



Pacific Youth Correctional Ministries

Serving Orange County Probation Facilities Since 1981



I was recently asked what scripture captures my ministry for this season. After some reflection, I thought of Galatians 6:9 (see below). A lot of sowing has taken place for the past forty years through the ministry Chaplain Steve began and now we are reaping a harvest. A Christ-centered, gospel-focused ministry was created and the foundation built can be stood on by others. All the good that has been done has resulted in favor with the probation department that my volunteers and I feel all the time.



On October 2nd, I attended a Pastor's Forum sponsored by the Center for Individual and Family Therapy. Dr Kenneth Ulmer was the speaker who shared how he had been divorced twice by age twenty-six and became suicidal. He turned on the gas stove, blew out the flame, and went to sleep expecting to die from asphyxiation. The next morning he woke up and the flame had miraculously gone back on.

After forty-five years at his church, Pastor Ulmer recently retired because he could see where the culture was going but realized he wasn't going there. All of us can see farther than we will be able to go. The Lord let Moses see the Promised Land but did not allow him to go there. Retirement is moving from a seat of authority to a seat of honor. Honor, however, isn't something you ask for but wait to be given.



When more and more Spanish speaking youth started attending my church services, I suddenly got motivated to become bilingual. Most of them can communicate a little bit in English but I still wanted to show some effort. Every week I have my lesson notes translated into Spanish for the one or two youth who need them. Fifteen months ago I was able to join a Duolingo Family Plan for free and have practiced 20-30 minutes a day since then. Learning a language at my age is good for my brain and attending a bilingual church also increases my vocabulary. I still have a long way to go and I wish I had more time to study.



Partnering with the Catholic Ministry on special activities allows all of the youth to be able to attend. *Breakthrough* was the movie we both agreed to show this year and I wrote about the activity at YGC in my last newsletter.

Since there was no school at the Youth Leadership Academy on Friday, October 17th, I scheduled a movie activity for the guys there as well. The facility has the youth divided into two groups, so we needed to have two showings. The staff appreciated having something for the youth to do and all available youth chose to attend. I was also blessed that three of my supporters and one of my volunteers were able to experience the outreach.



Kaden submitted the artwork for the youth newsletter after hearing Chaplain Tim teach on the Armor of God one Sunday at Juvenile Hall. I met him back in May and part of Kaden's story was featured in my last newsletter.

Kaden is one of the few youth in his unit who attends both church and bible study each week. His behavior at the bible study is also noticeable better than the other guys who attend.

We have continued to meet weekly since May and he has completed our discipleship curriculum and was awarded a certificate and a study bible. Currently we are finishing some counseling material about becoming a man. Next, we will be working through my trauma workbook together.

Even though he lived with both dad and mom, his home life lacked good role models. The good news is that his mom and dad started attending a good church near their home after their son was arrested.

In January he will be offered his time which could be anywhere from nine months to two years. A couple weeks ago he said, "I used to be in a gang but called someone yesterday and told them I am done."

"Your prayer letters are full of encouragement and evidence of how God is moving through you to build his kingdom."

Prayer Partner

"Tell Chaplain Rick thank you for helping you come to meet the Lord."

Youth's Grandfather

"The first time I attended a church service and you began playing guitar, I felt a wave of emotion and started to cry."

Incarcerated Youth

Here are comments I received either in an email, a text message, a card, or in person.

"I learned more about God during this one on one session than I have learned my whole life."

Incarcerated Youth

"Out of all our missionaries, you do the best at communicating."

Mission's Pastor

"I was thinking about our conversation and it made me realize a lot so I made some changes."

Released Youth

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