

Mentoring Pilot Program a Success—Pikeville, TN

R. J. NEWS
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The *LifeChange* Mentoring Bible Study program was introduced into the Taft Youth Development Center, Pikeville, Tennessee in February, 2008. It was the initial pilot program and the first one-on-one mentoring program of its type to be offered in that facility.

The Superintendent, Chaplain and Youth Service Manager of Treatment all recognized the need for such a program and, after a thorough review of the LifeChange Mentoring curriculum and process, and an explanation of the emphasis this program places on the mentoring relationship and the power of God, they agreed to begin the pilot program immediately with one mentee and one LifeChange mentor, Mr. Tim Shally.

All parties, the staff, the mentor and the mentee lived up to the expectations and commitments of the six-month program agreed upon prior to getting started. The program was deemed a success by all those involved.

“The mentee has since left the facility,” stated Mr. Shally “and rejoined his family who will be providing the encouragement, support and accountability he needs as he makes this most vital life change and begins an earnest walk with Christ.”

Prior to leaving, a recognition celebration was held for the mentee. In attendance were three of his friends (fellow students at Taft), his two teachers, his two counselors, his therapist, the Superintendent, Chaplain, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor and his mentor, Mr. Shally.

On his last weekend at Taft, Mr. Shally was permitted to take the mentee to a local church for Bible study and Sunday worship followed by lunch in town.

“I had spoken with my mentee’s father as the mentoring relationship developed and I actually had the privilege of meeting him on the day of the young man’s release.” Shally said, “We shared breakfast before they headed home. Although I have passed the baton to his father and the rest of his family, I look forward to staying in touch with this young man who has changed my life as much as I hope the Lord, working in and through me, has changed his – it really has been a blessing.”

As a result of the success of the pilot program, Taft Youth Development Center has approved the expansion of the mentoring program. More volunteers have been trained and more young men are being given the advantage of having a spiritually mature Christian mentor with whom to share their needs, concerns, hope, fears and so much more.

For information contact Tim Shally at tim@lifechangementoring.org