

Incident Report: Discipline for Drug Use on Church Campus

Date of report: July 15, 2009

Person making report: Youth Pastor

Targets of report: Kyle Smith (11th grade, City HS, Town Name) and Chad Johnson (11th grade, Otherton HS, Town Name)

History: Ministry volunteers and parents have caught Kyle and Chad for the last two months smoking on campus in separate incidents (please see previous report, saved in the "Crisis" folder on the church server).

Wednesday, July 8

Kyle told youth Pastor at 8:30pm (after the program was over) that his mom was waiting for him and he was going home. He was allowed to leave. Chad left later without notifying any adult staff. Youth Pastor went upstairs at approximately 8:50pm and caught both boys standing in the bathroom hallway near Fellowship Hall. Both boys immediately jumped and appeared extremely nervous. Youth Pastor reported the incident to all high school adult staff.

Sunday, July 12

Mr. Johnson (Chad's father) called youth Pastor while youth Pastor was away on a youth retreat to report that their son Chad had admitted to paying for drugs on church campus during the Sunday morning service. He said that Chad had purchased a sample of "Salvia", a hallucinogenic tobacco. Chad had agreed to pick up the rest of the drugs after the following Wednesday night's program.

Youth Pastor spoke with Mr. Johnson and Ms. Smith (Kyle's mother) by phone, and all parties agreed to a meeting during the week with Kyle, Chad, and their families.

Tuesday, July 14

Mrs. Johnson (Chad's mom) set up a meeting with Ms. Smith and her son Kyle. We all arrived for the meeting in the Church Library at 8:30pm.

Youth Pastor began the meeting by asking for a stated purpose for the meeting. All parties agreed that the purpose of the meeting was to get the truth about what happened on Sunday morning and to discern what kind of help was needed for these students. We proceeded to question Chad about his activities on Sunday. He refused to implicate Kyle, and remained silent under much of the questioning. Kyle said that on Sunday he and Chad were walking around the church campus, and that he didn't even know what "Salvia" was.

After repeated questioning, Chad angrily said to his parents, "Just because I need help doesn't mean I want it." Kyle began to plead with Chad to tell the truth, because he doesn't want to "ruin" his mom, the Johnson family, or Youth Pastor because of a lie. When told that we just want to understand him, Chad replied, "I don't want anybody to know what's going on with me." "I just want to be alone." "I'll write the truth in my suicide note."

After a period of encouragement to tell Chad that suicide isn't the answer because we are listening to him right now, Chad agreed to write the reason why he wouldn't divulge Kyle's involvement: "If I say that it is him and it is then I wouldn't want him to have to go through the pain and frustration of rehab like me. If I say that it isn't him and it isn't, I don't want to feel like my parents and Kyle and his mom don't like me as much as before."

Questioning resumed, and Chad finally said that it wasn't Kyle who sold the drugs, but "someone Kyle knows." Youth Pastor had to leave the meeting at approximately 10:10pm.

Wednesday, July 15

E-mail received at 7:27am from Ms. Smith:

Hi, Youth Pastor:

Shortly after you left we had a breakthrough. Chad spoke and said Kyle is the person that sold drugs to him on Sunday. Kyle admitted to it. It was actually quite amazing. No anger, only support for one another. Everyone was in tears...including the boys ...physically clinging to one another.

Chad is definitely headed to rehab. I do not know of Kyle's future at this moment. We have a lot to consider at this point.

I appreciate your putting this meeting together. It worked. In the future if you deal with a situation similar, I suggest you handle it the same way. This was positive for both families. I've learned a lot. Please lift up both of our families in prayer at this time.

Thanks again, Ms. Smith

Youth Pastor spoke with both Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Smith on the phone. The boys admitted that after the program on the previous Wednesday they went to the alleyway behind the Christian Science church across the street to smoke pot. They had just arrived back at APC when Youth Pastor walked in on them; that's why they were so nervous.

Friday, July 31

Mrs. Johnson informed Youth Pastor that Chad was admitted to a nearby 60-day inpatient drug rehabilitation facility.

Future Actions

- Chad and Kyle will be asked to make a public apology to the youth group at a future youth group meeting
- Establish policy that no minor is **ever** to be unsupervised on church campus
- Refer families to local drug treatment programs
- FBI Special Agent, who is a church member, will speak with the boys about drug abuse

This report has been submitted to the Pastor and Associate Pastor (supervisor) for follow-up. Youth Pastor has requested that both call the parents soon to declare their support and willingness to proactively minister in this situation.