

Ministry Report

December, 2014



JOE AND KRIS JORDAN
Serving Jesus together... hand-in-hand

Our Mission

The Lord has called us to help build whole and healthy families through the love and grace of

God; By **declaring His love** through the preaching and teaching of His Word; and through **demonstrating His love** by helping meet the spiritual, physical, educational, emotional, and recreational needs of the poor.

Join our Volunteer Family Today!

Serve Jesus by serving others. We'd love to have you be a part!

Call us today @
(760) 398-3352

WHERE DID THEY GO?

By Pastor Rob Manley

Some kids just grow up too quickly. They're ready for their first car, first date and their first chance to make it on their own. It's not easy for parents to let go of those kids who, only yesterday, were still in diapers playing in the mud. We adults all know it's coming and you do the best we can to prepare for it, but when it's your turn, it's still bittersweet. At the core of that moment when we fuse empowerment with detachment, many parents ask themselves, "Are they ready?" You again go through the mental list charting every valuable piece of information that helps answer that question. Good grades? Independent? Integrity? Vision? Social skills? It helps ease the tension a bit when you can peacefully answer those questions positively. But what about when you don't have peace?

In our Kids Klub program, we bless many teens on their way out into adulthood. Some of them move on to higher education whether part-time or full-time. Some a little less motivated begin looking for



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WHERE DID THEY GO? (CONT.)

work in local stores at minimum wage with no plan of propelling themselves further. While some, even less motivated, plan to hang out on their parent's couch until they're kicked out. Some become pregnant without planning. Some end up in jail. Although, like a loving parent, you always keep your door open when the immature want maturity, but until that moment comes, you can only love, hope and pray.

Recently, we've been praying and hoping for two of our teens. Victor is a senior in high school. Or was. He recently dropped out. We've seen other teens do this before and, though we are saddened, we are not shocked because it's more the confirmation of that forlorn feeling when you see someone heading down a self-destructive path and you can't say enough to get them to stop. So when it finally happens, it's not a feeling of trepidation, it's rather confirmation. But with Victor, it was shock. Victor has been a regular "youth staff" who works with our younger kids during our after-school program. He's polite, friendly and fun. The kids love to be around him. His performance in school may not have been Harvard-worthy but they were adequate. So when he hadn't shown up for a couple of weeks to Kids Klub (which wasn't like him), I called his house and talked to his family. They told me that he had dropped out of school to work in the fields.

Field work is laborious toiling for little restitution. Many of our kids here do it in the summers because their family needs the extra money, but here is a bright young man giving up the last half of his high school year for field labor. His sister told me he was disappointed about his poor performance on a recent test and started showing signs of depression. They think he feels that finishing now seems pointless if he can't place well in testing. I tried a few times to talk to him, but Victor has been unavailable. Please pray that we can encourage him to see the value in finishing high school rather than turning in his educational hopes for something he may soon regret.

Another student we haven't seen in a few months, Karen, a sixteen year old junior, has caused us concern. Recently our bus, interestingly enough, broke down in front of her house the other night. Karen's dad came out, recognized the bus and asked if he could help in any way. I asked if Karen was home so I could say "hi" and catch up a little with her but her dad told me she no longer lives there. When I asked where she's living, he paused and answered, "With her husband." He let out a nervous laugh and shrugged his shoulders as if to say, "What can you do?"

We haven't been able to contact Karen at this point either, but we are praying that God will give her wisdom beyond her years because she's going to need it. We know that God can turn all these challenges into blessings if we follow His guidance and seek out community with loving people who can speak into our lives. Pray that we can continue to do that especially toward these teens who constantly tilt on the precipice of disaster and success. ☺

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS!

This December 20th marks our 17th annual **CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS** event where we'll distribute brand new toys to impoverished children and bulk food bags to needy families plus a few more goodies to boot! To volunteer for this event, please contact Michelle in advance at 760-398-3352 to register. For donations, go to www.jordanoutreach.org and click the donate button.

And from our family to yours: May your Christmas be filled with the love of Jesus and may your new year find you closer to Jesus than ever before. God bless you and yours! ☺