



Juvenile Networking

Volume 1 Issue 4

"Many Ministries—One Mission"

Fourth Quarter 2004

Chaplain Wiebe—Beyond the Gates

Submitted by: Shirley Orr Smith

Facts You Can Use

In 2002, Female referrals accounted for 28.6% of the juveniles referred to Texas Juvenile Probation Departments, 30,287 female youth. *TJPC*

Drug referrals to Texas Juvenile Probation Departments more than doubled over a ten year period. From 5,774 in 1993 to 11,462 in 2002. *TJPC*

Re-arrest rate for felony offenses within one year of release from TYC improved from 36.7 percent in 1999 to 32.4 in 2003. *TYC*



Pamela Wiebe

After nine years of faithful service with the Texas Youth Commission Chaplain Pamela Wiebe felt God was calling her to move on. Pamela served as their first and only female Chaplain. Before being hired at the Gainesville State School (GSS), she served there as a volunteer for 5 years and was selected as the Outstanding Religious Volunteer of the Year. While completing a counseling internship at TYC, she felt the call to become a chaplain. She loves to say, "I had a good plan, but I found that God can always have a better one".

After graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelors degree in Counseling from UNT, she went on to receive her masters from Trinity Theological Seminary. Chaplain Wiebe was selected as the Gainesville State School Employee of the year. In 1998, she was a TYC nominee for the Outstanding Women in Texas Government award. She also received a certificate of Appreciation by the State Agency Council Liaison to the

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Ministry Helps for Youth

by Mike Gahan

Attracting and maintaining the interest of fidgeting teenagers can be a real struggle. Short attention spans are the rule not the exception. I have observed that most youth learn best by visual images and by being engaged in the learning process. Through trial and error and by borrowing from others, I have picked up some creative ways to use God's Word that works. Here are some that I have found to be especially helpful: Have youth write a **Prayer Request Card** on a 3x5 index card, ask them to write their first name and age only. Enlist a prayer group from a church to respond to their request. Telling youth that a group of people has prayed for their specific request really touches their hearts.



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Chaplain Wiebe—Beyond the Gates continued

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Governor's Commission for Women for Outstanding Professional Development. Upon announcing her resignation last November from TYC Chaplaincy Wiebe said, "I don't know exactly what all God has planned, but I know that he has called me to serve, **"beyond the gates."** I think that God has been trying to give me a "time to move on" message for some time. Leaving here is by far the hardest decision of my life – but I know that I know that God is trustworthy. If he is calling me away from the "best job in the world" then He must have another mission out there that he wants me to accomplish.

With tears welling up in her eyes Wiebe remarked, "A verse in a song I recently wrote says it best:

I don't know where you
are leading,
I don't know what you
have planned,
But I know that I can't
stay here,
cause I can't get there
from where I am."

Faith Based Dorm Program

Under her direction, Gainesville can be proud of having the first and only Faith Based Dorm program in TYC. This program received national media coverage in 2000, when a front page article was featured in *Youth Today*. In this program, students volunteer (with parents approval) to be housed in a unit where along with their regular TYC Resocialization

program, prayer and spiritual growth groups are facilitated by volunteers on a daily bases. Along with the daily religious study times, getting the religious

"If we can be instrumental in allowing students to strengthen their faith and also keep them from coming back through our gates, then I call that a success!"

community involved in one-on-one faith based mentoring and aftercare is a focus of the program. Chaplain Wiebe was excited to get the news that according to a recent study done by TYC, the students who have participated in the dorm showed a reduction of recidivism. "If we can be instrumental in allowing students to strengthen their faith and also keep them from coming back through our gates, then I call that a success!"

