

# Urban Discovery Ministries

## Church Planting Progress by Mike Fariss

Kim and I continued to serve with the members of our church planting partner, the Peninsula Community Chapel, and with new believers in the church being started, the Peninsula East End Church (PEEC). We worked together raising support for Chris Williams' pastoral internship that begins July 1st. The Lord provided \$22,000, received or pledged, of Chris's \$45,000 budgeted support need.

PEEC continued weekly Bible classes, personal discipleship and a cell group. During a Bible Class, Chris Porter of PCC led us in a Passover Seder meal. Several PCC members and CNU students coached sports or provided after school tutoring. We celebrated Easter service under a large tree in a public housing neighborhood and baptized four new believers at a beach. The number of children attending our weekly Bible class grew from a few to over twenty.

The Boys and Girls Club in East End graciously agreed to allow PEEC to establish a Sunday morning outreach using their entire facility to serve unchurched children and their families. We began praying for the Lord to send us Bible and music teachers to serve East End children through this great opportunity. (See pictures on back page)

## Sharing Joy and Praise by Mike Fariss

Thank you for supporting our ministry of the Gospel! A woman, whom I had not seen in many years, thanked me on Facebook this week for bringing her to Christ in 1985. The message's timing added to my joyful reminiscing as the next day, June 1<sup>st</sup>, marked my 30<sup>th</sup> year with UDM. Those blessed by your quiet investments may not know of your faithfulness, but God remembers!

The Lord has given us a fruitful spring quarter in Norfolk and Newport News. This newsletter provides reports and testimonies to share our joy with you and give Him praise. Please keep up your important support as we head into a summer schedule filled with camps, missions trips and community outreaches. Let me know if you would like weekly prayer requests and updates.

## Tony Bennett Blesses Banquet

by Ronnie McAdoo

Praise the Lord for the way UVA's Head Basketball Coach Tony Bennett presented our vision so eloquently at our Sports Ministry Banquet and for those who attended. This process began back in October when in my conversation with him, Coach Bennett freely shared that he has a strong and active faith in Jesus Christ. I asked him to consider speaking at our annual sports banquet. Feeling strongly that Coach Bennett was the man to speak, I began to pray earnestly with the Urban Community Church of Norfolk staff team members for him to come. In March, Coach Bennett agreed to be the keynote speaker and a successful banquet was presented.

We are grateful that over 350 people attended providing \$16,000, above expenses, to support our sports ministries. We enjoyed meeting many new friends and introducing them to the ministry for the first time. Coach Bennett's successfully imparted our vision of seeing people come to Christ and become involved in a discipleship relationships to grow in Him. The banquet honored God through Coach Bennett's anointed message and the testimonies of others who gave Christ glory. We give special thanks to Bill Cofer and our table hosts for their support!

## Sports Ministry Banquet



Ronnie and Janet McAdoo with  
UVA Coach Tony Bennett



Pastor Randy Singer  
interviewed Kwontie Moore



Volunteers Bill Cofer and  
Brian Bean prepared videos



Kerry Anne Sylvester gave a  
dynamic testimony



UDM's Greg Johnston and his  
Dream Team members helped

## Urban Discovery Ministries

### Dream Team Camps and Worships at North Bend Park

Over Memorial Day weekend, Greg and Katie Johnston (along with 8 other adult volunteers) took the Dream Team boys on a camping trip to North Bend Park, near South Hill, VA. Greg planned the trip to fulfill the request of Tony “T.K.” Sylvester, who will be leaving the Dream Team at the end of June to serve with his mother, Kerry Ann, as a long term missionary in Jamaica.



The trip seemed in doubt as of early April when Greg began trying to make reservations. Almost all of the campsites in the campgrounds of Virginia had already been filled. He didn't know how to break the news to T.K. that the trip couldn't happen. Then, while making a call to one of the federal parks, Greg found out that there was a group camping site at North Bend Park near South Hill which was not booked – the first of many gracious gifts God provided to make this trip a huge blessing to all the guys and all the volunteers who came along to make it happen. Despite severe storms the night before, the weather turned out perfect. There were also no biting

insects of any kind, and everything they planned – hiking, swimming, worship by the campfire, field games, and the food - was a huge hit with the guys (there was only a little grouching when the boys had to canvass the campsite for trash on the morning they left). A couple of the boys even expressed that the group worship time was one of their highlights of the weekend.

Though each of the boys on the Dream Team don't live with their fathers, and some rarely see theirs, Greg has begun to better appreciate God's passion for turning the hearts of fathers to their children. Though none of the boys' fathers came on this trip, Greg hopes to build relationships with these dads through future trips to lead them to Christ and empower them to connect with their sons for the long haul.

### Addiction Recovery Testimony

William Joyner continues to lead the addiction recovery meeting on Monday nights with his wife Darlene. They ministered to eight people who are making the break from addiction. A recent testimony from Tony illustrates the need for the such a ministry:

My name is Tony and I'm a recovering cocaine addict. For about 5 years I've been addicted to cocaine and it pretty much devastated my life, my family relationships, and my personal relationships. I was on a daily suicide mission to obtain this drug every day by any means necessary. Until one day I did too much and my life was changed. In that instance I felt my life slipping away. My heart was beating really fast. I was sweating profusely and I was unable to move or breathe. A crowd gathered but no one lifted a finger to help. I surely felt this is the end. But God saw me through it. Soon after I joined Faith Community Church and confessed to the member that I had a problem and wanted help.



