

URBAN DISCOVERY MINISTRIES

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2011

Quarterly Newsletter

A BURDEN FOR PRAYER COMES WITH UDM'S BROADENING VISION BY MIKE FARISS

What does it mean when God's people become burdened to pray with us? I witnessed this grace the past few months on several fronts as new groups and individuals joined us in prayer. Perhaps now is the Lord of the Harvest's timing for broadening UDM's scope of ministry to a national level. My prayer has been for the Lord to speed up our church planting, evangelism and discipleship ministries for the purpose of expanding our vision to mobilize people of African descent for world missions. UDM Board members also took up this vision and prayer in December.

Pastor Vernon Allen of Jamaica, Pastor Ken Watson and three World Team leaders came to Norfolk in January and began praying with us and several local church leaders for God to provide a missionary mobilizer to recruit states-side and a second family to serve in Jamaica.

The new Peninsula East End Church (PEEC) also became more dedicated to prayer, spurred on by a new prayer team supporting them from Peninsula Community Chapel. Chris Williams preached at

PCC and its elders prayed to commit him to the pastoral ministry at PEEC (pictured).

Local Presbyterian Church of America pastors began praying about



a partnership with us to plant a church near Norfolk State University. Kim and I formed a cell group near there with our intern, Shanice Fuller, and a few friends to begin discipleship for this plant. The Lord provided two Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship Bible studies on the campus where students showed much hunger for God's Word. I had a successful season

coaching soccer at Ruffner Middle School and leading FCA meetings, which is near NSU. I am grateful for the dedication of the PEEC members and to have Ronnie McAdoo and Greg Johnston backing me up so I can pursue more equipping and church plant coaching ventures so quickly.

As you can read in this newsletter, God continued to bless the missionary team of the Urban Community Church of Norfolk (UCCON) with effective ministry. This church started praying with First (Baptist) Church of Norfolk about a new partnership. I also met twice with North American Baptist Association leaders to begin praying with them about UDM coaching its urban church planters. United Methodists leaders prayed with us, and others, about expanding the use of their Park Place church. I spoke at Regent Divinity School's chapel, which held a prayer walk in Park Place. So the Lord burdened many to pray on many fronts. Please continue to stand with us before the Lord. Thank you for your support!

RONNIE MCADOO PLANS 3RD ANNUAL SPORTS BANQUET AND SERVES STUDENTS

Ronnie (Mack) McAdoo began planning UDM's Third Annual Sports Banquet with two faithful volunteers, Bill Cofer and Larry Bernert. UVA Head Football Coach, Michael London, will be

our guest speaker on Friday, April 29. Since last year's location was unavailable, these men received two donations and reserved Nauticus to provide a larger venue for the banquet. They met with others to request support so local high school football players may attend and hear Coach London's testimony and challenge.

Mack continued to meet with 15 Norfolk Christian School athletes during lunch-times on Tuesdays. Their Bible study went well with some new students attending. He also met each week with coaches on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Mark this Date!
UDM Sports Banquet
Friday, April 29, 2011
Featuring UVA Football Coach
Michael London

In addition, Mack increased the number of Fridays each month that he spoke at the Virginia Beach Jail with the Good News Ministry. He also worked with Hampton Roads Academy's Caitlyn Unsworth on her senior project, who plans to serve 50 young people from Park Place, Huntersville, and Tidewater Gardens neighborhoods at an outreach camp on March 12th. Caitlyn began securing food and monetary donations from local businesses.



NCS Boys' Varsity Basketball team praying after practice at UNC's Dean Smith Center

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DREAM TEAM MENTORS AND ADVISORY GROUP SUPPORT UCCON'S INTERVENTION

Greg Johnston matched three boys from the Dream Team with mentors. To kick-off these relationships, Greg took these mentors on home visits to formally introduce each mother to the man who had committed to spending regular time with her son. Greg feels that these pairings are the key to helping these boys avoid the traps of the enemy and grow into godly young men. Through human eyes, there is not much room for optimism. One boy struggles in school and has been told that he will likely be held back, again; one boy was suspended from school for fighting; one boy's mother was incarcerated during the last month; and one boy recently had sexual contact with a family member. These daunting problems represent what all of these boys face on a regular basis. Yet, the committed and gifted men whom God sent us are exceptional. Best of all, they are godly and willing to stand in the gap for these young men and allow the Holy Spirit to use them in any way He wills. Three more Dream Team boys need godly mentors. If interested, please email Greg for more information: dreamteam.norfolk@gmail.com.

