

## Building Memories

One of the essential ingredients of a stable childhood is the development of lasting and enduring, positive and uplifting memories of times spent with parents and family. You know, when you get to be forty or fifty years of age, you sometimes look back and smile when meditating on those special times. We all have them; we all need them. While God does not want us to live in the past he allows his people to meditate on his past goodness and give Him praise. All one has to do is read the Psalms; these are, for the most part, a struggling man (King David) remembering the goodness and greatness of God, in the midst of current conflicts and setbacks.

This brings us to Christmas in the inner-city, 2009, What has this to do with memories or with God for that matter, you may ask? Well, everything its simple, providing Godly memories for kids whose whole world is currently framed around the suffering of a single parent (woman); whose only memories of her childhood are of neglect, absent fathers and yes many Christmas' of loneliness. Christmas is a time of year when for whatever reason, human emotions are heightened. Perhaps (and it's just a guess on my part) our culture has circled a day on the calendar when everyone is suppose to be happy and with family and friends, giving and receiving presents. Well the fact of the matter is that a lot of people won't be particularly happy on that day; or they won't be with friends or family, and sadly, when there are no gifts, the emotional bottom falls out; a day that was supposed to be so happy becomes a day of deep depression. Sadly, statistics show many will end their lives that Christmas day or week in suicide. For kids in the inner-city, the term "family and friends" holds little, if any, meaning. One Christmas in 2005, I remember we had a small cardboard Christmas tree we cut out from the back of a box and used it for a game we were going to play with the kids. After the game a young mom came up and asked us if she could have the cut out tree. When asked why she replied, *"I didn't have one as a kid and I want my kids to have one."* Now mind you folks, this is a little, crude, cut out tree that held little value to anyone, anywhere, except for an inner-city mom who wanted to give her kids something she never had, even if it wasn't the real thing. If you meditate on this long enough I think you will understand perfectly well what I am about to write and ask you to do in the next several paragraphs. It brings me to tears when I think about it.

If you have read any of our newsletters over the past several months, you know that our mission statement is, **"We believe that every kid 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."** That being said, these kids need to see that someone who names the name of Jesus, is willing to get involved in their lives; even if it just a little bit, to offset the darkness all around them. The Gospel must be demonstrated.

**Folks, it doesn't take much light to overcome a sea of darkness. That's the way light is and at its command, darkness must flee.**

This Christmas we are going to let our light shine and give as many inner-city kids as possible a Christmas gift. Right now, our current roster has about 1500 kids, but we would like to bless a whole lot more than that. Every kid that receives a gift will hear a powerful presentation of the Gospel and be given an opportunity to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. This is not only for the kids, but also the adults and teens that come to the meetings. We are praying for about 3000 kids to get gifts this Christmas.

Of course, you understand, that we could never do this alone, with our small group, but with your help it is certainly possible. We typically purchase gifts of value between ten and fifteen dollars for boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 14 years of age. The age groups are from 4-7, from 8-10, from 11-14, and we also accept toys & gifts for babies and toddlers. If you want to make a cash donation to the project, send to P.O. Box 2851, Bellaire, Texas 77402. If you want to deliver a gift please, mail it or personally deliver it to our physical address of 5801 Edgemoor. Houston, Texas. 77081.

Many of the gifts that you purchase will be for many kids, the only gift they receive this year. This will go a long way to making Christmas just a little bit better for everyone in the inner-city. We believe when kids see the goodness of God through your giving, it will bring an open door for the gospel in that life. It will also build good and lasting memories for kids that, Lord willing and years later, can be used by God to help a person through a difficult time; or maybe motivate a young adult to give back to the community what they have been given will perhaps even some wayward soul, in a jail cell years from now, who get down on his knees and ask God to forgive him; Simply because he remembers back to the days as a kid, when a yellow truck with the church people, came to his neighborhood for no other reason except to tell him that Jesus loved him and hand him a gift for Christmas. After all, that's what every good dad does; he builds good memories for his family. King David wrote in Psalm 27:10 "Even if my mother and father leave me, the Lord will take me in." These kids need us and a Christmas gift this year would go a long way to letting them know God does care.

Talk to you next year, if not sooner, Lord willing, and have a wonderful Christmas, from all the staff and volunteers at Walking Faith Ministry.

**Pastor Scott**



## New and Fresh Start

Three summers ago the Lord called me to go to the inner-city of Toledo Ohio to do a ten day children's crusade. We went to the kids living in the central and north sections of the city. While I grew up in that same area, I was totally unfamiliar with the inner-city; having grown up in the suburbs. Topping that off, does it really make sense to travel 1250 miles each way to minister to kids you'll see only once? After all, there are hurting kids within arms reach of you at all times. But God is God and it doesn't make sense.

This is what has happened since then:

A teenage girl saw us on the streets of Toledo in the summer of 2007 and went home and told her Pastor that she had seen a yellow truck and hundreds of kids on the streets receiving the Lord. She got our phone number and called us two weeks later; she wanted to come to Houston and see our ministry. Sure enough, they paid their own way from the Redeeming Temple Church and came to Houston (five of them). They stayed with us for a week and then returned to Toledo. The following summer, 2008, we returned to Toledo and again did another ten day crusade; Vincent and Jessica Bouchard trained their entire staff and on July 26th they began a ministry for Toledo's inner-city kids, called New and Fresh Start "Somethin' Good in the Hood". As of today, they are busing in about 100 kids every week on Saturdays and are in the process of converting a truck to do the Children's Activity Truck during the week. They have come a long way in a short time. When you trust God miracles can happen. Praise the Lord!

**Pastor Scott**



Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."  
—Mark 16:15



### 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.

*"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](http://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

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# The GOOD REPORT

FROM THE **children's activity center**

FROM THE

PO Box 2851  
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