They jumped into action and introduced me to William Joyner and Celebrate Recovery. In the beginning I resisted, but soon came to see how helpful it was to be in a Christian based recovery group with people who were just like me. We could all relate to each other and Mr. Joyner is an A+ teacher and a Godsend in my life. Without him and the other members of the group calling me and coming over to check on me, I would've been lost again. I'm not completely fixed but with Celebrate Recovery, William and my friends, it's only a matter of time.

## Spring 2010

### Vashawn Parker's Testimony

I met Mack 15 years ago at the Urban Community Church of Norfolk and we made an instant connection. I joined his weekly Bible study where he became my mentor and accountability partner. He ministered to me in many ways, from counseling me as I prepared to marry Lashawna, to helping me get a job at Pepsi. Mack inspired me to minister to kids through sports and helped me start a recreation football team in Huntersville. When God opened a door for me to coach at Maury High School, Mack launched an FCA huddle and helped start BASIC (Brothers and sisters in Christ). He has been like a father to me and his family has become mine. He holds me accountable in my walk with Christ. When the opportunity came, Mack encouraged me to coach football at Norfolk Christian. This year, he motivated me to take a position there as 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball coach. We were losing and I became frustrated until Mack reminded me that although quitting would be easy, God would never quit on me. This caused me to pour out my heart to the guys and emphasize that trusting the Lord is what matters most in life, which Mack helps me to do.



### Learning Center Transitions Well

March was a month of big transitions for the learning center. Kerry Ann Sylvester turned over the program leadership to Denise Woodson. Kerry Ann will pursue her calling to return to Jamaica as a full time missionary with World Team. Denise oversaw the learning center's physical move from Park Place Baptist to Trinity Presbyterian Church. She trained 15 new volunteers and tested 30 new students. Ten of the volunteers actively tutored 15 students who remained committed. One student made a commitment to Christ. Another student, Willamae Spruill started adult literacy studies in April, mastered the alphabet and now is learning the "forty most common words." This progress empowered her to read the Sunday Scripture for the first time at her church. Her enthusiasm kept Denise motivated all the time!



### Shellena Clark's Testimony



Every since I've started going to Urban Community Church learning Center, I can say that it has really had a great impact on my life. Not only am I learning more about education, but I'm also learning about how important it is. This learning center is different from a lot of programs. They are not just teaching us about school work, but they are drawing us closer to God and His Word. The staff members there are so encouraging and not judgmental and they love us because of who we are.

### Sports Ministry

Ronnie (Mack) McAdoo gives praise to the Lord for the consistency and progress He has seen during weekly Bible studies with AAU Coach Boo Williams and with Norfolk Christian Coach David Johnson. Mack has also witnessed much growth and maturing in 12 young men and three coaches who attended his Thursday afternoon Bible study at Norfolk Christian High School.

His Sunday night basketball outreach is back in full swing and Mack gives thanks for the large number of young men and women who are coming out, where attendance ranges between 40 to 60 teens. Six volunteers and 8-10 parents also participate. He is excited that they do not attend just to play basketball, but to also be challenged by the Word of God. One athlete accepted Christ this spring.

Mack also praises the Lord for Rashad Woodhouse's successful knee surgery. Rashad spends time at the McAdoo's home after school and has been a blessing to them.

## Peninsula East End Church



Celebrating Seder Meal



Beach Baptism



Praise Leading at Baptism



Easter Celebration



Baptism Fellowship

## President's Newsletter

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## Transforming Inner City Evangelism

### Ministry Reunion Planned! August 21, 2010

Please join us in giving thanks at Urban Discovery Ministries (a.k.a. "Discovery" or the "Discovery Center" to students) ministry reunion on **August 21** at the beautiful King Lincoln Park in Newport News. This reunion cookout is planned by the Urban Community Church of Norfolk and the Peninsula East End Church to celebrate Mike and Kim Fariss' 30th ministry anniversary and to reconnect with friends who have been involved with UDM over the years. Transportation will be provided from Norfolk, if needed.

### Kerry Ann and Tony Sylvester Raise Support, Set Departure

Still needing \$500 monthly support and \$3,000 in one-time, outgoing expenses, Kerry set June 28 as her departure date for Jamaica. She will serve with World Team to establish educational outreaches and to help host short-term missions teams at the GLOBE Center.



Visit Our Website:  
[www.urbandiscovery.org](http://www.urbandiscovery.org)

## Princess Boone's Testimony about PEEC

First, I give the glory to God. He has truly been a blessing in my life. Princess Boone has always done her thing her way, but when I let go and let God things changed and are continuing to change daily. I re-dedicated my life to Christ in January. I relapsed because I didn't fully change lanes. After giving my soul to God, I was on fire; I've been blessed to go to school, get a job and get a court date for my brother (I waited years for these things). I let go of a married man that gave to me financially. When I let go, God gave me more hours to make up for the money I thought I would miss. And He's still working on me. I have a great church family and a great teacher of Christ. Thank you Lord.



Princess Boone