While we are trying to get crime to come down in Cleveland, Chicago has had 275 homicides this year. The violence there has everyone wondering how and when it will stop.

By JAMES W. WADE III
Staff Reporter

Violence has been affecting cities across theUnited Statesfor awhile now. From all the violence going on, especially among our youth, many ‘stop the violence’ marches and rallies have started all across Cleveland.

Known for spearheading them on the Westside, Pastor Angel Arroyo Jr. is no stranger to leading the charge against violence. Recently gathering a nice group of around 150 people, they had a march against violence along West 25th and Clark area.

The city of Cleveland has had some weekends where there have been up to dozens on a weekend and preachers like Arroyo, of Dotcom Ministries, works on gang intervention and

prison re-entry in Cleveland. He has been focusing on youth and what their actions are in the community.

The city of Cleveland is currently at 38 homicides, up from last year at this time when we had 34 and 1,426 robberies.

“Violence is something that has to stop,” said Khalid Samad, founder of Peace in the Hood. And, the violence is causing police to be more active during the good weather.

By police records it seems more violence has come out of the 4th District, which was known as a nice middle class area. Kinsman and Buckeye seem to have become battle grounds for youth.

Cleveland City Councilmen Zack Reed and Jeff Johnson have been very vocal about the crime in Cleveland. They have even held forums on youth violence and provided programs at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland. The forum has given an opportunity for young men and women to talk about their encounters with violence in Cleveland as well as give their input on how to stop it.

Not all violence ends up in murder but, when you have a person or persons spraying bullets outside of a restaurant and injuring 3 to 4 people, that’s still crime and violence. And, three shot at Spafford has helped open the eyes of even the youth.

With organizations like Peace in the Hood and Black on Black Crime out there dealing with the youth and gun violence, other groups like The Glenville Ministry in Missions Alliance have started actively engaging the community with various seminars in the Glenville area. They are asking that everyone stop the violence in their streets.

They are trying to make a difference in the city and will be bringing their same message over to the Buckeye area soon. They believe in targeting seven key factors: economic development, education, family, financial literacy, health, home ownership and the biggest… crime.

Lack of parenting and guidance can cause a lot of crime, with the youth looking for other alternatives which point straight to the streets and guns. Before this generation, a fist fight would be the biggest battle and then it was over, no guns and no coming back for revenge.

The Glenville Ministry in Missions Alliance stressed that they hope these events will be educational, stopping the violence throughout the whole city, though they first focused in the Glenville community.

“Education about violence and what problems it causes is something we must continue to stress to these youth,” said Samad. Thirty four homicides is not a good number, but it could be worse like in Chicago.

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In Cleveland, Arroyo believes everybody has to play a part in stopping the violence. Being a former Guardian Angel, he is very familiar with crime.

“When you see a crime, your first action is to call the police, not pull out a gun,” Arroyo said.