

Camp Copass Boys Camp 2007

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CABIN DEVOTIONAL – Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Scripture Reading: Mark 8:34-38

When Chet Cantrell accepted a job as Director of the Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis, Missouri, that city had the highest murder rate of any urban community in the nation. Ninety-five percent of the kids were gang members. The high school dropout rate was sixty percent. That was sixteen years ago. Today less than 5 percent of the kids who attend Christian Activity Center are affiliated with a gang and 90 percent graduate from high school. Chet and the Christian Activity Center are turning out some extraordinary young people, including lawyers, bankers, computer analysts, preachers, teachers and military leaders.

Over the years Chet has seen God transform lives and the entire community. He calls Christian Activity Center a ministry of place--a place where kids can come in off the streets into a safe and loving environment. Besides supervised recreation, Christian Activity Center also offers a free medical clinic where volunteers do examinations, immunizations, wellness clinics, preventative care and dental exams.

Time is provided for kids to do their homework and if they need help that is available too. But Chet's primary focus is relationships. Through Bible studies and devotional times for different age groups Chet helps introduce the kids to God who loves them and cares about them.

Chet says, "We expect the kids to succeed and more often than not they do."

[Source: On Mission published by North American Mission Board Vol. 9 No. 2, page 18]

Questions for discussion:

1. Chet Cantrell said, "I came here with the idea that God cares about this city and the people who live here and that these neighborhoods can be transformed." Do you believe Chet was right? How do you know? Does God care about your community in the same way? How could God transform it?
2. Would you like to work in a place like the Christian Activity Center? What would you do to help kids like yourself succeed?
3. Is Chet Cantrell storing up treasure in heaven? If so, how?