

snapshot.

a glimpse of Life!



October 2008

The Phone Rings...



Bob Lenz

"Thanks for calling Life Promotions. Can I help you?" "I sure hope so," says a voice on the other end of the line. "We are so concerned about our students at our high school. We saw Bob at our youth gathering and heard he does public schools too. Is that correct?" they asked. "Yes," we say. "Yes, it is." The vision is shared. The process begins.

There's a lot of work and planning from the time the first phone call is made to when I send this snapshot and follow up to let you know how a trip went. With the new school year upon us, I wanted to tell you a little about the first school program we did last month to show the reality of what we're facing going in. The person who contacted us worked with their local school to set up these programs and we always encourage them to connect with the school before hand to see what issues they're facing. A survey is taken from students to see what they feel are the biggest needs they want us to address.

WHAT STUDENTS FACE

This particular school was in a little town in Michigan. In just the last year alone the school has had four student deaths; two were from car accidents and the other two students committed suicide. There is a high concern about alcohol abuse. In fact, three-quarters of the volleyball team was suspended for drinking. Bullying is also out of control, and there had already been eight fights in school. And in only the second week of school, five girls were already known to be pregnant. These are the ones that haven't had abortions. Adding to the stresses of school are the pressures of home. Sixty percent of the kids come from divorced homes, and the area has been recently hit by hard economic times with many people losing their jobs, creating diversity issues between the haves and have-nots.

Can you feel it? Can you feel what these kids are facing? It breaks my heart, yet it fuels my passion to make a difference at the same time. Our hope in the school is usually prevention, but sometimes, as was the case in Michigan, it's focused more on intervention to help students get back on the right track – to give hope that tomorrow can be a little better and help them overcome whatever they're facing.

REAL STORIES – REAL KIDS

I want you to see that what we do is so much more than just give a talk or present a program. I'm talking about lives and futures here. These are not stories about a school; these are stories of real kids that I've personally met and who came up to speak with me after I shared with them at their school that day.

One of those students is Cassie. She was a cute vivacious girl who began telling me how the talk really touched her. She broke down in tears as she began to share her story and the mistakes she's made. Now, at the age of fifteen, she's pregnant.

Another is Billy whose brother was killed by a drunk driver. Billy just can't seem to get rid of the rage he has inside. But after talking we can now at least identify the root of why he bullies others and offer him help.

Yet, there is a positive side too. Rachael is a straight A student who was on the committee to bring me in. She came up and told me, "You motivated me to keep making a difference. I just want to help my friends." Now we're not just talking about helping those who are struggling, but also about developing team leaders – young people who are proclaiming to the world that youth are not just "our future," but they are making a difference now.

The last one I'll tell you about today is Tommy, a 6th grade boy who told me he was sexually abused. He is only 11 years old and feels like he doesn't have any value. After talking we were able to connect him with a counselor and get him some help to show there are people who care.

NOT TO MENTION...

These stories are all from the public school where we were able to offer hope, impact leaders, present on prevention and intervention, plus connect youth with adults. We shared truth.

Oh yeah... did I mention we also did an evening faith-based outreach where a couple hundred kids came back out to hear about Jesus and 75 of them received Christ? This is by no means an afterthought. It is the result of something stirring in the hearts of those students who were reminded of their worth and value during the school assembly program earlier that day. Hearts were stirred enough to compel them to return that same evening to hear more. At the church-sponsored rally we were able to share on the incredible love of God that offers grace to their fallen world, promises never to forsake them, and confirms their unwavering value as His precious creation.

Hundreds of stories. Hundreds of real kids. But it all happened because of one person who felt a prodding in their heart to make a difference in their school and made the phone call.

And the stories continue in each school we are in... Just last week we did nine school assembly programs and were in front of thousands of students. In addition to the school programs we did four evening rallies and saw 575 people come to Christ! 575 stories... but countless more to reach.

Please pray that the phone keeps ringing.

For the Kingdom,



Bob Lenz
International Speaker

You can be a part of reaching young people with messages of hope and the love of Christ!

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Thank you!



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