

BULLETIN

APRIL 2008

Interns and Summer Staff

Summer provides a wonderful opportunity to train leaders from the inner city for ministry, and to expose Christian college students to urban mission.

URBAN ROLE MODELS

Inner-city teenagers and young adults gain practical ministry experience staffing our summer Bible clubs, Bible studies, Vacation Bible Schools, day camps, field trips and camps. Former Bible-club children lead Bible clubs. Teenagers, who attended camp, run the summer program. They are wonderful role models for urban children.



RECRUITING MISSIONARIES

Christian college students and other adults serve on church-plant teams, minister at our camps, teach in our Christian schools or assist in our medical-dental outreaches. Many are called by God to full-time ministry as they experience the joys and heartbreaks of urban work.

ONE YEAR INTERNS

Matt Read, a graduate of *Taylor University* in Upland, Indiana, came to Los Angeles with an interest in church planting, which he had studied in college. As a part of our *Fire and Maneuver Team*, Matt gained practical experience in evangelism, discipleship and church planting.

Matt meets with two African-American men, *Joshaun* and *Lonnie*, several times a week for prayer, fellowship and ministry coaching at *Los Angeles Trade Tech*.





They lead a group of classmates in Bible study, which they hope will grow into a church once people give their lives to Christ. Matt hopes to be a church-planting pastor in the future.

Sunny Park, a graduate of *UCLA*, came to Los Angeles to learn more about God's heart for the cities, to put her faith into action, and to discern if she should apply to law school.

Sunny boldly shares her faith with those she meets on *Fire and Maneuver* evangelistic outings. She helped several young women come to Christ and meets with them for discipleship and Bible study. Sunny also shares her faith with friends from college, and meets with those who have recently started seeking God.



As Sunny became more aware of the intense brokenness of people around her, she explored counseling as a future vocation. Sunny plans to pursue a degree in Marriage and Family Counseling at seminary.



Tom Anthony is in his early forties. He was happy in rural Martinsville, Virginia, enjoying his job of seven years.

Four years ago, a mission team from Tom's church volunteered in Chester for a week. Tom chaperoned that trip. He loved it. When his church made the nine-hour drive to Chester the next summer, he came again. Even after the third summer, Tom never thought of moving to Chester. It was a great place to minister, but he was settled in his town.

When a missionary couple shared that they could see Tom in Chester, he processed this new thought; he prayed and talked with his pastor and friends. Everyone was supportive of him moving to Chester, but Tom was not sure about leaving his job. So, the Lord intervened. Tom's company announced that he would need to relocate. This job transition confirmed that God was calling him to Chester. Tom talked to his boss, who was not a Christian but knew Tom's character and affirmed his decision.

One big change was leaving his peaceful 27 acres to move into the city. Tom exchanged roaming the wooded paths for prayer-walking on asphalt streets.

God has used Tom's gifts of servanthood, working with his hands and his enthusiasm for sharing the gospel. He ministers to the church-plant families, mentors several teens, assists with Homework Club and does janitorial and maintenance work. He treasures the hugs and smiles from the community children. God is using Tom in a mighty way in Chester!

SUMMER STAFF

Kathy Benitez attended a teen Bible club and services at a World Impact church plant in Wichita, Kansas. She went to camp with her sister and cousins at *Morning Star Ranch*. Through the love and friendship of World Impact missionaries, Kathy decided to follow Christ.

Kathy volunteered as a junior counselor for a week with children when her church came to camp. Last summer, Kathy came for the summer, attended high school camp and served as a junior counselor for several weeks of camp. After graduating from high school this spring, Kathy plans to serve as summer camp staff.





Thad Nichols, from Kansas, was on our Los Angeles summer staff. He tutored students in our Christian School, ran a Bible Club in Watts with the *Powerhouse Church Plant*, and was a counselor at our OAKS camp.

Thad is studying theology and playing soccer at *Moody Bible Institute*. His heart for people grew last summer: “The best part was walking through the projects and learning the stories of the residents. It was great to begin to understand them.”

“I learned that God is alive in the city. I was amazed to see my heart for the city expand. I began to see that God is leading me to work in the city, among the poor, broken and injured.”



Will Peterson is a sophomore at *Bethel College* in Newton, Kansas, studying Bible and Religion with an emphasis in Youth Ministry. He felt drawn to the inner city in high school. Will heard about *Morning Star Ranch* summer camp at his college chapel service. Serving as a camp counselor stretched him. Will connected well with the youth and led several campers to Christ.

Will says, “The summer-staff experience affirmed my call to urban ministry. God has given me ministry gifts to use among urban youth.” Will plans to serve at

Morning Star Ranch this summer and work in urban ministry after graduating from college.

Jasmine Webb joined Chester’s staff last summer. Jasmine grew up in Chester. Eight years ago a missionary developed a relationship with her. When we began our church plant, *Highland House*, four years ago, Jasmine helped with Kids’ Club. Since we were reaching out to Jasmine’s neighborhood, everyone knew and trusted her. Respect came quickly because of her presence.



Jasmine participated in Homework Club, scrapbooking and leadership camping trips. Jasmine has led praise-dance teams, aided in the primary-age class at Family Bible Study and was a teen leader in Bible club. Jasmine served at *Harmony Heart Camp* on teen staff for three summers.

Last summer, Jasmine interned in Chester. She transitioned from a teacher's aide in Family Bible Study to a teacher. She helped our church-plant team leader with office work and our volunteer-missions teams. She organized work projects and debriefed the teams about their experiences.

Jasmine grew in public speaking. This helped her overcome her shyness and built her confidence as a leader, especially among her peers. She has matured and become more responsible. She saw what it is like to be a missionary and is seriously considering becoming a missionary.



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Dear Christian Friend,

Every summer we invite inner-city teenagers and young adults, and short-term missionaries from colleges, seminaries and churches, to live and minister with us.

THE BENEFITS ARE ENORMOUS!

- * Hundreds of inner-city children, teenagers and adults receive the personal attention and love that Christ intended for them to experience. More staff allows us to invest additional time and extra individual attention. All of this is important in personal relationships, which lead to stronger ties to the Church.
- * Many summer staff hear God's call to continue to minister in the city. Some will stay. Others will return to World Impact after they finish college or seminary.

Our summer workers need to earn \$800 per month; \$200 will underwrite one full week of Christian service. This enables students to return to school.

Some collegians raise their support from their church, friends and relatives. But several need our help, especially those coming from the city. I do not want to turn down one summer intern who is called by God to minister with us because of insufficient funds.

I need your help now to know how many Christian collegians and short-term missionaries I can accept. Please let me hear from you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your investment in missions and these fine young people who will serve as missionaries.

May God bless you richly!



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