

# The GOOD REPORT

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FROM THE **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY CENTER**

# 99 April 2008

## CAC News

The Gospel Lakes Camps have begun again. We hope to bus 700-1000 kids to a dynamic Saturday day camp this spring. It is so exciting to see kids ride horses and go boating for the first time. A lot of these kids have never had an opportunity to go outside of the inner-city. So you can imagine the faces of excited little girls when they see or ride a horse for the first time or young boys when they have caught their first fish. The camp is well organized and staffed by wonderful volunteers from churches in Houston and the Woodlands. The parents are encouraged to come as well and everyone gets an opportunity to hear the Gospel and receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

During the spring we will be finishing restoration on a Children's Activity Truck that was burned in a fire two years ago. Thanks to a sizeable donation from a local church, this truck will be back on the road in about six weeks. It will be used to help start the Children's Activity Center number two in Toledo, Ohio this coming summer. This will be the beginning of a process of helping to start this work in smaller urban areas where the population is under 400,000 people. We desire to partner with others to reach the small city ghettos that have become increasing violent and problematic over the past several years in the City of Toledo which is one of the worst.

Here in Houston, we will be welcoming back Vincent and Jessica Bouchard to our staff along with Melkizella Telus. They will assist us in training and launching new Children's Activity Truck sites in South Park, which is another of Houston's toughest inner-city neighborhoods and an area that has a very high concentration of children. This will bring yet another 500 children into regular Children's Activity Truck meetings on a weekly basis.

"Something Good in the Hood" youth ministry will begin meeting again in April. The ministry is designed to give teens that normally hang out in projects and on the street a place to come and fellowship, shoot hoops and have sit down dinners with staff and friends. This provides them a safe place to interact and learn about the love of Jesus Christ.

The Walking Faith Family church will begin focusing on the needs of single moms in our projects. The ministry will be on Sunday mornings and will reach out to those moms who are struggling to survive on fixed and limited incomes. Some of the issues that will be covered include how to enter relationships correctly, sexual purity and abstinence.

Please pray for us as we endeavor and seek after the Lord in all these things. We will need increasing numbers of laborers and finances to support these moves. We trust in the Lord and his provision and look forward to seeing these things come to fullness in his time and his way.

*Pastor Scott*

### 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, street wise and use all the gifts God gave you and more to reach out to 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 would be interested in learning and growing with us please contact: Pastor Scott at 281-660-0257.



# Thanks Giving

No, this isn't the Holiday we celebrate once a year in November. These are the two things that we are almost completely missing with the kids when we first ventured into Houston's toughest ghettos some five years ago; namely, a thankful heart and a heart of one that would care to give.

I remember when this really first hit me. It was a time during May of 2005 when Hurricane Rita was targeted by weather forecasters to smash into Houston. The entire city seemed to pack up and leave overnight except those who couldn't leave, such as inner-city missionaries like ourselves and some of the kids and single moms in the projects we minister in. That following day after the evacuation a crime spree broke out in the same projects. Rashes of burglaries and vandalism situations one after another were reported to police. It seemed as though the empty evacuated apartments were the prime targets.

What shocked me was what was done in these apartments and who carried out these crimes. Walls of the apartments were kicked in. bathroom sinks were overflowed. Walls were spray painted with what the kids call tags. Some of these things written on the walls were too vile to mention. Windows were smashed out and in one apartment the thieves defecated on the floor and smeared some on the walls. In one case, curtains were set on fire burning two apartments completely down. Who did this you might wonder? Well, the answer is ten and eleven year old boys and girls. Most were caught immediately. Some remained in custody while others were evaluated by psychiatrists. At least two of the boys since then have committed other crimes and are serving time in youth lock downs. The sad thing is that this kind of thing has become the norm rather than the exception. It should be to nobody's surprise when a kid grows up in a world that tells you that in order to have happiness is to acquire riches at any cost as a popular rapper named 50 cent sang a few years ago, "Get rich or die trying." When you take that and add in a fatherless home full of drugs and alcohol and prostitution, molestation and hopelessness, you end up with a kid that is capable of robbery or other violent actions by age twelve or younger. I remember one Saturday when I was driving the bus to the Center and a boy about eight years old shouts, "Hey Pastor Scott stop I want to get on my bus." I looked up and he pointed and said, "Stop there it is. I'm gonna ride on it someday." What he was pointing at was a blue and white county jail bus that had just picked up prisoners from a road side work detail. I think you can get the picture from his comments about the depth of the problems in these kid's lives. What kind of future is that?

Recently, we asked the kids to bring an offering every Saturday to help ministries in New Orleans that reach out to homeless kids there. The Spirit of God began to move on their hearts. One nine year old boy named Euriban Solis got a can and pictures of the kids in New Orleans

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 a portable stages to bring weekly presentations of the gospel in skits, dramas, puppetry, and video right to the very doorstep of the children who so most desperately need it. Weekly visitations to the homes of attending children help us to share the life changing message of Jesus with the entire family and help the ministry to identify current needs both spiritual and physical that can be met in a timely fashion.

Come visit! **YOU ARE WELCOME!**

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and started collecting money in his neighborhood and school. None of our staff asked him to do that. When I asked him why he decided to do this he replied, "God wants me to do this these kids need help. This is the right thing to do and makes me feel good inside." The good feeling he was talking about was the Spirit of God confirming the truth in his life. Euriban comes from a family of nine in the inner-city with a mother who is struggling just to make it day to day and for him to care about others he doesn't know is truly remarkable. Praise the Lord!

We also received a letter from a twelve year old girl named Stephanie that contained an offering for the New Orleans kids. Stephanie has a father who is blind and is quite abusive in many ways. She has been constantly harassed by bullies at school and struggles to contain her anger and sometimes becomes depressed. Many times she calls the Center at night so we can pray with her. God is making some big changes in her life. This is what she wrote:

*Dear Pastor Scott. I have been going to the Children's Activity Center for some time now and when I enter the building I feel at peace with everyone. The Children's Activity Center has helped with bullies, anger, grades, pain and trials through prayer and God's Word. I believe the Children's Activity Center will reach a million kids like me for Christ. I also believe Jesus is my Savior and God's Word is the truth. The Lord will bless the Children's Activity Center in all they do. I have put \$ 21.72 with this letter. The money can be used for the kids in New Orleans. Thank you so much. I love you...Stephanie*

The Bible says in Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." **Which way will these kids go in this life and then in eternity? The Bible says if we will reach them as children then they will go his way.** If we wait until sin and Satan have their way with them it will be much harder for them to receive the truth. Sin hardens the heart toward the love of God. While nothing is impossible with God I believe it is best to do as God says and train them while they are yet children. Train them to love God and to trust him, to give and help others, to cherish the Word of God and to be thankful in all things, for the Bible says "This is the will of God concerning you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Where will these kids end up? You could say "That is up to God and he knows I can't do anything about it." Or like Euriban Solis you could say "God I want to do something let me do my part. It may not be much but it is something, and placed into God's hands it could be used to change a life forever." Have faith and support the missionaries who reach these lost kids.

**Pastor Scott**