

Contacts

Jonah and the Whale Not Just a Bedtime Story

The book of Jonah is more than just a popular account of a man chosen by God who disobeyed God's command and was swallowed alive by a huge fish.

It is a lesson in disobedience, punishment, humility, compassion, and redemption; one of the greatest trials a human being can experience during the course of his or her lifetime.

The sad reality is that for many of our youth and young adults, this journey of growth and maturation is cut short far too quickly. It is the goal of Jonah's Passage to change that.

It is with betterment of society in mind, and the desire to help improve communities by reaching the youth, that The Church of Pentecost Canada and Pentecost Community Development Agency (PENTCDA) have collaborated to make Jonah's Passage a successful reality.

For more information contact:



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This program is sponsored by:

- The Church of Pentecost Canada
- Pentecost Community Development Agency (PENTCDA)

Funded by:

African-Canadian Christian Network (ACCN)

jonah's PASSAGE

A Restorative - Justice Program for Youth



Stepping Out Of **The Belly** Of Darkness Into **The Light**

What We Are About

VISION:

Jonah's Passage aims to eradicate youth violence, create safer neighborhoods, and empower visible minority youth to create positive and long-lasting change in their communities.

MISSION:

The Jonah's Passage program seeks to decrease the alarming number of visible minority youth, particularly African-Canadian youth, who are entering the prison system, and help at-risk youth to rehabilitate their behavior and resist the perpetuation of unlawful activities through holistic counseling and educational programming.

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of Jonah's Passage are to:

1. Decrease the number of visible minority youth obtaining criminal records for lesser offences.
2. Restore troubled youth 13-25 years (first and second time non-indictable offenders) into society and prevent them from re-offending

Program Structure

one 1. A youth charged with committing a summary offense is referred to the Jonah's Passage program by the courts, parents, family, school, etc. either as part of the bail or sentencing process.

two 2. The said youth is given an overview of the Jonah's Passage program and if he or she consents to participate in the program and to abide by the Program's regulations, he or she will be given the Intake/Assessment Form to fill out. Participants under the age of eighteen are required to have their parents/guardians sign the Consent Form which allows Jonah's Passage to act/advocate on the youth's behalf.

three 3. The Intake Officer will review the application, assess the needs of the youth, and determine what kind of counseling and resources can be provided.

four 4. The 12-week cycle of the program would encompass classes in counseling, judiciary system, personal success (education/employment, personal success) as well as conflict resolution/mediation. The youth must attend scheduled classes two hours per week. The youth will undergo two classes each Saturday and must not absent himself/herself without prior permission.

five 5. Upon the completion of the program, the youth is given a certificate and reference letter attesting to the fact that he/she has completed the Jonah's Passage Program.

***While in the program or after completion (which ever comes first before sentencing), Jonah's Passage will play an advocacy role on behalf of the youth to the courts based on the demonstrated reform of the youth.

**Jonah's Passage Program relies on strict cooperation and model behavior. Anyone who contravenes the rules and regulations of Jonah's Passage will be involuntarily dismissed from the program and they will be personally responsible for the consequences

Who can enrol?

Any youth who is between 13 - 25 years old who is at-risk to commit, or has been charged with, a non-indictable offense.

Referrals to Jonah's Passage program could be made by parents, lawyers, judges, prosecutors, community organizations, schools, or the youths themselves.

Cost to enrol

There is no cost to enroll. Jonah's Passage is made possible through funding by the African Canadian Christian Network (ACCN) and sponsored by Pentecost Community Development Agency (PENTCDA)