

Word on the Street

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Here's Life Inner City in New York City

Matt and Anna Shenk



ANNA- I've been teaching the children at our church on Sundays once a month and it is truly a delight, despite its challenges. On average, about 18 kids between the ages of 3 and 16 are with us each Sunday in our one little room that serves as an office, kitchen, storage space and classroom. The atmosphere is completely chaotic but each week the kids come eager to learn. They also keep me on my toes with the insightful questions they ask. The majority of the kids come on their own, without parents, and many are in the foster care system. I know when I teach that they may only be with us for a short time because they're being moved around within the system. I'm constantly reminded of the importance of making sure that the gospel is clearly communicated to them each week. I want them to know of the great love that the Father has for them, no matter where life may take them.

MATT- I've been going, going, going.

- The computer class at our church's after-school program is going great. I practically have to drag the kids off the computers at the end of the lesson!

- Due to an 80% rent increase at our Manhattan office, the national office of Here's Life Inner City merged offices with our Queens-based team. I've been doing a lot of lifting, drilling, wiring, boxing, etc. Both NYC teams are excited to be sharing one office space now.

- I'll be giving a presentation in May at a conference to train after-school directors on MySpace and engaging an online youth culture. It's called MySpace: Their World. The directors will be attending from around the country. This is the second recent privilege I've had to train a group of national youth leaders on technology.





It's hard to believe that our little boy will turn one on May 10th! We are really enjoying getting to know this little guy whose wonderful personality is beginning to emerge. He's now able to take four or five steps on his own and loves getting into everything. His first words included cheese and juice, two of his favorite foods. He loves music and he's already dancing and clapping to the beat during worship at church. Anna is having a great time taking him to the park and getting to know so many neighbors at the playground. Thomas is quick to make friends wherever he goes and can't wait until he can chase after all the kids.

Praise and Prayer

- We praise God for two significant donations that will greatly impact our ministry reach. Matt recently received full funding to pay his summer interns, who will be teens from the neighborhood. Anna, who has been working with our church on strategic planning and fundraising, also received much-needed funding for core needs at the church.
- We are pleased to let you know that God has provided for a new apartment for Mike, the young man who was shot, and his family. The apartment is wheelchair accessible and should enable Mike to return to school in the fall. Thank you so much for your ongoing prayers!
- Pray for safe travel and health for us as we travel to Virginia in May to provide ministry updates to our three partner churches. Also in May, Matt will travel to California to speak at the youth workers conference and Anna and Thomas will visit family in St. Louis.

We hope to see all our friends in Virginia in May. Here's a list of when and where we'll be:

Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Sunday, May 4 – We'll be speaking at the 9:30 a.m. service
Panera Bread Company, Tuesday, May 6 – A casual gathering from 7:30-9 at 10301 W. Broad St.
West End Presbyterian Church, Sunday, May 11 – We'll be speaking at the 9 and 10:30 a.m. services and there will be a pizza luncheon at noon
Great Bridge Presbyterian Church, Sunday, May 18 – We'll be speaking at each service and there will be a pizza luncheon after the 11:15 service

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