

Straight Ahead Colorado

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A juvenile offender ministry

July 2016

The importance of the last 15 minutes

Parents refuse to accept them as their children. Courts call them the worst of the worst. Friends have long deserted them. Society says keep them locked up. Jobs are almost impossible to get when they are released. Many are homeless with no place to go when they are released. These are the stories we hear every year from youth who are incarcerated at Look-out Mountain Youth Services Center in Golden - the highest security youth facility in Colorado where *Straight Ahead* Colorado has served for 19 years.

For 16 of those 19 years we have had the privilege of providing a "camp" inside the facility. In their camp t shirts, with an assortment of activities in the afternoon that leaves them wet, tired and full of cotton candy, snow cones and popcorn, they seem like the children that they really are. We begin by cooking hamburgers, hot dogs and all the fixings outside and *Straight Ahead* feeds the entire camp and staff which totals 240 people! Each evening we have great speakers and some top music bands. On the final afternoon we provided them with BBQ from a local restaurant.



And it all leads to the final 15 minutes on Friday evening. After an inspiring talk by Luis Villarreal, founder of *Save Our Youth*, our good friend, Pastor Jim Walters, shared the Gospel invitation of inviting Christ into their lives. Jim went down on one knee, closed his eyes and prayed those who would invite Christ into their life would come forward. Before he opened his eyes, he said come down now! When he opened his eyes, he almost jumped back as he looked upon over 15 of the youth who had come forward to accept Christ. Volunteers and staff were down with them with a hand on each shoulder. The tough former Air Force pilot wiped a tear back and then smiled.

We are not fooled; we know that many of these incarcerated youth will continue to commit crimes. But God does not call us to judge, but to serve. Jim tells the story of a young man he ran into who said his life was changed years ago because of this camp. Help us to continue making a change. Please send your gift today, so we can have a winter camp. Perhaps you would like to teach or mentor, or pray for these young men. Email us and we will tell you how you can get involved.



Thank you to all our sponsors, supporters and volunteers! You have made an investment in the lives of these young men and we are forever grateful for you!



Special thanks to:

MHBC (Bear Valley Church)
CBGC
Pepsico Bottling Company
King Soopers
Sam's Club
Dickeys BBQ (S. Wadsworth store)
Confluence Music Group
Davey and the Blu Dog band
All the volunteers who gave their day!



Upcoming Events:

September 2016 "Living A Life Of Promise" begins
October, 2016 Quarterly Leadership Series
December, 2016 Christmas Parties at facilities
December, 2016 Staff Appreciation Parties
January, 2017 "Living A Life of Promise" begins