

Word on the Street

Volume III, Issue VI, April 2009 Here's Life Inner City in New York City Matt and Anna Shenk

Newest Tech Bridges Computer Center in Brooklyn

Sixteen nations are represented among the eighteen children who participate in the after-school program at Second Evangelical Free Church in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. Four different languages are spoken. It is in this diverse place that Matt installed the most recent Tech Bridges computer center.

Sunset Park has a long history of housing some of our country's most recent immigrants. The church's vision is to see people of different cultures come together as a body of believers to worship the Lord and serve Him in this place recognizing their oneness in Christ Jesus. It was this vision that led them to start the after-school program outreach in 2007 with the help of Here's Life Inner City.



The program's director, Emily Green, believes that the computer lab will be a great tool for these youth who do not have many educational resources at home. She envisions using the computers for more than just homework.

"One thing I have really wanted to be able to do is have access to the assessment programs and software for helping the students prepare for the NY state tests. If I am able to provide them with those resources to know exactly where they were academically, and then help them on a more specialized basis, that would be a really good way to build strong relationships. It would allow me to build into their lives while being able to share the gospel on a personal level as well."



Like so many of the after-school programs Here's Life supports here in the city where space is limited, the church scrambled to make space for the four computers they requested. While it may not be many computers, the kids are overjoyed to have this new opportunity.

Emily Green believes the future is bright for the lab. "Now that we have the resources to offer, there are many other church ministries that will benefit, and even emerge from it."

Anna: Looking For Joy

Have you ever felt a lack of joy in your Christian life? Lately, I have and I believe that God is beginning to reveal the source of it.

As you mothers know, a lot changes when you have children – especially as it relates to the time you have to minister to those outside your home. Since I became a mother two years ago, I have found myself constantly comparing my “accomplishments” in ministry to those of other women and, even more menacingly, to what I would have been able to accomplish before I had a child. I am all too often critical of myself and find myself increasingly critical of others as well.

Aware of this sin in my life, I've been praying that God would free me from this grip and allow me to live fully and joyfully in the knowledge that I am a dearly loved daughter of the King. For it is only from this place of gratitude and humility that I will be able to do any ministry of eternal value, whether it is ministry inside or outside of my home.

God is already answering this prayer and I am beginning to have a renewed sense of freedom and joy. Thank you in advance for your prayers on this matter. They mean a great deal to me.

Looking Ahead to Summer

Summer is going to look a bit different for us this year. All Campus Crusade staff are required to complete several seminary-level classes before the completion of their seventh year on staff. The classes are held at Colorado State University in the four weeks prior to the two-week bi-annual Campus Crusade staff conference. What this means is that we will be spending a total of six weeks in Fort Collins, Colorado this summer, from June 20 – August 1. Unfortunately this means that Matt will not be able to run his summer internship program with Tech Bridges, which is a highlight of his year. Please pray that God would provide summer employment for the two young men who interned with Matt last year.

Praise and Prayer

- We praise God for the good news that we are expecting a baby girl in late August. She continues to be healthy and we ask for prayers for continued health. We also praise God for Thomas' growth. He is quite a talker these days and has some great friends in the neighborhood to play with.
- Our neighborhood has seen an increase in crime, probably due in part to the general hopelessness about the economy. Please pray that our neighbors would put their hope in Christ and that they would not despair. Please thank God that though our car has been broken into twice recently, our car was not stolen.
- Our search for a new church in the community continues. Our visits to a new church each Sunday have been encouraging as we get a bigger picture of what God's church is doing in Crown Heights. Please pray that He would lead us to a church home before we head to Colorado this summer.

Matt and Anna Shenk • 932 St. Marks Ave. #3E, Brooklyn, NY 11213

Anna (347) 276-4419 or annashenk@yahoo.com • Matt (646) 287-4197 or mattshenk@yahoo.com

Please make checks payable to Campus Crusade for Christ, account #0572439

www.theshenks.org