

## Odds and Ends: A Brief Laundry List of Needs... and a Thank You

- Help, we need foos-balls. While we have two perfectly good tables, the balls have disappeared, and the game just isn't very fun without them. So if you just happen to run across some, please contact Richard at [Richard@StreetsMinistries.org](mailto:Richard@StreetsMinistries.org). In addition, we are also in need of a few pool cues, ping-pong balls and paddles. These items can be in any condition and will be put to immediate use. Thank you!
- At Streets, we tend to make a mess from time to time and that can be hard on vacuum. Currently we have a "fleet" of noisy, but non functional, vacuums that need to be replaced. So, if you've been waiting for the right time to treat yourself to that yellow bagless Dyson upright you've had your eye on, now is the time. Donate your old vacuum to Streets and know that it will be but to good use. And no, the missing foos-balls are not what is wrong with the vacuums we currently have.
- Finally, remember all those email and newsletter request for old cell phones? Well after filling up a good sized box we decided to ship them off to PhoneRaiser and are currently awaiting our reward. We will keep you posted on the result, but wanted to say thank you in advance for your generous donations.



A lonely team of foos-ball players sit in the Rec Room.

Streets Ministries would like to thank Danka Office Imaging for their printing services.

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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

## STREETS - BETWEEN THE LINES

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER, 2005

### When Reality Ceases to be Entertainment

I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.  
**I Kings 17:12**

For as long as I can remember, the harsh reality of the real world ended, for most people, after the nine to five work day, but now we get to come home and watch hour after hour of other people's realities. You know the shows - Survivor, Fear Factor, The Apprentice, Celebrity Ex-Cons; and that's not counting the endless reality shows on cable. It has become a necessity of our culture to watch people struggle, be humiliated and in some situations perpetuate a win-at-all-cost mentality. It is truly amazing how today's water cooler dialogue is dominated by last night's "reality". By contrast, I come from the generation where we debated whether Andy should allow Barney to have two bullets instead of one in his shirt pocket. Times have changed.



Four weeks ago, times changed again, and reality T.V. became... real. Even though it kept us glued to our televisions, it did not entertain us. As we ran the gamut of emotions, we saw lives that had been destroyed, or at the very least changed forever. We watched as people clung to rooftops, wept with despair, searched for moms, dads, sisters and brothers, and stood in the midst of rubble that had once been home. We saw water subside, only to come back weeks later with equal vengeance. Racism and classism were - and continue to be - the topic of nightly debate. We searched desperately for someone or some people to blame. We gathered supplies, operated food lines, took people into our homes, prayed with people and took mercy journeys into the devastated areas hoping to provide assistance and hope. And for Katrina and Rita's worst victims, this is only the beginning.

But in many ways, most of us have now settled back into our regular routines. Our lives were disrupted for a moment, but soccer practices called and college football games have taken back their rightful position in the order of daily water cooler discussion. As our thoughts turn to Fall Break, the holidays and basketball season, it's business "as usual" for the most part. But wait.

The woman at Zarephath was in the midst of a harsh reality, and it was in no way entertaining or TV-worthy. In fact, no one around her took notice. She and her son were about to eat their last meal - and die. And then God sends Elijah to this woman with the instruction that she feed him the little food she thought would be her last. And in reward for her faith, God saw to it that she never felt hunger again.

As I think about the impact that the realities of these hurricanes will have on our country, I realize that other news will eventually become more important - it's simply the nature of the world we live in. But my hope and prayer is that the Body of Christ will *benefit* from Katrina and Rita, that the images we see on our TV will make the reality of poverty and hurt real for us. Do you realize that there are families preparing to "eat their last" and die in our city everyday? The amount of people disenfranchised in our community and our nation is overwhelming. For some of us, these recent catastrophic events have "jump started" our look at those in dire need. For others, we'll go back to life as we know it. But the effects of these hurricanes, and poverty in general, will continue to be the day-to-day programming of *their* reality TV.

