

About Us:

We are a Christ-centered association whose mission is to strengthen individuals, organizations, and churches who work with 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 501(c)3 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

Emerging Trends in Juvenile Ministry

By Don Smarto

My research and professional writing has given me the privilege of extensive travel across America, having a nationwide perspective of trends in juvenile justice and innovative programs to help troubled youth. There is reason for hope.

Both legislators and system administrators understand the need for faith based programs and the involvement of volunteers in mentoring. States like Texas have long valued cognitive behavioral therapy as compatible with relational ministry as witnessed in volunteer programs including Bible studies, a Christian dorm, evangelism, and mentoring.

Last year I authored a sixty page study for Pennsylvania legislators about a Christian model for a juvenile facility, commissioned by a lobbyist group. As a current Florida Juvenile Justice consultant, I recently authored a two hundred page Mentoring Training Manual. Several meetings I have had with Colorado legislators this year have centered on the contributions of faith based organizations in juvenile facilities.

All of this indicates to me an “open door” that God has placed before us to make a unique contribution like no other time in American history.

JJMNT is about juvenile ministries and professionals networking for unity and the sharing of ideas and strategies. Now, more than ever, Christians must be professional, prepared, and perform ministry with excellence. The days of “winging it”, or mediocrity are over. As

more administrators have advanced degrees, replacing the political appointments of the past, so Christian ministries must have better volunteer training, evaluate their success with research, and work in

partnership with professional counselors not in competition.

Both government and ministry now know that a youth can only be helped as a total person; physical, mental, and spiritual.

Our founding fathers had a deep personal faith and sought to protect people from an imposed religion, not a nation without spiritual values. Juveniles need faith and a church upon release.

Volunteers are the agent for transition from a secure facility to a



President Bush discusses his faith-based agenda during a White House Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Leadership Conference in Washington D.C., Tuesday, March 1, 2005. White House photo by Paul Morse

Do Faith Based Dorms Lower Recidivism?

By Shirley Orr Smith

Here is an analysis that suggests there is merit in faith-based dorms. In January, 1999, Gainesville State School (GSS), Texas Youth Commission, Gainesville, Texas, transformed Dorms 5 and 6 into a Faith Based Dorm. The recidivism rate analysis compared youth being placed in the Faith Based Dorm with Gainesville State School youth not assigned to the Faith Based Dorm.

The analysis compared the actual and predicted recidivism rates of youth in the faith based dorm with GSS youth not placed in the faith based dorm.

Each group was measured on four offense areas: re-arrest for a violent offense, re-arrest for any offense, re-incarceration for any offense and success (not re-arrested or re-incarcerated within one year) the predicted rates for the control group were set to be their actual rate. The predicted rates for the faith based group were set to be the rate that would be predicted had they not been in the faith based dorm.

Although, the re-arrest rate for a violent offense was slightly higher than predicted for the faith based group, their rates were lower in the other 3 areas: re-arrest rate 55.6% vs. 64.1% predicted, re-incarcerated 27.6% vs. 31.6% predicted; and success rate 38.3% vs. 30.7% predicted).

FAITH-BASED DORM RECIDIVISM COMPARISON

		EVER IN FAITH-BASED DORM		All
		NO	YES	
NUMBER TRACKED		901	196	1097
RATE	PREDICTED ARRESTED FOR VIOLENT OFFENSE WITHIN 1 YEAR	10.1	10.0	10.1
	ARRESTED FOR VIOLENT OFFENSE WITHIN 1 YEAR	10.1	10.7	10.2
	REARREST FOR VIOLENT OFFENSE DIFFERENCE	0.0	0.7	0.1
	PREDICTED ARRESTED WITHIN 1 YEAR	66.3	64.1	65.9
	ARRESTED WITHIN 1 YEAR	66.3	55.6	64.4
	REARREST DIFFERENCE	0.0	-8.4	-1.5
	PREDICTED INCARCERATED WITHIN 1 YEAR	32.3	31.6	32.2
	INCARCERATED WITHIN 1 YEAR	32.3	27.6	31.4
	REINCARCERATION DIFFERENCE	0.0	-4.0	-0.7
	PREDICTED SUCCESSFUL FOR 1 YEAR	28.7	30.7	29.1
	SUCCESSFUL FOR 1 YEAR	28.7	38.3	30.4
	SUCCESS DIFFERENCE	0.0	7.5	1.3

