

We often speak of the sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland as terrible and a violent environment for children to live in but what we don't realize is that 5 times as many lives have been lost in the ongoing war between the two major gangs in South Central Los Angeles, the Bloods and the Crips.

What are the city leaders' answers to the problem in South Central? One was a six-billion-dollar investment program called "Rebuild L.A." promising 74,000 new jobs in South Central. But these jobs did not materialize, and the program shut down within a year. Another solution was to rename South Central and call it South LA. New name, same problems.

What is our answer to the problem? Simply put, the love of Jesus presented in a practical, consistent way in a fun atmosphere of safety, mobilizing local churches and organizations that not only serve the day of the WOW JAM but develop ongoing relationships. All of this is done so that, in realizing that Jesus not only loves them but can heal them of the trauma and give them a future, these children will accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior and have the ultimate connection to our Heavenly Father..... God Himself.

Does it work? This year there were 4,000 people at our WOW JAM at a park in the very heart of South Central Los Angeles. There were guns, gang members, drug dealers, thousands of children, all different races, and hundreds of local volunteers.....and not one problem! **276 accepted Jesus** and we helped plant a new church right there! Let me sum it up in an email I got from a 13 little girl named Jasmine who lives there and attended the WOW JAM.

hi stephen my name is jasmine and i am 13 i wanted to thank you for all you have done for south park because every time you come there are less and less more vilence before u started to do wow jam my mom said that it was alot of vilence in south park and it was hard for people to walk thorough the park with out geting shot or killed so i wanted to say thank you for all u have done cause if it was not for u i could not be able to go to the park so thank you very much.

That did not happen over night. We have been going there for 19 years. Notice she said it was "**safe**". As a daddy of two girls, I have discovered one of the basic needs of children is to feel **safe**. If children do not feel **safe**, they run the risk of becoming traumatized as victims or eventually becoming perpetrators themselves. Quite honestly we can do what the government programs, social workers, police and political activists can't and don't do..... we can connect them to the Lord! Proverbs 18:10 says "the name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run to it and are **safe**".

You should see the children run to our truck when we pull in! It's not just for the free stuff but they have come to realize that it is safe at a WOW JAM and that is because of the presence of God. Psalms 4:8 says "*I will lie down and sleep in peace* (though I am crowded on a dirty mattress with my three brothers and gunshots can be heard outside and my mother is high on crack, and my dad is back in jail for beating my mom) *for You alone, O Lord make me dwell in SAFETY*".

I want them all to have a nice home but I also know people who live in mansions but don't *lie down and sleep in peace*. I know people with bodyguards, alarm systems and everything society has to offer but they don't *dwell in safety*. People need Jesus my friends, people need Jesus! That is the heartbeat of WOW.

I wrote back to Jasmine and promised her I would keep coming back just like I have for the last 19 years. For many people in South Central and other inner cities we visit, the WOW JAMS are all they have. But I can't do it without your prayers and your financial support. These last few months have been very difficult financially and I am sure it is hard on you too. So I am asking that you will pray and ask the Lord what you should give this month because I trust He will tell you and He will also keep and protect you.

I want to keep my promise to Jasmine and the thousands of children that run to that truck when we pull in. With your financial support and prayers, we can keep that promise together. I look forward to hearing from you this month.

Thank you and God Bless You,

Stephen Tavani
President/Founder WOW International

P.S. Please note our NEW MAILING ADDRESS which is P.O. Box 6308, Altadena, CA 91003.

To donate, please make your check out to WOW Int'l or go to www.wowjam.com.