Approximately 80% of the youth at GSS faithfully attend at least one chapel service each week where they beg to hear her sing. Because of the large number of attendees, the Sunday A.M. chapel service had to be divided into two services. She attribute the fact that GSS has the highest number of students attending religious services in TYC to the fact that she incorporates a largest number and variety of churches and prison ministries during her weekend chapel services and in religious study groups held on all dorms. She believes that when dealing with teenagers, the key to success is keeping it real and keeping it fresh! Because of this, she con-

sistently recruited the largest number of chaplaincy volunteers and has the highest religious volunteer hours in TYC. She also believes that "hurting people hurt people" so one of the best ways to stop victimization is to do what she can to help the youth be healed of their hurts. She sees great chapel services and lots of one-on-one spiritual counseling/mentoring as a major key to bringing this about.

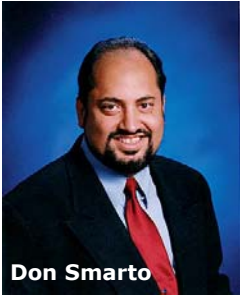
Mrs. Wiebe has the experience to validate that she has something to say about teenagers. She and her husband of 25 years, Garry Wiebe, have had a lot of history with working with teens. Along with raising their own daughters, they have parented many other teens during their 14 years as Cooke County CPS foster parents. She says that she has a unique perspective because she has lived with victims in her home and then has gone to work all day with TYC youth that for the most part - are victims that have now become victimizers. She understands that it is one thing to love the abused, but it takes another level to love the abuser. Garry and Pamela also served as Youth Pastors for 10 years and at the same time, hosted a weekly gathering in their home for community youth called "YES (Youth Everlasting Support)". Hundreds of youth have passed through their home through the years in some manner and now look to them as parents or role models. Of all the accomplishments Chaplain Wiebe has

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Ministry With Integrity

Excerpts from "Lost and Found" by Don Smarto

In Chapter 9 of his book "Lost and Found", Don Smarto, President of Youth Direct Ministries, a nationally acclaimed juvenile ministry, provides wise counsel about knowing which ministries to support.



Don Smarto

Mr Smarto writes, "Many people have a "soft spot" in their heart for troubled youth. But just because someone receives a mailing with a heart warming story or statistics about the number of juveniles that have been affected or made commitments to the Lord, does not mean that it is a ministry with the highest Biblical standards. I believe there are five standards which would recommend a juvenile ministry and five areas to avoid.

Here are five recommended standards:"

1. Generous
2. Inclusive
3. Partnership
4. Humble
5. Restoration

Mr Smarto goes on to explain his reasons and provides examples of why these are important gauges of a ministry with integrity. He also shares his insights on why you should be wary of ministries that demonstrate these five characteristics:

1. Territorial
2. Exclusive
3. Competitive
4. Proudful
5. Unforgiving

"In juvenile ministry, we are on the front lines of battle. Keep straight what is the Devil's plan and what is the Lord's plan," writes Mr Smarto. "Align with a ministry that is seeking restoration and healing, that is

not prideful, territorial, competitive, or unforgiving." The Lord's plan is obvious; "They will know them by their love for one another"

Editors Note: "Lost and Found", is an excellent resource that spans over 700 pages reflecting the extensive experience and insights of one of the most knowledgeable professionals in Juvenile Justice Ministry. It can be purchased via Youth Direct's Website at www.youthdirect.org Don Smarto has been working with high risk and incarcerated youth for thirty years. He was a juvenile probation officer, director of a residential adolescent drug abuse program, and an assistant superintendent of a maximum security juvenile institution. Don has authored several excellent books about ministering to juveniles. His research and ministry have taken him to 1,000 prisons in 10 countries. After twelve years as Director of Prison Ministries at the Billy Graham Center, Don focused on at risk and incarcerated youth by forming Dallas based Youth Direct Ministries, that conducts evangelism events in facilities nationwide.

Chaplain Wiebe—Beyond the Gates continued

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seen during her years with TYC, the thing that she is most proud of is the letters and calls she gets from former TYC students and other youth that let her know that they still remember the love and teaching they received.

I don't know exactly what vehicle He will use to make it happen, but I have a vision and passion to motivate and educate the faith community in the areas of ex-offender discipleship and aftercare.