Grandparents raising their grandchildren

by Kenneth Sewell

Our country faces an alarming trend in America? grandparents raising their grandchildren. According to data collected during the last census, about 6 million children lived with their grandparents. This is an increase of 71% from the previous census in 1990.



However, many researchers are asking how this affects juvenile delinquency.

Multiple definitions have emerged to describe the situation of grandparents who take the primary care giving role of their biological grandchildren. The most common definition used is grandparent-headed households. Encore

parenting is the term used to describe grandparents who parent for the second time after raising their own children. Finally, supergrands are the grandparents who have assumed the parenting role.

Most grandparents look forward to their retirement years. Many plan on retiring and living a leisure life of traveling, hobbies and playing with the grandchildren. Unfortunately, grandparents who raise their grandchildren are not able to spend time together without the responsibility of all the day-to-day tasks. These grandparents basically add the role of parent to the existing grandparent role.

Grandparents find themselves

grieving the loss of being grandparents. Instead of spoiling their grandchildren, these new parents find themselves providing instead of playing and spanking instead of spoiling. Many grandparents find themselves losing touch with friends because of new parenting responsibilities and grieve the loss of time with friends and attending social events. Grandparents who gladly take responsibility and even look forward to raising their grandchildren may find themselves depressed and overwhelmed when dealing with problems.

Many grandparents face financial difficulties. Grandparents are aiming for their retirement years and although they have prepared, they may not be ready financially to care for the grandkids. Some financial assistant is available to grandparents, but only when the grandchildren are dependents.

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Standing Up for Youth

by Mike Gahan

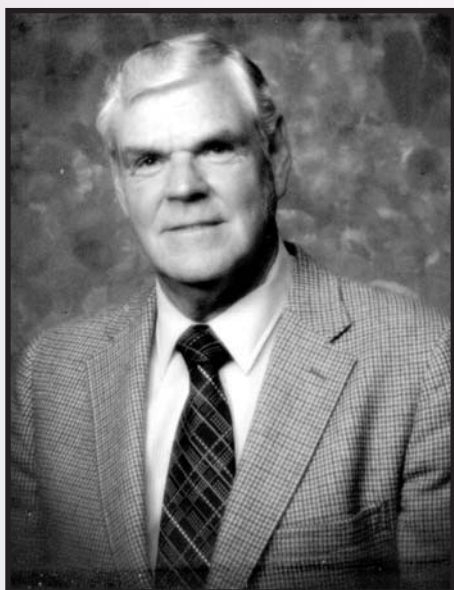
As our ham and egg omelets arrived for breakfast I asked Sam, "How are things going at the Ayres Halfway House?" Sam began to glow as he recounted what had been taking place. "Last count, we have had twenty-two youth that have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Over half of the ones that were able to come to the church have been baptized."

If you know Sam Pack you know he is not your ordinary chaplaincy volunteer nor is his church, Castle Hills First Baptist Church in San Antonio, an ordinary church. When the pastor asked if anyone

would like to stand up for one TYC youth being baptized – *the whole church stood up!* It was so overwhelming to the young man that he couldn't hold back the tears in eyes. "When these

kids get baptized our church comes alive", says Sam.

Sam's ministry to youth is frequently acknowledged as an outstanding example of chaplaincy service in the Texas Youth



"When these kids get baptized – our church comes alive" – Sam Pack

Commission's Volunteer Programs. He was recently recognized by Dwight Harris, Executive Director of TYC at the 10-year anniversary celebration of the Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit for his faithfulness over the years in supplying Bibles to all youth who want one. Over 45,000 Bibles have been placed in the

hands of incarcerated youth through his Cross Advantage Ministry organization. You can find out more about this ministry by going to their website at www.crossadvantage.org.

