



Juvenile Networking

Volume 4 Issue 1

"Many Ministries—One Mission"

Winter 2007

Facts You Can Use:

Commitments to the Texas Youth Commission rose slightly from 2,614 in year 2005 to 2,738 in year 2006

Source: TYC Research Webpage

20.5 months was the average residential length of stay in Texas Youth Commission facilities in Fiscal year 2006.

Source: TYC Research Webpage

After completing TYC's competency-based Re-socialization© program, the majority of youth are not re-incarcerated in either TYC or adult prison three years after release.

Source: TYC Research Webpage

Over 2.2 million juveniles were arrested in the U.S. in year 2004. Including 91,000 that were for violent crimes and almost 250,000 for other assaults.

Source: FBI Crime Index

I have read in Plato and Cicero sayings that are wise and very beautiful; but I have never read in either of them: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden."

St Augustine—Matthew 11:28

Inside this issue:

Gang Prevention—Community Based	2
DaddyDisc Continued	3
Using Biblical Principles to Manage Anger	3
Upcoming Juvenile Justice Ministry Events	4

DaddyDisc a Hit with Incarcerated Teens

By Shirley Smith

DaddyDisc is a program designed to help *incarcerated teenage fathers* take seriously their responsibilities as a father and take a giant step toward developing the father-child relationship they want with their children.

Phil Oliver, founder of the program said, "Many of the young fathers involved in the DaddyDisc program have never seen their children; some have met their children but currently have no contact with them or their mother. They are surprised to learn that through this program they do not have to wait until they are released to begin being the father they want to be."

The program offers an opportunity for the teenage dads to discuss and process what kind of dad they want to be. They learn appropriate ways to express their feelings with their children and the importance of spending quality time with them.

Each young man in the program is given a children's storybook that he will read to his child via tape recorder. The young fathers are encouraged to speak the child's name often and add personal comments to the reading such as telling the child that he wishes he could be there to read the book in person and that someday he will be there to hug him and spend time with him. Until that time comes he hopes the child will listen to the CD and follow along as the dad

(Continued on page 3)



Using Biblical Principles to Manage Anger

By Mike Gahan

She got staffed out! I grimaced as I heard the bad news. "Staffed out" meaning she was sent back to Juvenile Detention for a court hearing, an appearance that will probably end in a commitment to the Texas Youth Commission. She was doing well in her correction and treatment program. She was enthusiastic about her faith. She eagerly looked forward to Sunday chapel services where she could express her joy in song and testimony.

What happened? Something triggered something and in a flash of anger she assaulted a residential treatment officer. What is the cost of her out of control anger? Several more months or even years of incarceration added to her young life and perhaps as much as \$100,000 or more in program costs in a state run re-socialization facility. Is there a better answer? That's unknown. But perhaps an answer could be Anger Solutions Network (ASN), a Texas non-profit 501 (C) (3) corporation.



I recently visited with **Jay Burchfield**, Executive Director of Anger Solutions Network. What I learned was pretty amazing. For example, the foundation of their programs is based on biblical principles. In Jay's words, "It's not a Bible study on anger management—but it is based on bibli-

(Continued on page 3)

Gang Prevention—Alternative Culture

by Harvey Halliburton

I have worked with gangs for over 20 years. The most successful prevention and intervention strategy I was involved in was a community based initiative in a public housing projects in Columbus, Ohio. It had local, state and federal funding and support of the faith community. As Director, I coordinated services for all court involved youth which was around 50, at-risk youth and young adults 6-21 years of age. Over a three year period my probation caseload increased to one. We established an alternative culture for the youth to buy into. We developed a roadmap of activities for youth and families seven days a week. We solicited parents to be volunteers and participate in focus groups.

Boys and girls 6-18 years of age were put in groups with two adults. They participated in sports, dance, art and played instruments. Kids were identified by program hats, jackets, tee shirts and uniforms.

In addition, we hired 90% of all teenagers and college students during the summer through a federally funded employment and training program. In addition, we focused on responsibility,

"We established an alternative culture for the youth to buy into. We developed a roadmap of activities for youth and families seven days a week."

work ethic and pride in neighborhood. The majority of the adult staff was residents of the community. They were trained in violence prevention and other relevant areas of need. Youth were encouraged to tutor and volunteer to keep the community clean. The youth trusted the staff and wanted to produce for them. I had built up a relationship with gang members and drug dealers over a period of years. I was given an area of the projects that became off limits to drug dealers. Conversely, I knew certain areas were off limits to me. I knew that over a period of time the gang members and drug dealers would be incarcerated or killed. If I could prevent the boys from becoming delinquent, this group of anti-social males would decrease.