In January, four volunteers (Vernita Williams, William Joyner, Greg Pesich, and Jon Gorog) agreed to meet with

Greg to form an advisory group for the Dream Team. They expressed their willingness to help Greg set priorities and make decisions regarding the primary initiatives associated with the Dream Team: Club meetings (which include the chocolate making enterprise), field trips, individual mentoring, and family intervention (sharing the gospel with parents and addressing the physical and emotional needs of the family unit). To this point, Greg has done most of the family intervention on his own. This winter he made nearly a dozen home visits, shared the gospel and studied the Bible with one step-father, went to court for the mother who was arrested, and risked one relationship by challenging the mother to take steps to get help with her addiction. He will enlist William Joyner's help to minister in these kind of situations with Dream Team families. As critical as the mentors are to the individual boys on the Dream Team, so this advisory group is to sustaining the corporate vision and priorities of the Dream Team. Greg sees the Lord's hand in bringing each one of these volunteers into the vision. He is awed and grateful to see God at work.



Jon Gorog with Noah (left) & Nathan (still needs a mentor)



Isaac Williams and Shakim



Micah Lenox and Tyriq

PENINSULA EAST END CHURCH TESTIMONY BY CHRIS WILLIAMS



These last few months have been quite busy in the Peninsula East End Church. We saw four adults rededicate their lives to Christ, including my

brother, Brian, at our December celebration service (pictured). In January, our parent church, the Peninsula Community Chapel (PCC) invited me to preach at their Mission Day service, which became a commitment service for me. We enjoyed a time of great fellowship that recon-

nected old friends and built new friendships as well. January was also an exciting time for us as a church family because I conducted my first baptism.

One of the two young ladies baptized had given her life to the Lord at our Thanksgiving Celebration.

In January we gratefully received brand new sound equipment from PCC, which strengthened our worship times in our weekly Sunday Morning Outreach and our monthly celebration services. We have been blessed with college students from Christopher Newport University who make PEEC their place of worship. Three students from Norfolk Christian began their senior exit project with us on Sundays. Please continue to pray as we advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ here in downtown Newport News.

UCCON LEARNING CENTER IMPACTS LIVES IN MORE WAYS THAN EDUCATION

Denise Woodson and Maurice Lamb give thanks for ten volunteers who proved instrumental in helping them serve the 20 students enrolled in the GED program. Denise also credits Juanita Lee, Nevin Mapp, Sandra Polk, and Yvonne Kmfwa with fulfilling many of her learning center responsibilities so she could follow up Summer Reading Camp families and serve students outside of the center.

Denise, and her husband, Felton, invited La La (pictured) and her two children to live with them for three months until she could get established in her own home. She initially showed hostility to the Gospel then began attending a UCCON small group in the Woodson's home. Denise was astonished to observe her enthusiasm about the group and the word of God. After seeing the Woodsons live out the teachings of Christ during her stay in their home, La La concluded, "you and Mr. Felton are true Christians and I want to come back to God." La La now actively participates in the group and asked Denise to disciple her.

Maurice and Denise visited Marcus, the father of a young boy who made



great progress in Summer Reading Camp. Marcus agreed to complete a four week Bible study where he gave his life to Christ.

Testimonies:

Travis Petaway:

"Hello my name is Travis Pettaway. My cousin told me about the GED program and I enrolled. In the GED program I got the one-on-one help that I needed. Mr. Lamb has really been a lot of help to me especially with my reading and spelling. He told me about our great GOD and I gave my life to Jesus Christ. I gave Him my all and all. I started to give up on myself but this GED program has been a blessing to me. I thank GOD because I could do nothing with out HIM."



Vivian:

"When I started the learning center on April 12, 2010, I was afraid and my spirit was low. I only knew fourteen words out of the forty most common, but now I have advanced to a first grade reading level. The Learning Center keeps me going and lifts my spirit. It keeps me believing that I can do the work. The Bible study teaches me to



understand the Bible for myself and how it relates to my life. The learning center helps me work at my own pace and I have learned so much. The learning center helps because I have a tutor and the people there are patient."