Grover joins Executive Committee



Based Evangelism. She has served

Tomi Lee "T.L." Grover holds a PhD from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Social Work and Ministry-

in ministry through the Baptist General Convention of Texas since November 2001.

Her area of specialization is Community and Restorative Justice Ministries which deals with the entire criminal justice system including at-risk children and youth, juvenile offenders, and their families. T.L. can be reached at the Baptist General Convention of Texas, 214-887-5428.

Tidbits

Youth Participates in Bible Drive

Michael Ware, age 17, a member of Scout Troupe 48 in Garland, Texas needed a project as part of his requirements to be an Eagle Scout. His mother heard on KCBI 90.9 FM about Christian Bible book drive for Texas prisons. The book drive was in conjunction with First Baptist Church Dallas's Prison Ministry. She called and received the information how it is done and Michael decided to collect Bibles for his project. Four churches in Garland agreed to participate and Michael recruited five friends to help him from July 15 to August 15, 2005. Together, they collected over 800 Christian books and Bibles.

2006 Directory

Our new JJMNT directory is now available. This useful tool lists all juvenile facilities in Texas as well as the current members of the JJMNT. Available soon at www.jjmt.org.

Al Price Closes

The Al Price Unit in Beaumont temporarily closes because of damage sustained by Hurricane Rita. All youth and staff were evacuated before the storm and have been assigned to other facilities until the repairs have been completed. TYC has not given a date for the unit to be reopened.

Our Mission

We are a Christ-centered association whose mission is to strengthen individuals, organizations, and churches who work with juvenile offenders and their families.

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Central Texas and Panhandle Representative positions are currently vacant.



**Juvenile
Justice
Ministries
Network of
Texas**

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(Grandparents cont'd)

Grandparents usually have no legal right to parent a grandchild. Without guardianship, adoption or legal custody, many grandparents cannot enroll children in school, examine report cards, sign for medical treatment or receive government financial assistance for the child.

Grandparents are surprised when their insurance companies refuse to add their grandchildren to the policy. This alone creates an unforeseen financial burden and grandparents can be forced to apply for Medicaid for their grandchildren.

Supergrands generally have a more difficult time parenting than normal parents. Age and health concerns are at the top of the list along with grief and loss issues over

the changing roles and problems with their own children. Children are dealing with issues of loss and adjustment and may not have all their needs met. The risks of delinquency are increased with grandparents who have a myriad of issues facing them.



Are grandparents who are transitioning roles less likely to exhibit an appropriate measure of parental control and supervision?

What are the implications regarding delinquency? More research is needed to answer these questions, but considering the rapid increase in encore parenting we cannot wait for the answer. We must be proactive in helping these supergrands and the grandchildren to prevent the grandchildren from entering the juvenile justice system.

Emerging Trends Cont'd

return home. Ministry must take place in both phases.

Both Texas government and Christian ministries share the same goals for youthful offenders; stronger family relationships, continuing education, and a renunciation of illegal drugs, gang activity, and crime. We both desire to see youth become stable citizens, productive workers, and have stable marriages and become good parents themselves.

Why an organization for those in juvenile justice ministry in Texas? Together we have a stronger voice. Together we learn from each other. Together we hold each other accountable. Together, JJMNT fosters the professionalism of all juvenile ministries.

F. Scott Fitzgerald said "Never confuse a single defeat with a final defeat". We know that juveniles in trouble can change. They are not yet career criminals and can change for the better with caring, supportive adults. We never know when an incarcerated youth in a prison uniform is a future Billy Graham or Martin Luther King, Jr. With God all things are possible.

I, for one, am glad I lived to see the day when juvenile justice systems are not simply tolerating church groups but promoting partnerships with professional Christian ministries. It is happening across America. It is a reality here in Texas.