During the past 14 years that I have worked with TYC kids, (5 years as volunteer and 9 years

as staff), I have seen a desperate need for an organized effort

"I have seen a desperate need for an organized effort for the community to help our kids "make it" beyond the gates of TYC."

for the community to help our kids "make it" beyond the gates of TYC. Not only do they need aftercare services, but to also have someone available to lead them spiritually beyond the gate of salvation. Many of our students start a sincere spiritual journey, but have no one to disciple them to a spiritual maturity level where they can go on

to live a productive, free life.

Through the years I have met many wonderful people who share my vision. I hope to be a part of not only bringing those people together, but also motivating and educating them through my years of experience inside the gates of TYC."

Mrs. Wiebe is available to speak, for live consultations or offer whatever gifts and talents God has placed within her to make this vision happen. She may be contacted by email wiebe@nortexinfo.net.

The Facts About STD's

Reprinted from the Medical Institute of Sexual Health

The Epidemic

The United States is experiencing a major epidemic of sexually transmitted Disease (STD). Over 60 million Americans are currently infected with an STD and 15 million new cases of sexually transmitted infection occur each year.¹ One quarter of these new STD infections occur in people between 15 and 19, and two-thirds occur in those under the age of 25.²

The Cause

What is driving this epidemic? A combination of factors including the initiation of *sexual activity occurring at younger ages*; a delay in the age of first marriage; and high divorce rates. These changing social norms have increased the number of lifetime sexual partners for many Americans. An increased number of lifetime sexual partners is a very important risk factor for STDs.³ The problem is compounded because many individuals infected with the most common STDs chlamydia, genital herpes and human papillomavirus do not experience noticeable symptoms and do not know that they are contagious.

The Impact

Unfortunately, STDs are not equal opportunity diseases. *Adolescents are at greater risk than adults.* The CDC gives several explanations for this increased risk including: adolescents are more likely to have multiple sexual partners; they may select partners at higher risk; and, they may be more susceptible to certain STDs because of their immature anatomy.⁴ Additionally, STDs disproportionately impact women. Women are known to be more susceptible to infection with certain STDs, particularly, chlamydia

and gonorrhea.⁵ Women with STDs are also more likely to experience significant complications from their infection, including the development of pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility and cervical cancer.

The Fallacy

Though effective antibiotic treatments for bacterial STDs exist, antibiotic resistance is increasing. Even treatment with antibiotics cannot guarantee that later complications will be avoided. Antiviral medications do exist, but are not uniformly effective and even in the best scenarios, not curative. Research to produce vaccines that prevent viral STDs is ongoing, but to date hepatitis B is the only STD with an effective and widely available vaccine. New medical advances to prevent and/or treat viral STDs appear to be years away, and in fact, many never occur.

The Confusion

Condoms continue to be widely promoted as effective in preventing all STDs and unwanted pregnancy, but the scientific evidence suggests otherwise. Condoms can and do fail. For some STDs (those spread by contact with infected skin) condoms are likely to fail if they do not completely cover all infected areas. For STDs spread by contact with body fluids, as well as for pregnancy, the most significant reasons for condom failure are incorrect/inconsistent use and breakage/slippage. And while the risk of condom breakage/slippage for a single act of sexual intercourse may be quite small (2-3% in most studies), the cumulative breakage/slippage risks when condoms are used as a long-term prevention strategy are significant.

Condoms are not particularly effective when used to prevent pregnancy. In fact, condoms have failure rates of approximately 14 percent during the first year of typical use.⁶ And these failure rates are even higher in younger users. In addition, the scientific evidence shows that condoms may not prevent the transmission of most STDs. Consistent condom use (100%) reduces HIV risk by about 85%. For gonorrhea, chlamydia, herpes and syphilis, consistent use reduces risk by 50% at most. Almost no risk reduction is provided for HPV infection;^{7,8} however, some data suggest that HPV-related conditions occur less commonly in condom users.⁹ Even in the best of situations, condoms cannot eliminate the risk of STD transmission.