Laura:

"When I first started the Learning Center on May 11, 2010, I was welcomed with love and kindness. The tutors there were helpful. Since I have been training, I advanced my reading level from 200 (eighth grade) to 400 (high school). It was a joy to learn about Jesus which helped me in my spiritual walk with Christ. Knowing that Jesus is our good shepherd who came to save his people from their sin is a blessing to me. I thank God for this learning center. It is very helpful."



INTERN SHANICE FULLER'S TESTIMONY BRINGS IT HOME

I looked back on the days when I would sit in my room and read the Bible but still felt unhappy or like something was still missing. Something was missing. I was missing out on being a part of the Body of Christ and seeing how God uses each of us to build each other up. Everyday I learn more about the importance of the Body of Christ and how much we need each other. This lesson became real in my own family after I joined a small group preparing for a church plant.

When the pastor of my mother's church left the congregation, his departure stunned her. She felt hurt, could not understand why this had happened and decided to stop going to church. We would sit in our house, sometimes, and talked about God for hours. I could tell that she missed hearing the word and her church family. I began to pray for my mom because she was not the same high-spirited women that I had known all my life. Instead of seeing her smile, I often saw her sadness.

Some days she would just tell me, "Shanice, I'm just not happy." I prayed for God to bring her back into fellowship with other believers. I would invite her to church on Sundays and Bible studies that I was attending, but she would always decline my invitations.

When our church plant started, I saw its small group as a great opportunity for my mother to get back into what her heart desired. Going through a similar situation, I knew that if my mom just gave this church a chance, that (please see p.4)

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SHANICE FULLER'S TESTIMONY CONTINUED

God would do something awesome. This past Sunday God answered my prayer. My mother went to church with me and I could tell by the look on her face that she loved it. When we got into the car, we did not discuss in detail about how she felt about it all. I asked her if she wanted to come back next Sunday. With a big smile she looked at me and said, "Yes." I know that God did something very special with my mother that Sunday evening, but He also did something special with me. I am so thankful that God allowed my mother to get past that hurt and get back into fellowship with other believers in Christ.

WILLIAM JOYNER LED CELEBRATION RECOVERY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

William Joyner has been encouraged by the consistent and transparent participation of the eight people involved in the Celebrate Recovery Program at the Urban Community Church of Norfolk. Each member has been going beyond the issue of addiction to talk about the root issues which prompted them to turn to drugs in the first place. Some of these deep hurts include, being abused as a child, abandonment, and not receiving love from those who should have cared for them in their formative years.

Renee Bailey shared her testimony of how God has helped her work



through her hurts to become free from her addiction: "Celebrate Recovery is a self-loving spiritual program for addicts seeking help. I have been through many programs, but Celebrate Recovery gives me a foundation to build a relationship with my true Higher Power. I was molested by my father as a baby leaving me with no hope, love or anything to live for. Today I have so much joy in my heart knowing that Jesus has restored me and my father. Celebrate recovery teaches me to forgive, to let go and admit to my sinful nature. I've never thought I could stay clean just for one day but the love that I received from my peers makes me feel special and loved. This program is very important to me. I use to question my Higher Power. Why? Why me? How long will it take for you to deliver me from my troubles, my drug addiction? Although it takes longer than I expected and could tolerate, Celebrate Recovery reminded me of the example of Moses, when we are tempted to ask

the Lord why. You see at first I didn't take this program to be what it really is today. I trust this program with my life. It told me to surrender, give praise, and know that God is right there waiting on me to say I'm ready to be free. Even in the midst of trials we can praise Him. Drugs have been my friend for over 20 plus years—that's what I thought. It took my sanity, my children, my dreams, my relationship with Jesus and now today I'm getting it all back thanks to Celebrate Recovery. Today God shows me how to love and help others like never before and speak the truth to those that never heard it before and suddenly by the power they receive Christ. I want to give thanks to the Almighty who sent His loving angel, Elder William Joyner, to go through these rough times with me in time of desperation. Elder William, I thank you for being who you are. Continue this journey. Celebrate Recovery is awesome."

Renee has also been serving others in need through the Urban Community Church food pantry and clothes closet. She is one of three volunteers who the Lord has used to help William serve 200 people this winter. William has also helped Maurice Lamb follow-up men like Hosea Pugh from the Learning Center Bible study.



Please call Ronnie McAdoo at 477-1261
if you are willing to host a table for
our 3rd Annual Sport Banquet at Nauticus