



Agape Youth Ministry

PROGRESS REPORT

March 2021

WELCOME!

It is our goal to keep you updated with the latest news about the activities of **Agape Youth Ministry (AYM)** and its various programs with hope that you may want to join us in our mission to work where God is working by helping to develop future Christian leaders from the young adults in our Local communities.

DONATE NOW!!!!

AYM is an Arizona Corporation as well as an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit Christian organization, which depends on donations to be able to provide programs to help our youth. If you are interested in supporting AYM / WMY's programs, donations may be made through our website: www.agapeyouth.org or mailing a check to **Agape Youth Ministry P.O. Box 2145, Pinetop AZ 85935**

Thank you!



1st Dig Deeper Bible School (DDBS) Class #1 to Graduate, Saturday April 17th at 2:00 pm

Dan Parcell, the WMY Coordinator/DDBS Teacher, has arranged for graduation ceremonies for the first 6 students who have completed 4 semesters (16-week each) of the DDBS classes. The Graduation will be held on *Saturday, April 17 at 2pm at First Baptist Church of Pinetop.*

These 6 students will be moving on to DDBS's "Faith in Action" program and participating in AYM's Student Leadership Program, attending weekend conferences with Student Leadership University and Summer mission trips with Teen Mission International (www.teenmissions.org).

Pastor Curtis Fahlender, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Pinetop and Pastor Kerby, "The Church," youth group associate, will be the guest speakers. Pastor Curtis was raised on the Mountain and can tell his story of youth group experiences, leading into his full-time pastoral ministry.

The goals of the Dig Deeper Bible School are:

To provide the student with an understanding of the Bible.

*To provide a sound foundation to build a lasting relationship with Jesus.

To give the student a confidence in their personal salvation.

*To help the student understand the world vs The Kingdom of Heaven.

*To build a faith that can endure criticism and questioning.

*To prepare the student for a servant heart toward Jesus.

Semesters 101/102 and 201/202 Overview:

101 focuses on:

The Bible as a book.

Understanding how it was translated

Getting to know who God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are.

Understanding the Trinity.

Types of religious beliefs.

Uniqueness of Christianity.

Creation account.

Introduction to Hermeneutics and Apologetics.

102 focuses on:

Applying Hermeneutics and Apologetics to:

Genesis, chapters 1, 2 and 3.

Matthew, chapters 1, 2 and 3.

Review of the parables of Jesus.

The passion and resurrection of Christ.

Introduction to Evangelism.

201 focuses on:

Introduction to Typology.

Applying Hermeneutics, Apologetics and

Typology to:

Noah's flood.

The story of Joseph.

The Exodus.

The book of Daniel.

202 focuses on:

Understanding the New Testament as a book.

Understanding Christian principles as they relate to:

Faith.

Forgiveness.

Salvation.

Eternal life with God.

Preparing students for living out the Christian life.

Encouraging critical thinking with respect to the "world".

Preparing students for ministry.

Follow-up to Dig Deeper class is "Faith In Action"

This program seeks to:

- Help students find their individual spiritual gifts.
- Prepare the student for Ministry work.

This consists of Biblical studies, exploration of local ministries and guest speakers from multiple local ministries as well as visiting local ministries

A Note from Agape Youth Ministry's CEO, Gordy Lange:

Congratulations to the 6 students and their parents who have been so committed to complete our first Dig Deeper Bible School classes. A special thanks to Dan Parcell, who has been led by our loving God to develop the School's program. Dan hopes to start DDBS classes in September which will include students that have missed classes.

AYM has partnered with Dan's Community Youth Group, White Mountain Youth INC to provide a template for future Community Youth Groups in Arizona and establishing more Dig Deeper Schools under AYM's Student Leadership Program.

I have been so impressed by Dan and his students moving forward with DDBS classes, considering most of this time was during the Covid-19 Virus restrictions.

Some of these graduating students have committed to continue on in our Student Leadership Program and will be attending Student Leadership University conferences and Teen Missions International missions program. Please keep them in prayer.

Agape Youth Ministry's mission for over 20 years has been committed to develop strong Christian-based programs for youth. To further this mission, *AYM's Fellowship-Knowledge-Go!* Program was developed to produce strong Christian Leaders in Christ's Church. Dr David Jeremiah described Christ church "as first and foremost an invisible, spiritual reality. It is the organic union of all who have been given new birth by the Holy Spirit as a result of faith in Jesus Christ." So, the purpose of the universal church is to continue the work that Jesus Christ began on earth until He returns at the end of the age.

It is AYM's mission to prepare our youth to continue the work that our Lord Jesus Christ began on earth. Mathew 28: 18-20 is Jesus' instructions to us all "Go, make disciples of all nations.... baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

A Note from White Mountain Youth, INC's Founder and Teacher, Dan Parcell:

As a young Christian I had many questions; I had a hard time finding an acceptable answer to those questions. I heard a lot of big words thrown around that I did not completely understand. I thought I was the only one that did not really understand. As I talked more with other mature Christians on Biblical subjects, I would get different answers and sometimes admission that they themselves did not entirely understand some words and concepts relating to the Bible and to Christianity.