The whole community began to celebrate when the children would succeed, academically and in sports, art and music. We had monthly recognition ceremonies.

We are wasting our time trying to solve the gang problem and decreasing the

number of minorities' males that are being incarcerated unless there is a communitywide effort gets people from high risk neighborhoods involved. Our prisons are full of black and brown men and boys and the death rate among them continues to be high.

The beginning of these problems began with the break down of family. Over 70% of African Americans that grew up in the 1960 have lived with both parents. Others lived with an extended family. A single parent home was not part of the culture. One of the by products of boys being raised without dads is they are prone to give up because their sisters, mothers and grandparents make excuse for failure and feel sorry for them. I also see this being perpetrated by some social workers.

Black men like my dad and others in my community encountered racism, economic barriers, hardships; they would never give up because they had to provide for their families. These men taught their sons not to make excuses and we were taught that if a man does not work, he does not eat.

My dad knew that even though he worked hard seven days a week and never missed a day of work, he would never get promoted as a factory worker. Consequently, he made me work hard in school and in sports so that I would have opportunities that he did not have. He came to all my games and I had to attend church. Church espoused a way of life and values that was accepted by the community.

Pastors and ministers were the leaders of the community. This is missing today. Gang leaders and rappers have replaced the role of the pastors and ministers for a large segment of urban communities and are influencing more youth nationally than is being reported. Most people don't realize that most gangs are religions. They have bibles, commandments and doctrines. Most even take biblical scriptures and twist them around to support ideology. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords may represent a dead founder of a gang or leadership. The majority of gang prayers center on murder and violence. The rage and wanton violence by gang members should not be surprising.

Young rappers represent the reality of life of the urban poor, but have no solutions. Consequently, they glamorize drug dealing, violence, the thug life, ir-

responsibility and oppression and degradation of women. There is no message of hope. Get money legally or illegally is their charge. Your self worth is determined by jewelry, cars, clothes and ability to be violent. Sadly to say, rappers have also become more anti Christian. Some rappers even believe they are Gods.

It is a tragedy that BET and MTV play gang members videos on a regular basis. They are allowed to glamorize their gang and wear gang colors and rags.

"The whole community began to celebrate when the children would succeed, academically and in sports, art and music. We had monthly recognition ceremonies."

Who is going to advocate for the thousands babies born into communities infested by gangs and drugs? Who is going to compete with the gang leaders and rappers?

The faith community is vital to this movement and must develop more creative ways to outreach and inspire these youth. They see no hope and lack comprehensive solutions to change neighborhoods.

In closing, make sure that qualified people that have a vested interest in changing their community are involved in helping. This is not always the case. Allow them to be involved in educating the children, providing counseling and resources and hold them accountable. It takes a village to raise a child. Prevention and intervention must be done spontaneously and from a community perspective. Communities can change from within.

If parents and adults instill in children at an early age that they must succeed, they will. We must not allow the at-risk boys that we work with to dwell on their race, economic barriers or other obstacles. We must believe that for every risk factor there are culturally specific protective factors. With the proper role models, encouragement and support, the most at-risk black males can learn values that once was norm in their communities.

Community Restoration Center
www.communityrestoration.info
GangInfo List

Using Biblical Principles to Manage Anger Continued

cal principles." Getting people to recognize the sources of their anger is an ongoing process. We do provide specific insights but we don't

" . . . with spirituality I can forgive because I have been forgiven."

beat them over the head with the Bible".

Jay went on to say that, "We don't want to forgive but if I have spirituality in my life I can begin forgiving because I know I have been forgiven." Jay says, faith based anger management opens a crack for significance (value). If I have Christ I have value and I value you. He also emphasized that the Holy Spirit is an essential partner in the process. The Hallmark of the program is Ephesians 4:25-31.

Since winning the Texas Governors Award for the most innovative program in year 2000, ASN has broad-



From Left Paul Kimbro, Raymond Vela, and Jay Burchfield

ened its ministry base and enhanced its programs to address the needs of individuals, businesses, schools, churches, civic groups, and the juvenile justice system. But they still continue to serve incarcerated adult inmates in prisons and county jails, their original client base.

As of mid year 2006, Anger Solutions Network has helped 13,626 people. This total includes over 800 professionals (Counselors, Teachers, Facilitators and other professionals) that have been trained in ASN programs. Continuing Education Units (CEU's) are offered through the Methodist Health Care System for professionals.

Anger Solutions Network has helped 13,626 people. This total includes training over 800 professionals . . .

