

The GOOD REPORT

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FROM THE **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY CENTER**

97 February 2008

Truth vs. The Lie

Children for the most part, especially children under the age of 12 do not have the cognitive resources to tell the truth from a lie. The thought process of these younger kids just can't tell the difference so they receive and believe what they have been told on a repeated basis. For the most part these inner-city kids are fed repetitive lies like, "hey you", "stupid", "ugly", "dumb", "fatty" or "idiot" and other words that I cannot write or repeat on this written page.

It is no wonder then that suicide is the number one killer of inner-city kids in America and that 50 per cent of kids that reach twelve years of age have been sexually active and nearly 100 per cent have had sex with other kids or adults by the time they have reached the age of fifteen. And it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see the damage it has caused in their lives and their families. Why then do they do things like this? The simple reality is if they do not know any better they can't do any better. For every one role model in their lives speaking the truth about God's Word to them there are probably hundreds more speaking lies and untruths. Kids develop powerful relationships with their teachers. These bonds are almost as strong as parental soul ties and in the inner-city probably stronger because of the lack of any parental guidance in the homes. They will believe whatever the teacher says.

If there has ever been a stronger argument for Christian Education then it is right now! Educators are needed on the streets and schools and wherever the Word of God can be preached and practiced. I have said this before and I will say it again the children are our nation's greatest resource. It's not silver and gold. It's God first and these fatherless kids. If we allow godlessness to rule over them from false and corrupt teachers then we have effectively lost them to the streets. And they will believe the lie by Satan in the Garden of Eden that we can live without God and not suffer the consequences both temporarily and eternally.

We must tell them the truth that the Bible is the authoritative perfect Word of God and that a life lived according to its principles and the guidance of the Holy Spirit will be a life that while it will not be easy, but it will be a life that is none the less blessed by God. In addition, they will find themselves a perfect home in Heaven.

It's a real spiritual war. It begins with the minds of the children. It's the truth vs. the lie. We must at all costs as the Body of Christ arm ourselves for battle and send missionaries and teachers into our own backyard. For it was once said, "If we lose our own nation for Christ we won't have any resources to send anywhere else." We can still do it if we wake up and realize the hour is getting late. It's time to do battle! Rise Up and realize the cost is going to be far greater in the end if we are not willing to sacrifice in the beginning. This is no game this is the difference between life and death for these young people. Do something in your community for Jesus. If nothing else help us to help them.

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.



Reaching Out

The Children's Activity Truck Ministry is designed to reach first kids and then adults in Houston's toughest neighborhoods. It's pretty much run for all practical purposes like a military operation with every leader and staff volunteer assigned to specific duty and task. The same lessons, games, and songs are taught, sung and played at eight different locations on a weekly basis and you would think that they would lose their effectiveness with repetition but the beauty is they get stronger and fresher as they are repeated time after time. You see we pray and ask God to use these things for his glory. **When you plan to do a lesson and are faithful to show up every week at the same time and place then God prepares the hearts of the hearers and positions the people to be there to meet him in the very same way.** The Children's Activity Truck meetings are similar to church meetings, but on the outside without walls, which gives God greater opportunities to work with whom ever he will because the meeting is public and totally open to every passerby on the streets.

Last Saturday we returned to our neighborhood locations after a number of weeks of holiday between semesters. At our Wilmington site we decided to drive around the neighborhood before we started the meeting to greet the children and let them know that we were back. So we went up and down the streets blowing the horn and waving at the children. Kids were going crazy and happy to see us. We kind of started a small parade with people waving from porches and windows. During this a young man in his early twenties came running out from one of the houses and started shouting, "Hey what's this? What's going on here?" He was really surprised to see anything like what he was seeing in a neighborhood typified but drugs, violence and depression. It was so different that it totally surprised him with sudden joy. Then he asked, "Where are you going? Can I come along?" Shelby, our site leader, told him where we were meeting and he ran to the spot and got there long before we arrived with some of the kids.

As we set up the truck for the kids he stood off to the side and talked to some young people from Youth with a Mission (YWAM) that were with us from Tyler, Texas. Kids began to stream into the parking from all around lot along with some moms and older sisters. We could see a lot of new kids and many of the regulars and faces we had recognized from before. We could see that God was doing something very special. As usual there were disturbances from a housing project balcony directly adjacent to our parking lot site. Most of the time there is shouting and drug usage going on at the start and during the meetings. This day was no exception. We could smell marijuana smoke during the meeting and it was very strong during the preaching of God's Word. That's just the way it is folks out in the streets. But as Jesus said, "It is the sick people that need a doctor not those who are healthy. I have not come to ask good people to change. I have come to ask sinners to change the way they live." Luke 5 31-32. Who needs the Gospel? That's right, the sick. According to the Bible all are sick, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23.

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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When the meeting started the kids got excited and started clapping and jumping around. Shelby and I noticed that even though there was lots of noise we could sense the peace and presence of God on the parking lot. As the meeting progressed I began to notice other adults and people from the balconies make their way down and around the truck and in the street. I noticed that some cars slowed down and rolled their windows down to listen to what was going on. Some cars had kids pile out of back seats and get on the tarps. In times past, when people used to call the police on us because of noise, the officers in patrol cars would come out and stop for five minutes and listen then simply drive away without incident. All around us people were being drawn to the site. Even those who didn't come down from their apartments you could see them begin to settle down and pay attention. One of the YWAM people said, "Pastor Scott this preaching and teaching is just booming off these buildings and there's no telling how far it's going or who is hearing it." I said to myself imagine how **God is at work in people who weren't planning on hearing the truth but now because of his timing and purpose are suddenly in touch with their creator and redeemer.**

During the altar call I could see the young man and several others raise their hands in the air and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. The thing that crossed my mind at that time was where were they just one hour ago? What were they doing? Where had they come from? Now they are here praying and believing! Then I began to reflect on the greatness and goodness of God. Along with the kids God had arranged for them to be there. But how? Well we didn't know and they didn't know but God reached out to them just like he does to us and to you as well. **Folks, he works through faithfulness that expresses itself through love. Not through talent or ambition or even hard work but through faithful availability.** We have an awesome God that loves us beyond our comprehension. He's reaching out today to hurting and broken humanity. He's reaching out to you today. Would you let him in?

At the end of the day the young man who had come at the beginning of the meeting came up and introduced himself as Adrian and asked for more prayer that he would change his life and be used by God. Several people got a chance to minister to him and love him. We exchanged telephone numbers and now we have a new relationship with a brother in Christ! And all of this happened within the space of an hour. We tell the kids before we preach the Word of God to them, "Hey kids this is God's time." Yes it is God's time to reach out. Thank you so much for your prayers and generous support of this ministry as we keep on doing just that... God bless you.

The photographs on the panel on the right were taken in a town called McNair about 20 miles east of Houston on Christmas Eve 2007. We had several hundred extra gifts from the overflow of the following week. In partnership with Restoration House Church we were together able to bless hundreds of children that might have otherwise received nothing. A local store owner let us use his parking lot for the event and later explained, "This is the best thing ever." He was so over joyed that he himself began to give away free food and snacks.

Pastor Scott