I ask you to prayerfully look to God for ways to be plugged into the on-going, everyday reality of Memphis. I am not suggesting that we don't continue our compassionate outreach to the victims of Rita and Katrina. We must continue to make sure that our brothers and sisters who suffered and continue to struggle through those atrocities are ministered to in a real and ongoing way. However, let's don't lose sight of the needs around us. Reality is rarely entertaining!

Your Brother in Christ,  
Ken

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## A Celebration of Service: IPC's 40th Anniversary

### An Elementary Explosion: by Jenny Fratesi

It was Saturday morning and Streets was inundated with a multitude of hot but happy elementary kids. The anxious faces of Independent Presbyterian Church volunteers greeted over 100 kids from our community with animal stickers and "Wild Kingdom" t-shirts. The unexpected children were escorted into the Rec Room, where they watched the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den unfold on stage. Following the skit, they were grouped according to their animal stickers, and went on to get messy with arts-and-crafts. That morning, each child had an opportunity to engage with Streets, and more importantly, the Gospel. So, although it was a wild kingdom here that Saturday morning, it was ordered chaos by the grace of God. Children were coloring, laughing, singing, and dancing as they were benefactors from this special Vacation Bible School time.

Some came just to get out of the heat; some came to escape their Saturday boredom; some came because a friend was going; some didn't even know why they came, but the beauty of it was that they did. So while Streets became a very obvious community center that morning, it also gave the message of Good News to hungry and hurting elementary kids. They were able to come to a place where they were immediately loved... not only by those from IPC and Streets, but by the Lord himself.



Over 100 elementary age kids watched "Daniel and the Lion's Den" in the Rec Room at Streets.



IPC men, and their sons, worked at the park on Vance.

### A Walk in the Park: by Richard Vining

While technically we were only six days away from the first day of fall, there was nothing "fall-ish" about September 17th. In fact, it was the perfect sort of day to stay inside, lower all the window shades and soak up some AC while watching one of the dozen or so college football games that were on TV. That temptation, however, did not stop a group of fifteen IPC men and their sons from coming out and helping us clean up the park across the street from our main facility as the celebrated their church's 40th anniversary by serving others.

It has been said that our park is the nicest area in the entire 38126 ZIP code. An acre and a half of green-space is not something you see much of in what is listed as the third poorest urban ZIP code in the United States. On any given day you can find members of the community, adults and children alike, using the jogging track for exercise or the gazebo for some shade while waiting on a MATA bus.

While we have been able to keep the trash picked up and the grass evenly mowed; beating back the thick brush around the perimeter of the park has proven to be a bit more difficult. This is where the men of IPC came in and put four hard hours into trimming trees and pulling weeds. By the time all the dust had settled, there were two piles of brush bigger than one of our vans waiting for pickup. It was truly a gift of service.

## Urban Blitz: CUMC's "Extreme Make-Over" of Our Pathways Room

Early on a rainy Saturday morning, several hundred members of Christ United Methodist Church came together for their annual "Missions Blitz". They assembled at the church for some breakfast and a brief missions charge before breaking up into smaller groups. From there, the groups formed a virtual missions blanket that covered the entire city of Memphis. Fortunately for Streets, we were the beneficiaries of part of this "Missions Blitz", as a group from the Positive Christian Singles class came ready to work. Armed with paint, tarps, rollers, tape, effort and plenty of imagination, the PCS class was able to transform a rather sterile-looking Pathways room into a warm, friendly Starbucks-esque environment in only six hours.

As is often the case in this sort of missions setting, much more is accomplished than just the specific project at hand. During those six hours, members of the PCS class were able to learn a little more about Streets' mission, and how it changes the lives of the kids who come through our doors. They learned that the Cleaborn and Foote Homes community served by Streets is one of the most impoverished areas in the United States. Kids growing up in the 38126 ZIP code are 800 percent more likely to be the victim of a violent crime and 525 percent more likely to grow up in a single-parent household than their peers in the 38139 ZIP code of East Shelby County. Daunting as that may sound, these are the statistics that hang over the heads of the kids many of you tutor, mentor and feed here at Streets. And while they are hard to comprehend on paper, they become real when you volunteer your time. Suddenly, the hours spent scraping a wall in preparation for fresh paint takes on a meaning of its own, which is why the verse the PCS class painted on the wall has such deep meaning. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your Heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." **Colossians 3:23**. Streets would like to thank CUMC for their time and effort, and would also like to invite other groups to join us for a mission project of your own.



