

Word on the Street

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

Looking Back: Summer in Colorado- Matt

Our destination: **Fort Collins, Colorado** for the biannual Campus Crusade Conference. We were privileged to take **seminary classes** taught by professors from around the country to equip us as both missionaries and followers of Christ. Classes normally held over a full semester meant a grueling four-week schedule of coursework. Fortunately, Thomas thrived in childcare, and we passed each course with flying colors, learning a great deal. I grieved a bit that I had to put the Tech Bridges Intern Program on hold for a year, but I do believe that what we learned will benefit our ministry moving forward.



Despite the intense schedule, we did have a little time to enjoy the nearby Rocky Mountains and take in a rodeo. Anna and I discussed how much easier it was to do “life” in Fort Collins. As life in Crown Heights has become the new “normal” for us, we often forget about the underlying stresses and difficulties that surround us. Crown Heights can be a tough place to live, not just for us but for all our neighbors. There are reasons that the majority of people here are trying to work their way **OUT** of the community. We are trying to work ourselves **IN**. This trip was a welcome rest and a good reminder to give ourselves some grace as we live out our lives in Crown Heights.

The conference started off very well for us. **Tim Keller**, the pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan was the main speaker. You can view or listen to some of the talks he gave on the subject of loving the poor at www.ihopecommunity.org. Unfortunately, just as the conference was beginning, Anna was **hospitalized** for pre-term labor. The doctors told us the baby was going to be born that evening! Long story short, the labor stopped, and at our doctor’s suggestion we headed back to New York ahead of schedule. Trinity, however, did not end up arriving until two weeks after her due date. We’re transitioning well, and excited as we push hard in the fall excited to see what God does.

Looking Forward: Fall Ministry



One of the most exciting things this fall is to see the ministry happening simply by being loving neighbors. The amount of need and brokenness around us is painful to see, but we see God starting to use us more and more as our neighbors become our friends and people in our community become people in our lives. **Anna's ministry to women and young mothers** in the neighborhood has blossomed, and by the courage God has given her, she is impacting lives more and more regularly. Pray for continued boldness for Anna and open hearts to the Gospel for the women. As a result of the **Tech Bridges Intern Program**, young men are starting to know that Matt can be a resource for finding employment. Matt is planning a **short-term internship** with one recent high school graduate in the coming weeks.

Please pray for this young man as Matt seeks to minister to him and build him up in all areas of his life, and for a long-term relationship to develop.

Rather than growing the number of **Tech Bridges Computer Centers** this fall, Matt will be concentrating on spending more time with a few existing computer centers. The goal is to serve, but also to learn and ensure that Tech Bridges is not only setting up computer centers, but that the computer centers are running well. This is a challenge, given that we serve under-resourced churches. The challenges abound. Also, please pray as Matt seeks to **grow the Tech Bridges team** and hopes to recruit a full-time staff member to handle the technology side of Tech Bridges, as well as for college interns for the spring and summer.

Looking for Simple Ways to Serve?



In New York City, the average cost for a meal out is \$40.78 per person. This year, when times have been especially tough for New York's poorest, we are asking you to Dine In for just one night. The money saved could provide an entire family of six with a Thanksgiving feast.

What is a Box of Love? For only \$36.71 a box of food is delivered to families in need just in time for Thanksgiving. Each Box of Love feeds a family of six and includes a ham or chicken along with vegetables, potatoes, juice, yams, apple or cranberry sauce, bread, fruit, dessert, and more ... plus Scriptures and children's literature. Sponsor one or sponsor ten...whatever you feel led to do, know that you won't just be providing food; you will also be transforming lives.

You don't have to do it alone, make a night out of it. Invite friends and family over, and HLIC will give the tips needed for the ultimate Dine In experience. Help us spread the word and together we can make 7,000 Boxes of Love a reality this Thanksgiving for New York's poorest.

Act Now! The deadline to raise these funds is November 6!

We are 4,000 boxes short of our goal and we must put in our order for this food in time for churches to distribute it for Thanksgiving.

Want to Pack Boxes of Love? If you live in NYC and would like to spend the Saturday before Thanksgiving packing Boxes of Love with your friends or family, let us know. Each year, HLIC hosts hundreds of volunteers at our Queens warehouse for a day of service and fun.



Matt at a recent Box of Love training

Thank you for your partnership! We thank God for you.

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

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