The Solution

Delaying sexual activity until marriage with an uninfected spouse is the only way for teens and single adults to avoid the risk of an STD infection or a non-marital pregnancy. Adolescents and single adults can successfully postpone sexual activity (become or remain abstinent) if properly instructed and encouraged. According to the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health parents can have an important impact on the sexual behavior of adolescent children. Parents who are connected with their children are significantly more likely to have adolescents who delay sexual initiation. Similarly, adolescents whose parents disapprove of teen sexual activity and contraception are significantly more likely to delay having sex.¹⁰

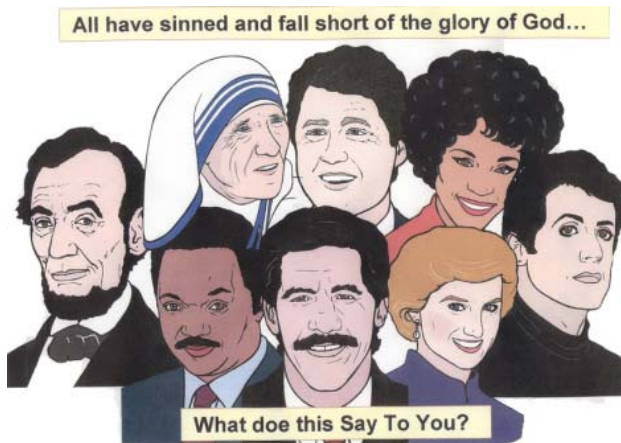
See website for footnotes:
www.medinstitute.org/

Ministry Helps for Youth Continued

By Mike Gahan

(Continued from page 1)

Share Jesus with Graphics by using an 8 ½ X 11 notebook that shows a colorful image associated with each Bible verse of the Gospel. Use at least 20point bold face font for the verses. Invite youth to



read a verse and discuss the meaning. Can be used in small groups or with individuals. Download free— see end of article for website info.

Give **SOS Cards** (Some-One-Special). These are business-sized cards that have colorful graphic images with Bible verses printed on them. These cards are big hitters with youth. Youth love to collect them. Download and print free from same website.

Start a Bible Verse **Memorization Program**. Recognize success with a neat looking certificate. Challenge youth! Don't accept a lame excuse like, "I have a bad memory because of drugs." In one juvenile detention center that I volunteered in over 500 youth memorized ten scripture verses! Over 100 of these

youth went on to memorize another ten verse . . . a total of twenty verses! Guess what? Most of these youth claimed to have bad memories – that is before they started the program.

Teach the Bible by using the **lyrics from Praise and Worship songs**. I use stereo equipment with CD's and my finger to play the buttons. Its the only music I can play. I have absolutely no musical talent. Long after they have left the institution and forgotten a memory verse they will recall the words to a favorite song.

Comic book tracts, sports tracts, and calendar cards are big hitters with youth. I use several tracts but "the Judge" from American Tract Society is one of their favorites. You can order these directly from their website at this link: www.ATStracts.org Also, Youth Direct has an excellent Evangelism Comic booklet titled Where Are You Headed? It really speaks to the issues these youth are dealing with. You can order it from their website at www.youthdirect.org

Use **objects in stories** to help reinforce lessons. Youth remember through association. My website has two stories that work especially well with youth. One for evangelism (Lamb's

Broken Leg) and one to help them work through discouragement after conversion or why do I keep on sinning if I have Jesus in my heart (Two Dogs) .

Use **Playing Cards** that have scripture verses on them for spur-of-the-moment Bible lessons. Hold the deck face down then ask a youth to pick any card. Do a short improvised bible lesson about the card they picked. It won't be long before you'll attract a crowd of youth wanting to pick a card. Also, incarcerated youth spend many hours playing card games, such as spades and hearts. I use Good Christian Playing Cards. You can order these through Wood's Enterprises, 130 E. Main Ada, OK 74820

For aftercare, give **Gift CD's with their favorite** Praise and Worship Songs on them. These make excellent graduation gifts when they leave the facility. You can download and burn up to ten CD's of popular P & W song titles, legally. Napster, Walmart, Itunes, and MSN offer this service for less than a dollar a song. You can burn 15 to 20 songs per CD.

