



Merry Christmas
From the Staff at Streets Ministries

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Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalms 82:3-4

STREETS - BETWEEN THE LINES

DECEMBER 2009

Not What We Planned, But All That We Asked For

As many of you know, Streets has been reaching out to residents of the Memphis housing developments for the past twenty-two years. Over that stretch of time, we have seen significant shifts in population and brick and mortar. Lemoyne Garden was leveled and is now College Park. Fowler Homes was razed and is the new Latham Place. Cleaborn and Foote Homes were renovated and then thinned out over the past decade. Over the previous few months I have spent countless hours in meetings that are targeted at leveling and rebuilding Cleaborn homes as part of the last round of Hope VI funding - a government housing initiative. I often stop and ask myself, "Is that what I signed on for in 1987?" The answer is yes!



In 2005, Streets was approached with the opportunity to build a bigger and better facility directly across from Foote Homes. After much prayerful consideration, the board and staff decided it was the move to make. Shortly thereafter, we had a two million dollar private commitment. Wow! Streets could now build a facility that we had previously only dreamed about! But wait a minute. Would two million build a facility that could accommodate projected growth? What was God's intent for this generous monetary gift? Were we being wise or foolish builders? Were we taking the least path of resistance and the easy way out? Should we just spend what we had committed and be done with it? It would still be the nicest place in the neighborhood and certainly a crazy update for us! So the dialogue started and things eventually snowballed into a 28,500 square foot facility costing well over three million dollars. Done...or were we? What if programs grew and the neighborhood shifted again? Could this really be the place of hope for all who wanted to come? So, we decided to raise an additional \$400,000 and build a second floor shell for the future expansion. That was five years ago. Two weeks ago we had our first "Club" in that space! Over 250 kids showed up. Wow! Oh by the way, because of the generosity of God's people, we were able to pay cash for all of the above!

Because of the wisdom of God's people, our supporters, we stand ready for the challenge of a once again shifting population. As Cleaborn Homes is leveled next summer, albeit temporarily, so will some of the existing resources. What that means for Streets is that less becomes more. Many of the young people who lived on the east side of Foote and rental properties east of Cleaborn will need a place to serve them. We believe Streets will be that place. In turn, we are projecting and preparing for another growth spurt.

"He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When the flood came the torrent struck that house, but could not shake it because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment that the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete." Luke 6:46-49

Our life is a life of faith. In that, we asked in 1987 that God place us in a position to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. He has continued to bless that cry! However, it has not always been in the ways we would have planned or the steps we would have asked for.

As we approach this Christmas season, let us reflect on the fact that many were taken aback that the Savior of the whole world would find His way into ours through a young impoverished couple and a dirty stable.

I pray that this Christmas finds us constructing houses on rock so that we are prepared for the Savior to use us for His glory in whichever way he sees fit!

Your Brother in Christ, Ken

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Prayer, The Underused Resource: Delvin Lane

"Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep, and if I die before I awake, I pray the Lord my soul to take," recited every kid in the Lane household before bed. It was a tradition at my house to pray this repetitive prayer every night as a child. None of us had any clue what the words really meant, but we knew that if we did not say it, there was a spanking coming our way.

Even though Matthew 6 instructs us not to use constant repetition or to go on babbling like pagans, many times we continue to pray the same dead prayers. Why? There are so many things for us to be praying for that it would take up an entire lifetime just to finish. Therefore, let us renew efforts to use our prayer time wisely. Did not God clearly say in Isaiah 56:7 that "My house should be called the house of prayer?" Surely He did. Let us not be disobedient to our Lord by not using our weapon of prayer in our own homes. Let us change the communities, cities, and counties we live in by offering up our prayers to Him! 2 Samuel 21:14 reads, "They buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan in the tomb of Saul's father Kish, at Zela in Benjamin, and did everything the king commanded. After that, God answered prayer in behalf of the land." As we continue to bury our sin filled lives daily in Christ, and do everything the true King commands of us, He will answer our prayers on behalf of our land.



Investing Time Leads to Full Prayers: Delvin spends time with Streets students both past and present to stay invested in their lives.

It is an honor to serve everyday on the front lines here at Streets knowing that we have brothers and sisters all around our city, state, and country consistently praying for us. In the end, we know the battle will be won because of your faithfulness. Matthew 6:33 tells us to continue to seek Him first in all that we do and we cannot go wrong.

As we approach this Christmas season, please remember why we celebrate - the baby in the manger. Every believer has the power to change someone's life through prayer. When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven, consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. (2 Chronicles 7:1) In the same manner, the Lord will send fire down to our communities, to sick loved ones, to the homebound, to schools that are struggling, to kids dealing with difficult issues, to our churches, families, and even you. In closing remember that James said, "The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:15-16) Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year in Christ!

Delvin Lane is the Assistant Director at Streets Ministries.
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Compassionate Leadership: Taurean, a BTW Senior and part time Elementary Assistant at Streets, helps lead a field trip to the zoo.

The Gift of Serving: Whitney Hale

Every week, hundreds of students walk through our doors. Upon their arrival, Streets staff members seek to serve them to an extent that they are drawn to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In Luke 14:13, Jesus said, "But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind." Jesus Himself served those who could not repay Him during His ministry on earth, and He calls us to do the same. I will not deny that serving and giving can be a sacrifice. But it is so much more; it is a tremendous blessing and gift. It humbles us, makes us thankful, gives us new relationships, and teaches us more about others and God Himself.

