



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 (WYM) 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 intership programs within churches and youth ministries.

(See attached AYM brochure for more information)

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 / WYM's programs, donations may be made through our website: www.agapeyouth.org

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 WYM'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 (WYM) Update



Dan Parcell, WYM'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 WYM reported to the Board that WYM 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.