Visuals can be very helpful in applying God's Word to meet a youth's spiritual needs. But the best resource to help a troubled youth develop a relationship with Jesus is the Spirit of Christ in you. You, his disciple, offer the best example of the living word of our Lord Jesus Christ.

www.alamojuveileministries.org

The Thug-Life

Written by a Gang Member—Boy Age 15



Do you know the true meaning of THUG LIFE? Do you ever stop to think of Christ? Almost the same, but we live in vain. Everybody should know his name.

Jesus lived his life like you and me. He lived his life as a 'G'. So 'G'reat, so 'Grand'. He died for thee. But he'll really live Eternally, by our father, G-O-D. Christ was hung on a cross. But his soul wasn't lost.

Take some time to read the rest of this Rhyme. There's a hidden message deep inside. Knowledge is power, even in the darkest hour.

We 'R to C' his resurrection was meant to be. He shed his blood to forgive our sins, so we'll blend as KIN or friends in the end. He told the KINGS, he would rise and his true DISCIPLES knew he told no lies.

Three days later, he AMBROSE from the dead, and near his CRIP was the cloth from his head.

Outside his grave, were BROWN LEAFs. None were crumbled by the steps of a thief. So stop making it, so hard of a belief, 'CUZ' it happened, yes indeed.

He went to EAST TERRACE part of town. Where the TIEMPO DE AZULES fest was going down.

And in the air were GREY EAGLES flying around. In the end, he'll wear his 'CROWN' and he'll make sure nothing gets 'thrown down'. In his hand he'll hold his 'Spear', while all his 'Folk' are standing near. Once again, we shall all live in fear, so equally from our one and only God, and his Son, who are Heavenly.

It doesn't matter if you' Red, Black, or Blue, just remember Jesus died for me and you. All different Colors should be United As One, to make White Light, like the one above. It doesn't matter if you're not 'Cuz' by 'Blood' don't be afraid to show a thug love.

21st ANNUAL STATEWIDE TYC VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

May 13-15, 2005 THEME: "TYC VOLUNTEERS – MASTERS OF CHANGE"

ANALOGY/ARTWORK:

DRAGONFLIES shed their old selves over and over again; from the wingless swimmers they're hatched in the water to air-breathing crawlers up blades of grass or cattails. There they finally unfurl the wings they've been growing in secret preparation for this day – and they take to the air. You make it look easy!

LOCATION:

San Antonio Marriott Northwest at crossroads of Loop 410 and I-10 in the prestigious north-west corridor of San Antonio. Near North Star Mall. Complementary airport transportation.

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

We will feature our high-skilled TYC volunteers as next year's workshop presenters! Learn the secrets of successfully impacting the lives of TYC youth from your very own volunteer colleagues around the state. One featured keynote speaker will be Dr. Charles Lawless, the author of Life Change Mentoring.

SATURDAY DINNER EVENT:

The evening will begin with an elegant networking reception featuring light hors d'oeuvres and beverages at the hotel, immediately following the last workshop of the day. Then, chartered buses will take conference participants to the San Antonio River Walk to experience the nightlife of this beautiful city. Participants may enjoy dinner, shopping, and sightseeing on their own for several hours before the buses return to the conference hotel.

COSTS:

The registration fee of the 2005 Conference will offer an **early-bird rate of \$90**, a regular registration fee of \$100, and the onsite fee of \$125. Accommodations at the conference hotel, Marriott Northwest, are offered at the discounted rate of **\$80 per night**, for up to 4 adults in the room.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.tyc.state.tx.us/programs/volunteers.html