Members of the Positive Christian Singles class from CUMC renovate the Pathways Room at Streets.



A job well done by the PCS "Missions Blitz" team.



Putting the final touches on the colossal (18 feet long) Colossians 3:23 verse.

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## What We've Been Up To

- **Brother Junipers** donated its community board space and donations fish bowl to Streets for a month. As a result, almost \$200 dollars was raised and an untold amount of exposure about Streets programming for kids was spread.
- Brian Sullivan of **Carpenter-Sullivan** and David Brooks of **Stanford Financial** donated tables to Streets for the annual Elliot Perry S.O.C.K.S. banquet. In addition to meeting the "Goggle-Man" himself, some of our kids were able to speak and shake hands with **Grant Hill** of the NBA's Orlando Magic.
- Several student volunteers from **Crichton College** have been helping out on a regular basis with our Pathways tutoring and Homework Lab needs.
- Speaking of volunteers, with the fall semester underway, Streets is currently seeking help for a new elementary reading program we are developing. If you are interested in helping, or would like to find out more about how you can volunteer in the education department, please contact Jenny at [Jenny@StreetsMinistries.org](mailto:Jenny@StreetsMinistries.org).



Vance Middle School students hang with Grant Hill of the NBA's Orlando Magic.

- **Hope Presbyterian Church** held its annual **Urban Plunge** at Streets last month. During this time, 15 to 20 of their middle school youth group members ate and slept at Streets while they lead a Vacation Bible School in the community at the **Emmanuel Episcopal Center**.
- Leroy Smith of the **Commercial Appeal** invited Streets to be an exhibitor during the Scripps Howard Foundation annual banquet. Ken and Richard set up the booth and were able to share Streets mission with some of the 900 people in attendance.



Vance Middle School students Deandre, Ledracus, Lacorwin and Litterin strategize before their next game.

- August 27th, John took two teams from Streets to the **Memphis Grizzlies** 3-on-3 basketball tournament. While both teams played well, the Vance Eagles took home the title in the 13-15 year-old age bracket.
- To get the fall semester started off right, Delvin hosted over 100 BTW High School students in the Rec Room for a "Club Kick-off Dance" that included food, singing and very loud music.
- A \$25,000 grant was awarded to Streets during the **Grizzlies Foundation** Luncheon on September 22nd!
- Dan Chancey of **Clark & Clark** donated his exhibitor booth space at the annual BOMA Memphis Convention. It served as yet another wonderful opportunity for Streets to share its mission with others.



## What's Coming Up: Fall

- A group of about 40 Middle School students from **Hope Presbyterian Church** and Vance Middle School will be tailgating at Toby Field before the Memphis versus UTEP football game on **October 1st**.
- Just because school is already underway does not mean that it is too late to volunteer at Streets. **Pathways**, our one-on-one mentoring/tutoring program for 7th - 12th grade students, is underway for the fall semester, and while we currently have 29 students enrolled, we only have 28 mentors to go around. If you can help, or would like to know more, please contact Carmen Coleman at [carmen@streetsministries.org](mailto:carmen@streetsministries.org).
- Booker T. Washington Homecoming football game is Friday, **October 7th** against Treadwell. If you are interested in going to the game, please contact Delvin.
- Beginning **October 25th**, Streets will kick off its **Family Reading Night** program. For two hours, children and families from the community will read to one another.
- The **Corn MAiZE** is back again this year at the Agricenter and Streets will be taking a group of middle school students for some 'haunted maize' fun.
- 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](http://www.StreetsMinistries.org) and look for the Optimum Studio's link.



Vance 8th grader, Jessica, works with her tutor, Lisa, on her Pathways Curriculum.



A sign directly across from Foote Homes marks where the Streets Center front door will face.



On September 23rd, the concrete pad was completed and our new 35,000 square foot facility began to take shape.