

NELA YOUTH



APRIL 2024



“TAG YOU ARE IT”

Being in the lives of these children is incredibly joyful, yet heartbreaking. Since we began in 2020, we have had children taken from homes and put into the system where we never get to see them. In fact, we have no idea where they are. Imagine pouring into a child to have them just disappear and not know how to check in on them.

We also experience moms who do not want their children and hand them off to someone else to raise them for years, then one day randomly take them back. Sadly, none of this is done legally because the moms need the government assistance from the children's identity. I've seen those moms run to get the kids when DCS comes for a visit to play like they have had them the entire time to return them to the other person as soon as they leave. Yet, nothing can be done because they are "birth" parents (according to DCS and the police). The children are tossed back and forth and ripped from homes they have lived at for years and nothing is being done. It's hard to comprehend why we are not doing more to care and check on the welfare of these children. It seems all "hands are tied" and these children are "swept under the rug".

Since 2020 NELA kids: 5 children taken by the state and 6 given up by moms to be taken back years later at random. We had one in February taken after 4 years of being raised by his grandmother. He was literally kidnapped by his birth father off the school bus, yet nothing could be done. We have done everything we can think of and keep getting "nothing can be done" by authorities.

See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 18:10

What is the solution? PRAYER!! Not only for the kids, but the birth parents. The Lord told me years ago when I dealt with my first case like this, that I am to pray for the heart of the accuser and abuser. When I did, there was a shift and years later this child is in good hands and the "accuser" has been softened and became a great guardian.

We must pray!! Together we can storm the courts of Heaven for these children!! If you have compassion for any of these children, join with us by praying and standing for them. If we don't, who will?

It takes each of us to make a difference. Tag you are it! *Andrea G. Jones*

Our mission is to empower youth to pursue their God-given potential and step into their Kingdom calling. Our hearts burn to see youth truly know who they are in Christ and awaken them to the greatness inside of them. This is done through relationships and knowing the heart of Christ.

OUR AMAZING TEAM

Board of Advisors:

Bryan Jones (President)

Bryan Ponsell (Vice President)

Alexi Markou (Evangelism)

Mandy Brakefield (Evangelism)

Kassie Ponsell

Debbie Gaines

Ainsley Markou

Andrea Greer Jones (Founder)



HIGHLIGHTS

- In our March outreach we learned about what is on the inside, as that is what God looks at. We talked about taking responsibility for our own actions and that we have consequences, good or bad.
- Thank you to Grace Place for letting us move the kiddos there for our outreach.
- Our quarterly rewards winner are Janiyah, Davionna, Fatman, McKenzie, Dyma and Rodney. CONGRATS!
- We have invested in some of our older boys for boxing with Coach McDuffie.



APRIL DEVO

Jesus said we should pray, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10)

God wants us to discover HIS WILL. True praying is not overcoming God's reluctance, it is taking hold of His willingness. Prayer is not about getting our will in Heaven. It is about getting God's will on Earth.

In John 5:19 when Jesus says, "I only do what I see my Father doing," He is telling us that His actions reveal the will of God. When Jesus is healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind, and setting the captives free, He is indeed revealing to us the will of His Father. Jesus came and painted us a picture of what it looks like for God's kingdom to come to Earth as it is in Heaven.

Our Father's will has been revealed! Jesus came to this earth, walked it out, and showed his followers how to do it. He verbally instructed them to carry it out and gave them the authority to do so. He then sent the Holy Spirit, the very same spirit that lived in Jesus and empowered Him. WOW THAT IS SO POWERFUL!! THE SAME SPIRIT THAT LIVED IN JESUS IS IN US!!!

LET'S PRAY

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

From No Middle Ground by FaithBW.com

HAPPY Birthday



Kj



Andrew

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- TARGETED PRAYER FOR THE KIDDOS - Safety & provision. For advocates in authority to step in and make decisions based on what's best for the child. That they listen to the children.
- Pizza donation for every first Saturday of the month
- Hygiene kits for our service program
- Financial donations



DONATE AT NELAYOUTH.ORG

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