



PRAYER REQUEST

September 19, 2018

Every Friday I will spend some time with a homeless youth and buy her/him lunch. Two weeks ago, I ran into four youth, three boys and a girl, who were in Decherd Park. I knew them well, as they came to many of our activities and occasionally attended our Sunday Church, "Lost and Found." They were living at the Urban Peak residential center.

As we talked, they were all excited, as they had just met with a man who had agreed to give them all jobs. Each had a backpack with all their belongings. They said they were waiting, as this man was going to pick them up later that afternoon. The more they told me about the job, the more concerned I became. This man lived in a small town in southeast Colorado, where he had a large Marijuana farm. He was hiring these youth to help him harvest the crop. He was going to provide them free housing and pay them \$20 per hour. This man promised to pick them up at four that afternoon and take them to the farm.

I offered to take them to lunch, but they said no, as they didn't want to miss this man, if he came to the park early. So, I went to Burger King and bought them each a hamburger, fries and a drink, and returned to the park. Before we ate, I prayed, asking GOD to put a hedge of protection around each of these youth. As we ate, I expressed to them all of my concerns about why this "so called" job did not make any sense:

- They had no experience in harvesting marijuana.
- There was plenty of low cost, experienced labor in southern Colorado, so why come to Denver to look for labor and why pay so much?
- I reminded them that Denver was a major city for those looking for sex slaves and that I was concerned that this was a front to kidnap and enslave them!

I asked if I could wait with them to meet this man. They emphatically said "NO"!!!! They didn't want me spoiling this job opportunity. Getting nowhere with the youth, I asked if any of them had phones and if so, would they give me their numbers, so I could call in a couple of days and check on the. I got two numbers.

My next step was to visit the local police station and ask them if they had encountered such a scam, and if so, could they help these youth, before things got worse. After explaining the situation, they agreed with my fears, but said they had no active warrants for this type of scam and couldn't do anything.

I then went to Urban Peak; the organization that provides housing, job training, and counseling for the homeless youth. We work closely with them. I met with one of the counselors and explained the situation. She was also very concerned and said she would walk over to the park and talk with these youth.

I returned home, very concerned and frustrated. I fell to my knees and prayed and prayed and prayed! A little while later the counselor called. She had met with them, but could not change their minds. They remained determined to go.

Every Friday night, we have a party for homeless youth at the same park where I encountered these youth. We provide food, drinks, games, and most importantly prayer and counseling. As I drove to the park, I was praying that these youth would still be there. Unfortunately, they were gone!

It has been two weeks since these youth disappeared. I call each of their phones every day, but the phones are dead!!!

I ask that you pray for these youth!!!!

Thank you and GOD Bless,

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