

Proclaiming Freedom: Continued

center, office space and a 13,000 square foot gymnasium. Additionally, we will host basketball leagues, recreation and community events for both kids and adults. We would like to see 600 to 800 people using this facility on a weekly basis. Please pray for us as we seek the necessary funding to complete the project.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19

Your Brother in Christ,



Ken Bennett



An aerial view of The New Streets Center scheduled to open Summer 2006

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STREETS - BETWEEN THE LINES

JUNE - JULY, 2005

Proclaiming Freedom

In 1987, God placed on my heart the vision to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with kids and their families in the Foote and Cleaborn Homes Community, the third poorest zip code in our country. The Memphis Leadership Foundation empowered us to get up and running by providing us with the tools for success, first under the leadership of Larry Lloyd and then Howard Eddings.

Although MLF provided us with office space, we had no home in the community. Six months into the ministry, Mt. Olive C.M.E. Church, where Debbie and I attended at the time, offered us a space on their third floor that had not been in use for over twenty years. With inadequate heat and air, we spent three years running clubs, Bible studies and tutoring. It was great! However, we wanted to be a stakeholder in the community, so we started searching for a building.

There was an old turntable factory in the neighborhood that had been vacant for quite some time. I walked through the building and knew that somehow this was the place for us. However, the \$45,000 price tag was overwhelming. Everyday I would pray in front of the building and did the same thing on my way home at night. Soon afterwards, God's people stepped up and we were operating in our own space. We realized over the next few months that we were going to outgrow this space quickly, but we were landlocked. That is when I got to know the Christian gentleman who owned the body shop next door. One day, I approached him and asked if he would be interested in selling. At that time, he said that he was getting out of the business and would be turning it over to a young man that worked for him. However, as months passed, the deal fell through, and STREETS was able to purchase and begin work in the body shop in 1996.

STREETS was now home to over three hundred young people a week and operating in over 9,000 square feet of facility. We assumed that we would need to build in the future and began negotiations to buy the one and a half acres directly across the street from our building. Five years later, we made the purchase and converted it into a park with walking track, playground and exercise stations.

In the past year, STREETS has seen incredible growth. Our outreach clubs have exploded and we now have thirteen weekly Bible studies. Even though things were getting cramped around here, we had no complaints. But just when we were getting fat and happy, God shook us up!



The New Streets Center, scheduled to open Summer 2006

Through a series of events over the past five months, God opened a door for us to move down the street and begin to erect a 34,500 square foot center for His glory. Believe me, it came out of nowhere! Two anonymous donors approached us about providing an initial gift of two million towards the projected 4.2 million dollar building. Progressive M.B. Church agreed to a lease agreement on their property for 99 years and to work in collaboration on that

corner for the expansion of the Kingdom in this community. We have now broken ground and it looks as though we will be in the facility by Summer 2006! Meanwhile, we are still in the midst of a \$5 million dollar "Proclaiming Freedom" capital campaign that includes the construction of the building and the first year start-up costs.

This facility will have a front door that is directly across the street from Foote Homes. It will include a recreation center, a club room that can accommodate 200 young people, a state of the art educational

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Carmen Coleman
Education Coordinator

John Cowherd
Middle School Coordinator

Jenny Fratesi
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High School Coordinator

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Wrap-Up: Streets' Middle School and High School Camps

On June 20th, John and Jenny took 30 Middle School students to summer camp for a five day stay at Memphis Leadership Foundation's camp in Raleigh, For the Kingdom. The kids enjoyed canoeing, swimming, mountain biking, climbing the rock wall and ropes courses. In the evenings, they heard a Gospel presentation from guest camp speaker, and STREETS staff member, Delvin Lane. His message was further digested through cabin time. There, multiple questions were raised about how to be a Christian and feelings were expressed of wanting to become one. In the first night alone, 6 young students professed Christ as their Savior. It was a wonderful week.

The following week, Delvin took a group of High School students to Sharp Top Cove Camp in North Georgia. They participated in a variety of group events including tug-a-war, swimming, volleyball and basketball. The kids



Middle School students Karhonda and Keeauina relax by the lake before dinner.

had a great time in God's Creation and saw first hand just how wonderfully things are made. One challenging part of the week was a hike up to the top of Sharp Top mountain. It allowed the kids to really depend on God for strength and endurance. While some felt as if they were not going to make it, with encouragement, they did. In addition to all the activities, cabin time was awesome. After listening to the speaker each night, our students took the opportunity to return to the cabin and discuss God's Word. As kids opened up and shared tough things that they were struggling with, God truly revealed His face.



Two Middle School boys enjoy some horseplay in the pool at For the Kingdom.



Ignoring her instructors advice, Karhonda takes a moment to "look down" before beginning the ropes course.

Staff Spotlight: Carmen Coleman

Streets is excited to welcome Carmen Coleman as the newest member of our staff. A graduate of the University of Memphis and Westwood High School, Carmen has been heavily involved as a Streets volunteer over the past two years. On her own time, she has attended camps, assisted with outreach clubs, ran a Bible study group, served as a Pathways tutor, attended the annual College Tours trip and spent countless other hours just hanging out with kids. Now, as our Education Coordinator, Carmen will be responsible for helping organize and run many of these activities.

