Ruth was used to live it out in front of her. Many people feel unloved because they are searching for love instead of receiving it from those already a part of their life.

Back to Normal

Getting back to normal was the theme of the training I hosted last January for all Protestant Chaplaincy Ministry (PCM) staff and volunteers. In some ways 2023 was better than normal and I remember walking out to my car on most Monday evenings feeling good about how the JH and YLA bible studies turned out.

Every month I sensed the Lord's faithfulness because I had plenty to share in my monthly prayer letter. Each month I was able to record two or three answers to prayer but my official list had thirty-eight items of praise.

Along with my prayer team, I also send regular updates to four churches that have a prayer ministry. Thank you for praying!

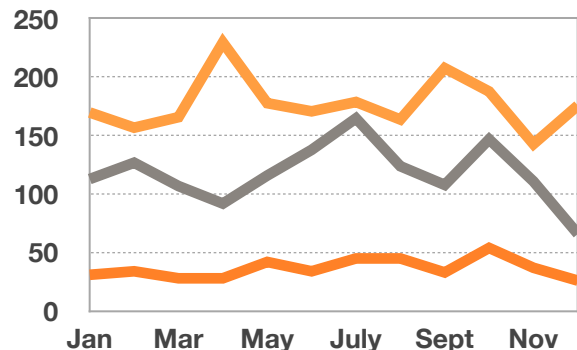
Doing the Paperwork

Every day some type of stats are recorded to measure the work we are doing. The number of youth taken into custody was 31% higher than last year. Out of the 1,252 intakes, 29% of them signed up as Protestant/Christian (360).

Our records indicate that the PCM made 4,668 contacts in 2023. That averages out to 90 youth each month being ministered to. Participation at YGC was unusually high for the first part of the year with half of the facility attending church. Unlike JH and YGC, there were more youth in YLA who went to bible study than who went to church. Thirty-nine youth received weekly biblical counseling or discipleship.

I am happy to report that I can't remember any church service or bible study being canceled as had been done many times in the past three years.

— Church — Bible Study — Chaplain Requests



Volunteers

There were ten different qualified believers who contacted our ministry because they sensed the Lord leading them to serve. Each of them received an orientation and were encouraged to join our team.

Gwen was the only person who completed the clearance process. She had been a volunteer with us years ago but took a break to raise the son she and her husband adopted. She is also completing her master's degree at Talbot and gets her intern hours with the PCM.

Last April, the probation department put on a volunteer recognition ceremony and recognized our volunteers along with Chaplain Steve and I for our years of service.

With the increase in attendance, I started inviting special guests to join me at my church services again. Six individuals joined me at JH and YGC and five joined me at a YLA service. Total hours volunteered in 2023 by our volunteer team and fifty-five special guests was 2,471 hours.

Aftercare

Providing aftercare is one of the best parts of being a chaplain. Although my contacts were a little less than normal, forty-one youth and adults received aftercare. Most contacts were with adults who got out of prison this past year and needed support. There is also a young man at a local church who is on probation that I am working with.

A highlight was hearing from Angel who called from a group home in San Bernardino looking for a church to attend. Angel walked to the church on his own, got involved in the parking ministry, got baptized at Easter, and is now bringing his younger brother.

Michael Place lives in Colorado with his wife and five children. We have stayed in touch for the past fourteen years and when they came to Southern California in December, Michael was able to teach and share his testimony at a YLA Church Service.

Andrew was released from prison after twenty-five years and has relied upon me for accountability since his family members are few. He is going to the church I recommended and I was able to be a reference for the job he got.

Street Light Church

A couple leaders at Street Light Church left and attendance has dropped so it has been a tough year. But I still enjoy my limited role as an assistant pastor who teaches on Fridays and serves at several special events scheduled throughout the year. Another 2,245 ministry contacts can be added to my total due to my involvement at Street Light Church.