I had heard many things about how the Bible contradicted itself and how science had disproved the Bible. Many Christians told me I just needed more faith. That was not working for me. I began to investigate the claims made against the Bible and Christianity. To my surprise I found those claims to be false. I found that there was actually a lot of evidence that supported the content of the Bible. Misunderstandings and misrepresentations of Biblical narratives, I found to be at the root of scoffers' arguments. The more I learned how to interpret the Bible, the clearer the truth became.

I have used these experiences to come up with the curriculum for the Dig Deeper School. I not only designed the classes to answer the question I had as a young Christian, but also to answer current questions I had. This required anywhere from 6 to 30 hours of research per class. I tested everything I investigated with the Word of God to ensure its accuracy. I focused on first knowing the Bible as a library of ancient inspired writings, gaining understanding of the difficulties of translating from not only a different language, but also an ancient language. Understanding the culture in Biblical times was also very important to get the true meaning of Biblical text.

The depth that these classes were researched goes way beyond your normal Church Sunday School class experience. The purpose of the classes of Dig Deeper School was not to make these young people feel good about Christianity, but rather to truly understand the Bible and what is expected from the life of a Christian.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, young people are able to understand hermeneutics, apologetics, and typology to assist in a proper exegetical interpretation of the Bible. As I said this is not your normal Sunday School experience.



Agape Youth Ministry's **PROGRESS REPORT**

February 2021

WELCOME!

It is our goal to keep you updated with the latest news about the activities of **Agape Youth Ministry (AYM)** and its various programs with hope that you may want to join us in our mission to work where God is working by helping to develop future Christian leaders from the young adults in our Local communities.

A Brief HISTORY of AYM

Agape Youth Ministry (AYM) was founded in the late 1990's by some Phoenix Police Officers and individuals who had been involved in youth prison ministry. These men saw a need to provide a positive outlet for the youth coming out of prison to help them onto a path toward becoming productive members of society with a hopeful future. Volunteers from Phoenix Valley and Tucson came together to build a Agape Youth Youth Ranch in SE Arizona and for these at-risk youths and Perdue Ranch in SW Maricopa County for inner city kids to be able to work with horses, dogs, cattle chickens, goats, donkeys and other ranch animals as they learned how God's unconditional love and power is easily demonstrated through relationships ... even those formed with animals. The Agape Youth Ranch also formed an Academy to help these youth catch up in their education and even excel. However, in 2016, donations to this ministry dwindled to the point that the Youth Ranch & Academy had to close its programs.

However, God wasn't finished with AYM, as in 2018, AYM's CEO, Gordy Lange, had relocated from Phoenix to the White Mountains (Pinetop-Lakeside) where he met Dan Parcell and Chris Sutton, who were founders of "White Mountain Youth INC (IN Christ)", which is a network of church youth groups in the local communities that came together for "Digging Deeper" Bible School (DDBS) and group activities.

Using White Mountain Youth INC's (WMY) model, AYM developed its "*Fellowship – Know – Go!*" Program. **Fellowship** is the network of church youth groups in a geographic area; **Knowledge** comes through the "Dig Deeper" Bible study curriculum and Student Leadership training programs. **Go!** Is sending the DDBS students to leadership training seminars and mission trips to strengthen their leadership skills and placing them in internship programs within churches and youth ministries.

(See attached AYM brochure for more information)

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Thank you!

AYM'S FEBRUARY UPDATE!

AYM's Annual Meeting of its Board of Directors was held on February 6th in Tempe, AZ. During this meeting, 2021 goals and a Budget are set. Funding for scholarships for Youth programs in as many as 7 community churches was approved for 2021, which also includes establishing Community Youth Groups in other areas of Arizona. Funding was also approved for students enrolled in WMY's Dig Deeper Bible Studies to attend the upcoming Student Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas, as well as student funding for an out-of-country mission trip.

Elections for Officer reassignments were held. Holding the office of President is Greg Schmidt; Vice-President is Bruce Lane; Treasurer is Bill Perdue; Secretary remains Kris Schmidt and CEO remains Gordy Lange. AYM has openings on its Board of Directors for which they are actively seeking new members. The Board of Directors conducts its meetings through video conferences, as well as in person. The meetings are generally held quarterly. Members are asked to help raise funds for the Ministry's programs / scholarships. If you are interested, please contact us through our website: www.agapeyouth.org

White Mountain Youth INC's (WMY) Update



Dan Parcell, WMY's Coordinator and AYM's CEO, Gordy Lange attended a meeting of parents of students enrolled in the Dig Deeper Bible School (DDBS) to discuss the graduating students' potential participation in the Student Leadership Conference or a mission trip sponsored by Teen Mission International, both events occurring in June 2021.

Dan Parcell (also an AYM Board of Directors member) who teaches the DDBS for WMY reported to the Board that WMY is planning a "Back to School" event for participating Youth Groups in the local communities. He is hoping to move ahead with the Bible Jeopardy contest where monetary prizes will be awarded to the winning youth groups. All of these Community Youth Group programs are being financially supported by AYM.

Dan also reported to the Board that he now has editorial services to formalize the DDBS Bible study curriculum, which should be ready this spring for use by future Arizona Community Youth Groups established by AYM.