

Word on the Street

Volume I, Issue VIII, March 2006 Here's Life Inner City in New York City Matt and Anna Shenk

Mobilizing and Serving the Church



Teens from our church's after-school program in Brooklyn visit Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond with the help of friends like you.

One of the things that excites us the most about our ministry is the opportunity it creates for the body of Christ to work together for the advancement of God's kingdom.

The mission of Here's Life is not only to build up inner-city churches but also to mobilize churches outside the city center to grow in their understanding of God's heart for the poor and to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19,20).

While we have been raising financial support in order to report full-time to our ministry in New York, God has used the relationships we have in both communities for this purpose.

Several of our friends from our years at The Village Church in Manhattan have volunteered to spend afternoons at our church in Crown Heights, sharing with teens in our after-school program about their careers. Karen, a professional dancer, shared about her career and even had the teens participate in some dance exercises. Later this month, another friend, David, will be sharing about his career as a scientist at New York University.

God is even using our connections in Richmond for His purposes. When teens from the after-school program were invited by a church in Richmond to spend a few days in Richmond, we were able to call on our friend Dabney, the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship campus staff worker at Virginia Commonwealth University (Anna's alma mater), to identify college students who could give the teens a personal tour of the campus and expose them to the opportunities that exist in higher education. A picture of the visit, which the teens greatly enjoyed, is above.

According to our friend Beth, who helped chaperone the trip, most of the teens went into the college visit with little enthusiasm about higher education. However, they came away excited about the possibility of one day attending college themselves, something that is uncommon amongst youth in Crown Heights and other inner-city neighborhoods.

The greatest thing about interactions such as these is that they not only benefit the teens, they benefit our friends as well by exposing them – some for the first time – to what God is doing in the lives of those who are living in America's inner cities.

Down the road, it is our sincere hope that God will use the relationships we have developed over the years to raise up mentors and tutors and even to bring in short-term mission teams into the city from the churches who are partnering with us.

It is a great privilege for us to serve as a bridge between these two worlds and to connect people within the body of Christ for His glory. Your support and prayers are what enable us to do this, and we are so grateful for you.

Food For Thought

- We've enclosed in this newsletter a copy of Here's Life Inner City's revised mission and vision statements. We feel this brief document does a great job of casting vision for the ministry, and we hope that you will take a few moments to read it.
- We heard a great sermon while visiting Matt's brother's church in Charlotte in late January and thought you might enjoy it. Pastor Bruce Marcey does a terrific job of looking at the story of the Good Samaritan and challenges us to think through questions we frequently ask ourselves, such as, "Who is my neighbor?" and "Whom am I to love?" You can download an mp3 of the January 22 sermon at www.warehouse242.org.

Prayer Requests

- Please join us in praising God for supplying nearly 70 percent of the funds we need for ministry. Please continue praying that God would introduce us to others who want to hear about our ministry and that they would pray about partnering with us financially and prayerfully.
- Please continue to pray that God would use this season in our lives to grow us and equip us for the work ahead. Specifically, pray that we would learn greater trust and patience in Him.

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