



COLONY SPOTLIGHT

Highlighting ministries of the members of Colony

For this week's Spot Light on Ministry I want to focus on Jim Chisholm and Coaches Outreach. Coaches Outreach was birthed out of a Bible Study at the Texas High School Coaches Association in 1987. The ministry's mission is to build coaches of conviction by encouraging and inspiring men and women to demonstrate a Christ-like character through the personal application of the Word of God. Currently some 4,600 people participate and the goal is make the ministry available at every school.

For the last three school years, Jim Chisholm has facilitated a Coaches Outreach Bible Study at Hightower High School. Jim meets with coaches once a week in the morning before classes start to discuss together the Word of God. I asked Jim to answer a few questions in order to tell us of what God is doing through Coaches Outreach.

What is involved in preparation?

I study the material just like they do and try to facilitate a discussion of the material. The really successful meetings occur when I do very little talking and the coaches do most of the talking.

What are the qualifications of a facilitator?

The only qualification is a love for the Lord and the desire to encourage people who are in contact with children every day. The coaches have a unique position with children and are typically able to get closer and on a more personal level than academic teachers.

What training is involved?

No training is necessary. Every semester we get "play books" which is Bible study material. I go over the weekly material just like the coaches do and then when we meet, we go over our answers to questions covering the material and many times enter into a discussion of relevant applications.

What difficulties/frustrations are there in this ministry?

The difficulty or frustration with this ministry is having a consistent attendance by the coaches. I realize, however, that they put in very long hours and it requires extra effort on their part to make time to attend. For this reason, rather than being frustrated, I am greatly encouraged and blessed from the faithful attendance of those who are regular attendees.

What victories have you seen?

I have seen some of the coaches become more bold in their determination to share the gospel whenever possible. The basketball coaches have actually encouraged some of their players to attend mid-week Bible study at church.

What has God taught you through this ministry?

God has taught me the importance of being faithful. Several times I have felt like canceling meetings because I was tired or discouraged. It seems like the times I felt that way but went to the meetings anyway were the times we had the most encouraging and lively discussions.

How is it personally rewarding to you?

The greatest rewards have been the friendships which have happened through this ministry. Also, the enthusiasm I see with the coaches who faithfully attend.

Any last words about Coaches Outreach?

Coaches Outreach is always looking for volunteers to lead Bible Studies. If anyone is interested, call me at 281-835-8123 or email at jwchisholm@sbcglobal.net.

***Everyone knows the impact coaches have.
Jim is able to impact coaches for Christ.***