

Word on the Street

April 2011

Here's Life Inner City in New York City

Matt and Anna Shenk

A Season of Prayer

Friends, we are sorry for the lag in updates. We're not sure how we jumped from the New Year to April without writing! Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support. We are very grateful for each of you.

This season, for us, has been marked by a renewed desire to pray and a deeper understanding that it is God who changes men's hearts. We have been humbled by the realization that we often don't know how to pray. At the same time, we have been encouraged by Romans 8:26, which says, "The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."

Matt recently took a two-day retreat to reflect and pray. Anna is reading a great book entitled "A Praying Life," by Paul Miller. Now that our kids are learning to sleep, we're finding new energy to meet with God each morning in quiet prayer! The whole family recently took part in a great prayer walk for our neighborhood, Crown Heights, that sent 60 or so believers into the community to pray boldly for transformation.

In this spirit of prayer, here are just a few of the things that you can be praying for:

Discipleship

A friend of ours from the community recently asked Anna to spend a few hours with her each week teaching her about the Christian faith and how to read her bible and pray. Praise God that this woman and her daughter are regularly attending church with us and pray that the discipleship would bear fruit in this woman's life.

Soccer

One of the things we love about living in Crown Heights is the opportunity for ministry to happen just by doing the things we would normally do, like playing soccer with our kids at the local park. Matt and another father in the neighborhood are going to be coaching soccer for three and four year-olds on Saturday mornings for the next six weeks. Pray that God would use these times to show the love of Christ to both kids and parents.

Easter Outreaches

Over this past weekend, Here's Life staff and volunteers were busy assembling 5,000 Easter Bags for use by churches throughout the city. Over Easter weekend, church members will be blessing young people in their low-income communities with these bags that contain traditional Easter treats as well as Gospel materials. Pray that many young people would come to trust in the Lord this weekend.

Thank you for your prayers!

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