The facility and new upstairs expansion at Streets has provided the staff and volunteers with a great gift this year: an opportunity to serve and advance the name of Christ to more students and community members than ever before. If you are interested in learning more about opportunities to serve, please contact me. Let our students bless you with new relationships as you answer Christ's call to serve.



Servant Leadership: Pathways students learn from their Mentors what it means to be a Christian adult.

Whitney Hale is Development Coordinator at Streets.

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The Gift of Resource: Richard Vining

Streets was founded when God called Ken to "defend the cause of the weak and fatherless," but it has been sustained and has prospered over the last twenty-two years largely due to the generosity of people like you. People who prayerfully choose to give of their time and resources.



Gift of Time and Resource: Recently, volunteers and staff took students to see the Ole Miss team and band march through "The Grove."

2009 was a significant year for Streets as we expanded our programming, facilities, and staff. As a result, more kids are coming through our doors than ever before. But these additions have come with a price, and our annual budget increased by \$265,000 for the current fiscal year.

As we enter the Christmas season and approach the end of the year, I would like to invite you to participate in helping Streets continue to prosper with a monetary gift. Whether it is your first gift, or you have been supporting Streets since it operated out of a van back in 1987, your tax-deductible donation plays an important role in all that we do as we strive to achieve our mission here in the Memphis metropolitan area. Thank you, and have Merry Christmas!

Richard Vining is Business Director at Streets Ministries.
For more information about specific giving opportunities, please contact Richard at richard@streetsministries.org or (901) 525-7380 x201.

What We've Been Up To

- October 8th through Fall Break, Streets' Mission Graduation program took forty enrolled students to Dallas, Texas, for a tour of area colleges and universities.
- In what has become an annual event, a group of Streets Pathways students went on a fly-fishing trip courtesy of the **Mid-South Fly Fishing Club** on October 17th.
- Also on October 17th, **Progressive MBC** hosted a Health Fair at the Streets Center.
- October 19th, a group of students from **Briarcrest Christian School** gave the Streets Center a much appreciated deep cleaning.
- Thanks to a generous donation of tickets, Carmen was able to take 12 students to a **Spirit Express** basketball game held at **Southwest Community College**.
- On October 28th, the Streets Center played host to over 120 students from Vance Middle School as a part of their annual Honors Day rewards program. During their time here, the students played video games, enjoyed several different moon-bounces, participated in relay-races, and ate a catered lunch. A good time was had by all.
- November 15th, Streets attended **Independent Presbyterian Church's** annual Mercy Missions banquet.
- December 3rd, Streets hosted its third of three Church Partner Lunches. The lunches, which were intended to give supporting churches a programming and neighborhood update, were attended by pastors, missions directors, and staff from **Christ the King, Christ United Methodist, Colonial Hills, First Evan, Heartsong, Hope Presbyterian, Independent Presbyterian, Living Hope, Second Presbyterian, Sycamore View Church of Christ, and White Station Church of Christ**.
- On Sunday, December 6th, Delvin spoke during the early service at **Riveroaks Presbyterian Church** about Streets and its mission to the community.
- December 10th, the Streets Center Rec. Room played host to the **Memphis Grizzlies** annual Partner Breakfast.



Fish Fry: Steven, a Vance 7th grader, enjoys the catch-of-the-day.



Room to Grow: Tyrell admires Lexus' catch.



First Fish: Monique poses with her first ever fish.



What's Coming Up

- The morning of December 14th, Ken and Whitney will be attending the **International Paper Corporation's** annual Partner Breakfast.
- On December 19th, **Independent Presbyterian Church** will assemble and distribute 550 Christmas Baskets for Streets. Each basket, which will be loaded with over forty pounds of food and cooking supplies, will then make a trip to the Streets Center where volunteers will be paired with a student who will serve as a guide and help volunteers deliver the baskets into the community. The annual event will be an engaging time for all involved and a tremendous ministry to the community we serve.
- December 17th, Delvin, Carmen, and John will host an end of the year pizza party for students who participated in one of our 14 different **Bible Study** groups.
- Throughout the month of December, Streets will be taking van loads of kids through **Starry Nights** at Shelby Farms thanks to a donation of passes by **Second Presbyterian Church**.
- On December 22nd, Streets' **Pathways** students will attend a showing of "Narnia" at **Playhouse on the Square** as part of a reward for their participation in the program this past semester. The **Pathways** program will resume next semester beginning January 25th.
- Beginning in late January, Streets will be hosting yet another full schedule of outreach "Clubs" for the second semester. If you are interested in providing "Club" food on a Thursday evening or Friday afternoon, please contact Whitney Hale at whitney@streetsministries.org or (901) 525-7380 x209.
- And thanks to a generous donation, Streets now has a large proofing oven to help keep "Club" food warm until it is time to serve! Thank you!



Tinkerbell and Peter Pan: Waishauana and Leslie, her Pathways tutor, attend Highland Street Church of Christ's annual Fall Festival.



Box Seats: Thanks to a Konica Minolta Danka Imaging donation, Georgia Avenue students attended a concert held at the FedEx Forum.



Concert Reward: Ready Reader program participants from Georgia Avenue Elementary enjoying a concert at the FedEx Forum.