

Do All You Can

After fourteen years of working in the inner-city with kids and young people and experiencing their struggles and pain I took the last 90 days of my life and went to the country with a Pastor friend of mine named Phillip Morris to rest, to heal and to reflect on ministry, my life and what God wanted for us as a group. I must admit that years of watching people suffer, get murdered and kids being abused had taken its toll. I just needed to come apart with Jesus and rest awhile and make my life's final major decision.

Fifteen years ago I was a young man full of dreams and if you will, Godly ambitions. I quit my full time job making good money, broke off a relationship with a woman whom with I had dated for several years and left a church with their blessings where I had served as a deacon to help a Pastor named David Ellis; who at the time had no income along with his sister Gilda, their mother Edith and friend Jimmy Duncan to forge along with others a ministry called Walking Faith to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the children and the poor of the inner-city. I didn't know what I had gotten myself into and at times it seemed insane sleeping on couches, floors, going from room to room and place to place as God dictated. But for the first time in my life, my focus was off of myself and on to God and others. Did God tell me to do this? Well, I never heard a voice from heaven **I just knew it was the right thing to do and I had peace about it and the Word of God supported it, so I did it.**

After seven years of serving and seeing the faithfulness of God, our Pastor and leader David Ellis died of cancer and did so outside of our ministry housing in Southwest Houston. While he had been sick for some time, his death was still a shock as we had all believed for his healing. But God is God. I remembered the week of his death; God brought to my mind a time when I met David for the first time. He handed me a card that read **Walking Faith Ministry "God helping people."** I asked God, "What do I do now?" The reply seemed to be, **"Love and obey me and do all you can to help people."**

The next seven years from 2002 to the present, we established a ministry called **Children's Activity Truck** which all of you who have read this newsletter know about because that's all I have talked about. Literally thousands of kids and their families have come to know the Lord through this life changing ministry. It came at a high cost. Many sleepless nights, riots in the neighborhoods and trouble with gangs, but God had brought the victory and peace through his Spirit. You could say we had succeeded from a worldly perspective, but the real battle had just begun and that being **for the hearts and minds of the servants of God** me being one of the first to be tested in our ministry. Nearly fifteen years after my first day in the ministry at age 50 I found myself frustrated with my failures in life and just plain tired of the battle and ready to quit as I retreated to the

countryside to stay with my friend and Pastor Phillip Morris. When I first arrived at Restoration Church I was at a point where I didn't believe I could go on in the inner-city. It was like I was dead. I literally had no motivation or desire to do anything even to the point of thinking God had left me or that Jesus no longer loved me. It was truly a valley of the shadow of death. I really wanted to go on, but I found myself in a place in my life where I thought more about death than life. Through Pastor Morris's loving council and the prayers of many **I slowly came to the realization that God had not abandoned me but that it was in fact I who had moved from him. It was my responsibility to come back to him and put him first above all else even ministry** which led me to an encounter with him along a country road that totally healed me of my current struggles.

While praying one evening on a long walk through the country, near the end of my sabbatical, I began to think of a young single mother in the Fifth Ward named La Shanda Johnston. At first I wanted to stop thinking of her, because I didn't think I could go back to the inner-city, but suddenly a stream of memories began to emerge in my mind. First, the time her drugged mother threw her down at our meeting demanding we punish her at about the age of 12 for disobeying her and getting in trouble. Turns out La Shanda had taken a kitchen knife out to defend her mother against a drug dealer who wanted payment and who was beating her. La Shanda was arrested and put into juvenile for a brief period. There she was declared bi-polar by a psychiatrist and medicated and given SSI payments. These government payments were then stolen by her mother and used for crack cocaine. During that time she became involved with a 60 year old man at the age of 16 and impregnated during one of the drug parties. She had that child and had to quit school for a while. One day she came to our CAT Truck meeting with her baby in a stroller and said to me, "Pastor Scott I know Jesus loves me and wants me to live for Him and go back to school, would that be okay?" I said, "Yes, of course honey." As I recalled this, I literally exploded into tears. The Lord filled me with his Spirit healing me at the core. It was very hard to get home but I made it. On a bench outside the church I made a decision; my final one. I choose to remain in the inner-city for the remainder of my life if God so wills me to do so at Walking Faith Ministry regardless, to fulfill his Word in Psalm 27:10 "Though my mother and father forsake me, the Lord will receive me." **To let God use us to share his love with those most neglected and abandoned. To reach out to kids and young people like La Shanda when no body else cares and when no body else does.**

When I finally returned home, the first call I recieved on my phone that I hadn't used in over three months was from La Shanda. She said "Pastor Scott, can you believe it, I graduated from high-school and I need a job because I want to go to college next fall." With tears in my eyes I said, "Okay La Shanda we will pray for you." She ended the conversation by saying "Happy Father's Day!" It's so great to be back! I think it's time to get back to work. Love you all and have a great summer.

Pastor Scott



Holy Toledo

Two years ago in July 2007 we went to a City in northwest Ohio called Toledo and did a children's crusade for about 1000 kids in eight of the city's public housing projects. The results on the streets were phenomenal. People were coming from everywhere to hear the Word of God. Last summer we went back to Toledo and along with doing another crusade in their city, Vincent and Jessica Broussard trained a group from Redeeming Temple Church there to start the Children's Activity Center in Toledo. Since that time the city of Toledo has exploded with violence as unemployment skyrockets with the Jeep Plant laying off 2,700 workers and the city of Toledo having to lay off 75 policemen, most of whom were on the mayor's anti-gang taskforce, for lack of city revenue. But along with this, God is raising up a powerful kid's church in Toledo. As of last report over 100 kids are coming on Saturdays to hear the Gospel at CAC Toledo. And the Church has purchased a truck to start a Children's Activity Truck in the projects. Praise the Lord! God is raising up a standard with these kids to walk in power and integrity of God to offset the darkness all around them.

This summer in July we will be traveling to Dayton, Ohio to do a children's crusade in that city recognized by a recent national survey as being one of the top ten most dangerous places to live in America due largely in part to huge layoffs and spiraling drug trafficking. Our goals are the same as they were in Toledo. To see thousands of kids receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior in Dayton and to plant the Children's Activity Center in that City Also, we will be in Toledo Ohio on Saturday July 25 for one day workshop to do some additional training for the staff of CAC there and to help them with a street crusade they have planned.

While the inner-city churches in Dayton will support us while we are there with housing and food, we will need some additional income for our trip to and from Dayton which is about 2,400 miles along with some hotel stays along the route. This month we will need perhaps some five thousand dollars over our current operating costs to plant a CAC in Dayton and encourage our CAC partners in Toledo. If you can help this month with a little extra it will all be used to win souls and encourage the expansion of the Kingdom of God. And as always pray for us for this certainly is not easy work and at times can prove to be somewhat dangerous in unknown inner-city territory. But as you pray we will receive a supply of the Spirit and press on. Love you as always.

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 Vincent at



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FROM THE **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY CENTER**

THE GOOD REPORT

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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 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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