Perhaps one of the big reasons for its impressive track record of success is that its more than an anger management program. It's a ministry of compassion to help the hurting stop hurting themselves and others.

The dedication of the staff at Anger Solutions Network is evident—they are all volunteers. To them it is a ministry not a job. Jay likes to quote the Wounded Healer by Henri Nouwen, "As a wounded healer, we must look after our own wounds, but at the same time be prepared to help

heal the wounds of other, just like Jesus did."

ASN is endorsed by the National Sheriffs Association, the American Correctional Chaplains Association (Southwest Region), Texas Department of Corrections, Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital, Bexar County Judge's Office, University Health Care Services of S.A., Restorative Justice Ministry Network of North America, Bexar County Detention Ministries, San Antonio Area Community of Churches, and others.



Kathy Abrego Frank Bohannan

If you are interested in becoming a certified volunteer or finding out more about Anger Solutions Network programs you can contact them at:

*Anger Solutions Network
900 NE Loop 410, Suite D-307
San Antonio, Texas 78209-1409
Phone: 210-804-0085
www.angermanagementnow.org*

DaddyDisc a Hit with Incarcerated Teen Fathers Continued

reads the storybook.

The taped message is transferred to a CD. The CD along with the storybook is mailed to the child in care of his caregiver.

The DaddyDisc program was launched in 2005 at the McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility (TYC) at Mart, Texas. Alan Walters, Superintendent spoke appreciatively of the Mr. Oliver and the program saying, "A large percentage of teenagers have children, when you couple this with the pressure of being incarcerated you create conditions that seem insurmountable. Phil's program bridges an important communication and emotional gap

for these young men and their children while assisting our therapeutic community with developing empathy and a sense of expression and values that is often difficult for our youth. Phil is one of those outstanding individuals that consistently gives of his self and asks for nothing in return."

Mr. Oliver is an elementary classroom teacher with Waco ISD. He is an active volunteer with TYC at the Mart and Marlin facilities, Waco Parole, and the county juvenile services at Judge Logue Juvenile Justice Center. He is also active with the CASA organization as well as the McLennan County Youth Collaboration F.O.C.U.S mentoring pro-

gram. He serves as a mentor and student advocate in each of these areas. He is involved with the WISD Alternative Campus as well as the McLennan County Challenge Academy.

He currently serves as the Central Texas Representative and on the Executive Committee of the Juvenile Justice Ministries Network of Texas. His email address is:

phil.oliver@jjmnt.org.

Flatter me, and I may not believe you.
Criticize me, and I may not like you.
Ignore me, and I may not forgive you.
Encourage me, and I will not forget you.
- William Arthur Ward

Officers and Executive Committee

Don Smarto, Chairman

National Representative

Mike Gahan, Vice Chairman

South Texas Representative

Boone Vastine, Secretary

East Texas Representative

Weldon Fox, Treasurer

North Texas Representative

Phil Oliver

Central Texas Representative

Shirley Orr Smith

West Texas Representative

Bill Cook

Manvel, Texas

John Grubb

Princeton, Texas

James Leslie

Pasadena, Texas

Roy Teague

Midlothian, Texas

Upcoming Juvenile Justice Ministry Events!

- **Second Sunday Ministry at Marlin TYC**
All Things Possible with Victor Marx sponsors a day-long event at the Marlin Orientation Unit each month on the second Sunday. The morning consists of 3 programs, while the afternoon is used to visit the dorms for follow-up. For more information call the ministry office at 254-751-1635.
- **Youth Direct**
Join Youth Direct and share your faith at Mart I & Mart II February 17th, Mazelle Hill April 21st in Dallas, and June 16th at Medlock in Dallas. New training events for volunteers January 20th, and May 19th at Youth Direct headquarters. Go to www.youthdirect.org for times, locations, and directions.
- **Epiphany**
Friday, April 27th thru Sunday, April 29th Epiphany #10 will be at Mart Unit 1. For more information call 817-517-5751 or contact Tom Kinbrow at kimbrows@prodigy.net
- **TYC Annual Statewide Volunteer Conference**
June 1-3, 2007 Texas Youth Commission Statewide Volunteer Conference at Omni Bayfront Hotel in Corpus Christi, TX Early Registration \$120 for full conference. For more info: http://www.tyc.state.tx.us/programs/vol_newsletter/fall_nov2006/fall2006_1.html#mark



Juvenile Justice Ministries Network of Texas

PO Box 765156 Dallas, TX 75376-5156

"Many Ministries—One Mission"