



# Proclaim Christ to Young People through 'Project JOEL'

**Project JOEL** provides Christian guidance to youth throughout Latin America to help them make healthy decisions in their lives. LHM educates youth from a Christian perspective about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, the impact of negative lifestyles, and the effect of social forces that transmit negative values to youth. Such outreach efforts to youth are particularly important in Latin America because in many of the countries, 70 to 80 percent of the population is under 25 years of age.

Broken families, secularism, and an absence of moral and spiritual education in the home gives birth to negative values and living patterns that are shaped by the media, music, and their peers rather than Christ.

LHM's **Project JOEL** was started in Panama in 1996 to address these issues. Since then, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Justice in Panama and Guatemala have recognized its extraordinary impact upon youth. The program is also active in Mexico, Nicaragua, Argentina, Paraguay, Cuba, and Venezuela.

## Program Objectives

1. Develop a program in the schools that want to work in prevention education.
2. Find educators and student leaders willing to give the program credibility and move it forward.
3. Set up four-week cycles of interaction in each school, followed by 3-6 months of follow-up activities. Coordinate sports and cultural events during the program period to promote healthy lifestyles.
4. Integrate interested students and teachers in Bible studies and other Christian activities.



## Program Evaluation Methods

Staff measures the number of children, parents, and educators involved in the program and how long they sustain themselves in the program throughout the school year. The program will show quantifiable results in regard to incidence of violence, student failures and dropouts, and adolescent pregnancies. This is measured at the beginning and end of the school year. LHM's goal is to improve the lives of 30,000 young people in Latin America over the next year through **Project JOEL**.

For more information visit [www.proyectojoel.com](http://www.proyectojoel.com)