Carmen comes to us from Girls Incorporated of Memphis, where she worked with several urban high schools discussing the importance of college admissions and applying for financial aid. One of her favorite Scriptures comes from 1 Peter 4:11 which states, "If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever." Amen.



Carmen Coleman settles into her new position as Streets Education Coordinator.

Summer Institute: Jenny Fratesi

This summer, Streets welcomed 12 students from the top of their class at Booker T. Washington to "Streets Summer Institute". This five-week program pushes students academically to higher levels of achievement while developing strong leadership skills. Currently, the students have engaged in two courses, "Civil Rights and Memphis" and "How to Write Better Essays". Both courses have been specifically designed with the needs of the student in mind.

Afternoons are dedicated to studying, writing and special projects addressing leadership skills, financial needs, artistic abilities and service experience. One of the most influential afternoons occurred when students interviewed three women from Progressive Missionary Baptist Church in the neighborhood. The women were able to provide a unique perspective by speaking about their personal experiences during the Civil Rights Movement. The women also talked of community values and the Christian faith, a conversation that lasted for over two hours, but ended sooner than anyone wanted.

During the final week of Summer Institute, we will be making a weeklong trip to St. Andrew's at Sewanee. On this trip, we will have class in the mornings, but spend the afternoons hiking, traversing a ropes course and doing a little whitewater rafting. While fun, experiences like these challenge everyone and prepare students for college by developing courage and communication skills.



Summer Institute students ask Velma Blakely about her personal experiences during the Civil Rights Movement.

What We've Been Up To

■ **Germantown Baptist** brought a group of 12 volunteers to Streets **May 7th** for a facilities work day that included everything from lawn work to painting!

■ On May 12th, the Streets staff took on the faculty from **Vance Middle School** in an exhibition basketball game. (Don't tell anyone... but we won 64-57.)

■ **Gallery 32** in Germantown hosted an art opening benefiting Streets on May 13th. The show featured works from the mother/daughter team of Priscilla Cunningham and Cathy Lancaster titled "Split Compliment".

■ Rob and Richard attended the UT Vans Auction in Knoxville, Tennessee and were the winning bidders on two 2000 Dodge Ram 15-passenger vans.

■ From June 5th-11th, 6 Streets kids attended **Breakaway Athletics** and **Hope Presbyterian Church's** annual **Running Camp** for distance runners at Shelby Forest.

■ Each Monday and Tuesday there have been between 40 and 50 kids come by and enjoy a movie, air conditioning and tasty snacks. In addition, the Rec. Room has also been open during the day and has served as a safe "hang out" place for neighborhood kids.

■ On June 20th, John and Jenny took 30 Middle School students for a 5 day stay at Memphis Leadership Foundation's camp in Raleigh, **For the Kingdom**.

■ The following week, Delvin took a group of **High School** students to **summer camp** for a week at Sharp Top Cove Camp in North Georgia.



Germantown Baptist volunteers work to make the Elementary Room a fun place to learn.



Carmen, Roderika, Jenny and Karhonda prepare to brave the "zip-line" at For the Kingdom Camp.



Middle Schoolers Karhonda and Keiunna take an afternoon paddle around the cabins on the lake.



What's Coming Up: Summer

■ **Hope Presbyterian Church** is having another **Urban Plunge** at Streets this summer. During this time, 15 to 20 of their middle school youth group members will be eating and sleeping at Streets while they lead a Vacation Bible School in the community at the **Emmanuel Episcopal Center**.

■ **Streets Summer Institute** classes are currently in session and run through the end of July. During this time, students come to classes at Streets each day for four weeks with a fifth week being spent in Sewanee, Tennessee at a boarding school. Students will complete term papers and participate in classes as well as several (hopefully) perspective-expanding experiences like white water rafting, hiking and camping. Though the cost is not insignificant (about \$1,500 per student for the summer), this provides a very unique, educationally significant and sometimes life-changing experience for these promising young students.

■ 22 boys and 8 girls from Streets are currently attending the **Cross Court Basketball Camps** being held at **Idlewild Presbyterian Church** and **St. John's Episcopal Church**.

■ The **Memphis Xplorers** are having their best season ever and Streets has had 10 tickets to every game! The season runs through the end of July, so John and Delvin will continue to take kids, and our new vans, to the Desoto County Civic Center for the remainder of the regular season. Thanks for the Xplorers organization for their support.



Darron Brown and Camilla Jones compete in a debate during week three of Streets Summer Institute.



View of the FedEx Forum (background) from the site of the new Streets Center

■ As Construction continues on the new Streets Center, you can keep up with all the progress via **Optimum Studio's** web cam. Updated hourly, these photos will be assembled into a high-speed movie once the building is complete. To see the latest construction photo, go to <http://ncc.optimumsites.com/streets> or just visit www.StreetsMinistries.org and look for the Optimum Studio's link.

■ Hard to believe, but **Memphis City Schools** begin classes Monday, August 15th. So, with the "fall" semester basically upon us, Streets is currently seeking volunteers for our **Pathways** and elementary **Read to Succeed** programs. If you are interested, or would like to know more about other ways you can volunteer, please contact Jenny at Jenny@StreetsMinistries.org.