



Work in Progress Update, May 2004



Dear Friends:

Can you imagine being with 50 high school students for 2 ½ days in vans? Our senior high director and 2-year intern Chris Brewster can, and in fact, he loved it! They slept on a church hall floor, spent 1 day at an amusement park (Magic Mountain in Santa Clarita, CA) and another day at the beach. The trip was a reward for faithful participation in our high school program during the school year.

The core of our high school program takes place on Wednesday nights. About 75 students attend an evening just for them. They mix it up with some fun activities and food, worship, listen to a speaker who introduces the small group discussion topic(s), and then end the night with a leader in a small Bible study discussion group. The small group leaders meet with or call the students in their group during the week to continue the friendships that are developed on Wednesday night.

Over 20 of the students are also volunteer leaders in programs with our younger students. Despite being displaced from her home, one high schooler volunteers both Monday and Tuesday nights! The younger students respond significantly to these older role models.

Homeless teenagers: Over 1,900 children under the age of 18 are homeless and on the streets in Arizona every day.

Jim Anderson recently surveyed a group of our teenagers for his ASU MSW (Masters, Social Work) final project. He wanted to see how “at risk” they were for homelessness. Of the 50 who filled out the anonymous survey, 7 were currently homeless and 21 have or are experiencing risk factors that lead to homelessness.

Risk factors cited in Arizona statistics for teenage homelessness:

- substance abuse
- suicide attempt or exposure
- homicide exposure
- contraction of HIV/AIDS
- trading sex for food and shelter



The high school group is an example of indigenous leadership development. One of our goals is to grow leaders who will follow Jesus for the future of the community, our churches and our city. We appreciate your partnership for this long term approach.

With love,

Kit Danley
 Kit Danley
 President

Richard Speck
 Richard Speck
 Executive Director

