

We Must Restore Them

Over the years tens of thousands of children have come through the doors of the Children's Activity Center and have received the love of Jesus Christ. It is truly amazing to see the Lord at work in their lives but not just only in the children's lives but in the lives of adult volunteers, single moms, wayward people, lost people and people of every sort who have found the Lord here. This is really a special place, this little red building, in the heart of the City. It pleased the Lord to establish this ministry. Below is the testimony of Shauna Tooker a single mother of two who had been through the worst life has to offer including rape who found her healing at the Children's Activity Center.

"A little over three months ago, my best friend, my kids and I began a weekly journey to the inner-city of Houston to the Children's Activity Center (CAC). At first I was unsure what to expect, but after the first bus load of children entered the CAC, my heart opened wide with a love I have never experienced. Something had been thrust into my spirit and by the second weekend, I had a burden in my heart. Do I accept this or do I walk away?"

I began to look at each of the children and not see the child our society sees...the one who acts out in class, who disrespects adults, who hangs out on the streets all day and night. I saw the child who never experienced God's love through another human being, the child who is scared he will be taken from his mom, the child who doesn't know when she will eat again. I began to see the spirit of the child and not the symptoms. My heart began to break.

Being a single mother of two younger children, working full-time, going to school part-time, active in church, and I harbored unforgiveness I wasn't sure I could bare this burden. As I looked around the CAC at all the beautiful kids, I thought, "Can I really continue coming here?" My heart is already so overwhelmed with what I am going through. Can I bear this God given love for these kids?" Although I asked myself that very question, there is no doubt in my mind what I was called to do. This love, which flourished in my spirit, was meant for me to use in action and not hold onto. Many times, as a Christian, I had no action behind my dedication to the Lord. I was not being the hands and feet of Jesus in the earth. I was sitting on the pew getting fat with the Word of God and never sharing his love with anyone. This time, if I held onto this love, His love, I never would have experienced healing in my own life.

How can it be if I love with God's love that I harbor un-forgiveness in my heart? God's love is perfect. The Bible says that perfect love casts out all fear. What was I afraid of? I was afraid of letting God deal with my unforgiveness, because I wanted justice for being a

victim. If I forgave, then I would let go of what I had fought for and what I believed I deserved justice for.

My heart was broken the first day I came to CAC. I tried previously to let go of the past, but still reflected back; constantly being reminded of pain. I had nothing left inside of me to give, I had no love for anyone, not even myself. I felt empty and I was not at peace with God.

***Praise God for his love!** When I realized God's love was flourishing in my heart, I knew I needed to release it. The experiences from my past were some of the very things these children are going through right now. As the love of God flowed through me to these amazing children and their love flowed back to me, healing had taken place in my heart.*

After the second weekend of serving and the burden lay on my heart, I prayed and cried out for nearly a week. God was doing something inside of me that I couldn't explain. The next Saturday, God moved greatly on my heart and the heaviness I carried from all my unforgiveness was broken. Not only have I experienced newness in my heart but my children have been released from fear.

*It's only because the love of God burned inside me and I decided to let him use me that I found my purpose. By loving these children it opens a door to your heart. **As Christians, we must reach out; it is up to them to grab our hands. If they do we must restore them.**"*

You know like in the life of Shauna it is pretty obvious to see that when we abandon our own will and give up on self and do what God desires our healing comes. There is a world out there waiting for someone who is fully alive to come and share the Gospel with them. This reminds me of a story about a man who once said to his friend, "I often want to shake my fist at God and ask him why all the poor and hurting people why all the lost and desperate in the world? How can this be?" His friend replied, "Well just ask God right now if you really want to know." "I'm afraid." he quickly replied. "Afraid of what?" asked the friend. Answering in a low voice he said, "I'm afraid God might ask me the same question." Yes, there are a lot of lost people out their but not as many as there could be hadn't someone answered the call to go. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all of these things will be added unto you as well." Mathew 6:33. God bless you and until next time "peace be still."

Pastor Scott Binkley

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Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, Philippians 3:13 (NIV)



The Best

Usually, I reserve this section of the news letter for some timely ministry updates but this time the Lord has instructed me to write a note of encouragement to some struggling saints out there. If you have ever wondered why God saved you and what his will for your life is look no further than the Word of God.

First the Bible says each of us has been given a gift or a “measure of faith” as the Bible says in Romans 12:3. Each of us has been forgiven and saved as we have believed and trusted in Jesus Christ’s death for each of us on the cross to pay for our sins. We have repented and are now free to be what God meant for us to be to glorify him and bless others. We are now truly ourselves and don’t need to be like anybody else. Matter of fact we are so unique that we were created to do “good works” according to Ephesians 2:10. Literally in the Greek translation in that same verse we are God’s masterpiece, then why all the confusion on this why all the doubt?

Well, first of all we must know it is the will of God for men to be thankful and give thanks to God (1 Thessalonians 5:18) worshiping him in Spirit and in truth John 4:23. This is God’s direct will for us and that of being thankful men and women of God. Secondly, we need to engage in some service to God that benefits others in the Kingdom and helps either directly or indirectly for the lost to find Christ. Simply put it is something you can do well in service to God no matter what it is. It could be sweeping floors, cleaning rooms, writing books or serving in children’s ministry like we do here at CAC. But whatever it is do it with all your might as unto the Lord! Lastly, don’t compare yourself to any other Christians or focus on your weakness. Instead whatever you do well do a lot of it in increasing fashion. Focus on your strengths and work on your weaknesses but don’t become morbidly obsessed with what you can’t do. It is never wise to compare ourselves to others in service to the Lord. It is like saying to God that “I’m not good enough” or “God why did you make me this way?” The reality is that none of us is good enough. Only by grace, it is God who works in all of us together for his own glory. If you can’t do something then don’t be foolish; let someone else do it that why it’s called the body of Christ. Learn how to applaud others in their efforts and gifts and keep your mind always on the Lord.

This month’s cover photo is of our friend Elder Maurice Bracken in Toledo’s CAC pictured with a puppet in his likeness made and fashioned by Edith Ellis mother of CAC’s late founder David Ellis. Edith or “Mom” as we affectionately call her made this puppet in service to the Lord. Edith is in her eighties and still doing what she is good at. This is a good example to us all.

Pastor Scott Binkley



Intern Positions Available

If you would like to be trained in one of America’s most challenging inner-city ministries then this is the opportunity for you. This is a dynamic way to get street level experience in using the gifts God has given you to reach the lost, the hurting, the homeless and fatherless of America’s fourth largest City. We have 5 and 12 month terms available. Housing is provided. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Jessica in our office.



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The GOOD REPORT

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY CENTER

FROM THE

PO Box 2851
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“We believe that every child has the right to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to see that Gospel demonstrated in the life of at least one, sincere, born-again believer.”

Walking Faith Ministry

5801 Edgemoor Drive Houston, TX 77081
tel: (713) 667-0442 fax: (713) 664-3624
www.childrensactivitycenter.com

The Children’s Activity Center – Children’s Activity Truck, part of Walking Faith Ministry, is a non-profit, faith-based organization dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus Christ to children and their families in Houston’s crime and poverty ridden inner-city. We use a number of colorful fourteen-foot storage trucks converted into portable stages to bring weekly presentations of the gospel in skits, dramas, puppetry, and video, right to the very doorstep of the children who most desperately need it. Weekly visitations to the homes of attending children helps us share the life changing message of Jesus with the entire family. Donations matter and are tax deductible. Donations can be made through our website via Pay Pal.

Senior Pastor: Scott Binkley Administrative Director: Gilda Duncan