

Zenon Ministries, Inc.

Evangelism, Discipleship, Outreach & Missions Our Priorities!

July 2010

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Greetings ZM Friends,

What an amazing month! Earlier in July I suffered an injury to my left knee when I tripped while on the job. I severed the quadriceps tendon and had surgery to repair it. I am on the way to full recovery. Thank you Lord! During this past month I spent the majority of time calling friends and supporters to share our progress after three years in the schools. I also began working on a manual that we can hand over to our sponsors to help them organize their Legacy Clubs. Another blessing was the time to spend reading and studying the Scriptures and preparing for the upcoming school year. In this newsletter I want share the latest information on the state of our youth here in Tampa Bay and our country. Our youth have dramatically changed in this decade and it will take a major effort to reach them for Christ. Teenagers are like wet cement, just waiting for someone to make a lasting impression. Help us make this impression for our Lord.



Zee gives a thumb's up before his surgery on his injured left knee. "The Lord will sustain him on his sick bed. You will heal him where he lies." Psalm 41:3

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for wisdom as we speak to students, teachers and administrators.
- Pray that students respond positively to the Gospel and the teachings of Christ.
- Pray for new schools starting this fall.
- Pray for our sponsors and the guiding of their club.
- Pray for new student leaders to fill the roles of graduating students.
- Pray that the students mature & grow in their faith.
- Pray for financial and prayer support as we grow our ministry.
- Pray for continued staff health and protection as we travel and visit schools.
- Pray for many to come to faith in Christ.

Current Facts about our Youth

- Many of our youth feel abandoned by their parents, early on, and grab on to friends for support. They try to find out who they are and how they fit into a performance-oriented and often hostile adult world.
- The church gravitates to the "good kids" and gives them the attention and dismisses those who are rebellious and disobedient.
- Most youth sport programs are about how the parents' goals for their son or daughter are met and whether they have a scholarship opportunity. The joy of playing, friendly competition and character building has mostly gone.
- Youth view God as a final safety net, the last straw, that is neither very real nor practical. The name of the game is to make sure I survive – with my teachers, my coach, my parents, and frankly, even with my friends. If God helps me with that, I want God in my life. But I don't want to make many sacrifices for Him.
- Two main factors impact a child's faith development: First, the faith of the child's family, and second, the possibility that a mentor with a deep devotion to Jesus Christ will care for them without a performance agenda, and build a long-term relationship.
- Technology will play a greater role in our youth in the future. Over 90% of all students have a cell phone and stay connected through text messaging and Facebook. They listen to an average of 5 hours daily on their ipods, and multi task their lives.
- Students say they are more concerned about the world but less engaged in spiritual things like the Bible and prayer.

School Year: 2009-10

- Shared with 14,508 at 201 events.
- Met with 105 coaches/sponsors.
- Visited and spoke at 110 school meetings.
- Met with 209 individuals to share mission.
- Schools participation–16 at some level.
- Meetings with 42 school chapels.
- Had 60 church visits with church staff.
- Spoke at athletic and graduation banquets
- A regular speaker for Hillsborough County School District under SERVE.
- Sue lead 2 weekly women's Bible studies, and Zee leads a weekly church Bible study for a total of 150 meetings.

Online info: www.ZenonMinistries.org

Donations can be made online through PAYPAL or send check to Zenon Ministries, 2823 Lake Saxon, Land O Lakes, FL. 34639 ZM is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization. You will receive an IRS tax receipt. Call us at 813.220.6383 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your prayers & support! Each of you have been a great blessing to Zenon Ministries!

American Teens Hold Deistic Beliefs

Researchers with the National Study of Youth and Religion at the University of North Carolina interviewed more than 3,000 teenagers about their religious beliefs and have released findings in a new book. The social scientists concluded that American teenagers believe:

- A God exists who created the world and watches over human life.
- God wants people to be nice to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
- The central goal of life is to be happy and feel good about oneself.
- God does not need to be involved in one's life except when needed to resolve a problem.
- Good people go to heaven when they die.

There seems to be no place for sin, judgment, salvation, or Christ. Instead, most teenagers believe in a combination of works righteousness, religion as psychological well-being, and a distant, non-interfering God.

Or, to use a technical term, "**Moralistic Therapeutic Deism.**"



Wiregrass Ranch HS sponsors Marilyn Davis and Dustin Quarrella serve as our two sponsors. Here we are planning our upcoming year. Our past year for Legacy has been a tremendous success with meetings averaging 250 students. We are praying for greater things in 2010-11.



Gaither HS Legacy Club sets the standard for all our clubs to follow. They are making a great impact for Jesus in their school.