Volunteers Must Report Abuse, Neglect

Reprinted from Texas Juvenile Probation Commission www.tjpc.state.tx.us

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission investigates allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in juvenile justice departments, programs and facilities operated wholly or partly by the juvenile board or by a private vendor under a contract with the juvenile board or county that serves juveniles under juvenile court jurisdiction. Any person including any employee, intern **or volunteer** of a juvenile probation department, juvenile justice program, secure juvenile pre-adjudication detention facility, secure post-adjudication correctional facility or juvenile justice alternative education program shall report to the Commission and local law enforcement any allegation or incident of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Although most allegations are made by the juvenile who feels he or she has been abused, neglected or

exploited, any person who witnesses, learns of or suspects abuse, neglect or exploitation is legally required to report. This includes professionals whose communications would ordinarily be privileged (i.e., doctors, counselors, therapists, etc.). Family members of juveniles, private citizens or law enforcement may also make reports. In accordance with Texas Family Code Section 261.101, the duty to report can not be delegated to any person. Although the first person who learns of or suspects that a resident has been abused, neglected or exploited may not be the person who completes the TJPC Incident Report Form, it is that person's responsibility to ensure the allegation or incident is reported to the Commission and law enforcement. In accordance with Texas Family Code 261.109, failure to report an allegation or incident of abuse, neglect, or exploitation is a Class B misde-

meanor. In addition, knowingly or intentionally making a false report of abuse, neglect or exploitation is a Class A misdemeanor in accordance with Texas Family Code 261.107.

Any allegation or suspected incident of abuse, neglect or exploitation of a juvenile that occurs in a department, program or facility under the jurisdiction of the juvenile board shall be reported to the Commission and local law enforcement within 24 hours of the allegation being made or discovery of the incident, including weekends and holidays.

Volunteers should contact the Chaplain or in the absence of a Chaplain, contact the Administration of the Juvenile Facility to report the incident.

Resources to Increase Your Effectiveness

LIFECHANGE by Dr Charles Lawless

A Christian Mentoring Curriculum

A mentoring curriculum for restoring juvenile and adult offenders through responsible Christian living. The LifeChange material includes daily scripture readings, a weekly prayer journal, and sixteen discussion guides. For More Information: www.lifechangementoring.org or write: PO Box 9535, Midland, TX 79708-9535

Lost and Found by Don Smarto



This new book is actually three books in one. There are complete sections for parents, volunteers and professionals. This is the best, most complete ministry book available on the subject of incarcerated and high risk youth. Order from Website at:

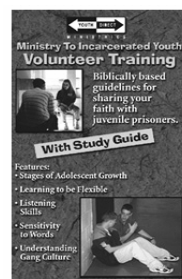
www.youthdirect.org
Youth Direct Ministries
PO Box 764499 Dallas, TX 75376
Phone (972) 572-8336

Where Are You Headed?



This full page color comic is an excellent resource for troubled youth. This piece was specially designed for youth to relate to them. Also available in Spanish. Order from Youth Direct Ministries Website: www.youthdirect.org

Volunteer Training Video **Ministry to Incarcerated Youth**



Biblically based guidelines for sharing your faith with juvenile prisoners. 30 Minutes of video featuring 1) stages of adolescent growth 2) learning to be flexible 3) listening skills 4) sensitivity to words and 5) understanding gang culture. Order from Website at: www.youthdirect.org

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About Us:

**PUBLISHED BY: JUVENILE JUSTICE
MINISTRIES NETWORK OF TEXAS, INC.**

We are a Christ centered association of ministries, churches, and individuals that minister to juvenile offenders and their families. Our goals are simply this:

- Equip faith based workers with resources and training to enhance their ministry work
- Coordinate juvenile justice ministry events to maximize participation, attendance, and outcomes
- Advocate for juvenile justice legislation
- Promote juvenile justice ministry opportunities, events, and initiatives
- Educate workers and society regarding methods of spiritual intervention that help youthful offenders

We are a Texas Non-Profit Corporation. For membership information please send email to membership@jjmnt.org or contact us at the address shown on this page. Membership dues are \$35 and are payable annually. For comments about articles that appear in this publication email: editor@jjmnt.org

*Our thanks to First Baptist Church Dallas Prison Ministries
for printing the Juvenile Networking Newsletter*

Join with Us to Save Youth

*Call, Write, or Visit us on the Web
for Membership information*

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"Many Ministries—One Mission"