



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

PROJECT JOEL



In many countries today, more than 70 percent of the population is under 25 years of age. Because of realities such as broken families and secularism, many of these young people receive little moral or spiritual education in their homes, their values often being shaped instead by potentially negative influences such as the media, music or their peers.

As part of a global strategy for reaching out to youth, Lutheran Hour Ministries is offering **Project JOEL** in a growing number of countries. The name JOEL stands for Jóvenes con Espíritu Libre, or “youth with a free spirit,” and the program is designed to provide biblically-based guidance in making healthy lifestyle choices. Project JOEL has been integrated into school curricula in some countries—particularly in Latin America—but it also supplements its educational content by incorporating opportunities for holding sporting and cultural events.

Since its introduction by **Lutheran Hour Ministries–Panama** in 1996, Project JOEL has been recognized by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Justice in Panama and Guatemala for its positive impact on youth. It has also been implemented in Argentina, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Uruguay and is now being adapted by many ministry centers in other parts of the world.

Global Impact -

PROJECT JOEL IN PANAMA

Adrian is a student in a grade school that uses Project JOEL. Each time LHM–Panama visits Adrian’s school, he is an active participant in all the program’s activities. Like other students in the school, he is involved in social work to support his community in educational, cleaning, and donation programs. LHM–Panama recently celebrated Children’s Day at a local playground. They had a puppet show and Adrian was able to help the staff and volunteers set up for the show and the songs. Adrian says he loves reading the Christian books, devotions, and games that he got from Project JOEL. Through his participation in Project JOEL, Adrian is now growing closer to God.

Project JOEL has positively impacted tens of thousands of students in Panama alone since being established in 1996.



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