

Urban Discovery Ministries

Transforming Inner City Evangelism

June 2011



From a distance it might be hard to see how seriously we strategically design and network our urban outreaches to make lasting differences. But from my point of view, watching our youngest daughter, Katelyn, read scriptures with Cleo Simms at Norfolk Christian High School's graduation last week gave extra cause for rejoicing. These two symbolized a breakthrough partnership between our ministry and the school. For ten years I served under Pastor Gene Garrick's leadership, who basically founded Norfolk Christian. He preached often for Christian education and promoted the National Institute for Learning Development (NILD). Yet we both recognized how most families served by UDM could afford neither. He asked Kim and me to enroll our children at Norfolk Christian during their elementary grades, knowing that NCS put them in a different world than these urban families. Kim and I hoped to bring these worlds together, but ended up transferring our first three children into our public high school urban context. During those years, Grace Mutzabaugh, NILD's founder, caught UDM's vision for making educational therapy affordable to inner city children. After seeing so many promising young people fail while needing what NILD training provided world-wide, UDM, NILD and Norfolk Christian Schools launched a three-year pilot intervention program. This pilot became the Park Place School for children of low-income backgrounds. We also sensed God's prompting us to pray for more opportunities for urban families at Norfolk Christian. We believe God answered our request when NCS leaders consulted with Ronnie (Mack) McAdoo and me about starting its new Reach the City program. By then Park Place School had intervened with Cleo's learning problems, giving her the academic ability to enroll at Norfolk Christian. Our UDM staff members partnered with the high school as God brought together our two worlds. God blessed our families, and I believe He blessed the entire school, through this strategic change. Please read Cleo's testimony on page four for more insights on these efforts. —Mike Fariss, President

Thank you for supporting our team of missionaries through your financial gifts and prayers! We praise God for your partnership with us. Please stand with us as we head into our busy summer of outreach!

Sports Ministry Banquet was an Incredible Success



Bill Cofer with Coach London

Three months of intense preparation ended in an incredible showing of support at our sports ministry banquet. Over 500 guests attended, heard UVA football coach Mike London and generously gave over \$75,000.

Volunteer efforts from Bill and Susan Cofer, Brian Bean, and Melissa Cockerill, among others, proved instrumental to the banquet's success. We especially give thanks for friends who willingly sponsored and filled tables. As a result, many new partners attended and gave feedback encouraging and challenging us to set the bar even higher.

Adults Find Christ at GED Learning Center

The GED Learning Center run by staff members from the Urban Community Church of Norfolk (UCCON) addressed academic and spiritual needs of 23 students during the last three months. In February, Denise Woodson and Maurice Lamb met a young couple named, Hoseah and Donnee Pugh. They agreed to study God's word, but the next day their apartment caught on fire and was condemned. In spite of the delay, Denise and Maurice persevered and soon began studying with them at the learning center. Both

Donnee and her husband Hoseah came to trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. They began attending worship celebrations and Wednesday night cell group meetings with UCCON. Donnee shares what the learning center ministry has meant:



"I got saved because I had everything and everybody else in my life except God. The ministry has made a big difference in me and my husband's life. Now we pray together, go to Bible study, and try to get to know the Lord. We are learning to put him first. The learning Center helped me wake up to tomorrow and not let the days slip away. So I am very glad that I met my teachers and my Pastor (Ed Haywood). They have been really good to me and my husband. This center is a great place to know the Lord while getting an education."

This same GED Bible study attracted another student, Taric Smith. He also surrendered his life to Christ and has attended worship celebrations at UCCON. Taric shared his thoughts on the learning center:

"My school, the GED Learning Center, has made a dramatic difference in my life. Since I have been coming to this GED program, I have heard a lot about Jesus and I have accepted Him in my heart. I know



what it means to have faith now. This GED Learning Center has turned me into a better person for God and my son. I would like to give thanks to my GED teacher, Mr. Maurice Lamb, for helping me work toward my goal. It's good to know that I have other people that care about my future. This GED Learning Center has also been like a family to me as well."

Denise was encouraged by the academic progress of Willamae Spruille. Ms. Spruille started four months ago on the alphabet and she recently advanced to a new level, the 40 most common words, which enabled her to read in her Sunday School class for the first time.

Three months ago **Crystal Anthony** was hostile to the scripture, truth and prayer, but now she regularly uses the learning center's prayer box. She became open to what Denise shares with her from God's word.



Crystal's testimony: "This GED Learning Center has encouraged me to learn and experience everyday life skills. It has taught me things that I had forgotten. It taught me not to give up even while caring for my children. I have learned a lot and would like to thank this ministry for helping me to move further in pursuing my GED."

God Provides Families' Needs

William Joyner's gift of serving blessed hundreds of people each month through Celebrate Recovery meetings and a food and clothing ministry that served about 50 people per week. In the course of each month, William Joyner also met hundreds of men while ministering in the Norfolk City Jail. He often encouraged them to call him when they are released, so he could help them get re-established in the community. Some, like Daryll Wilson pic-



tured with William, remember William's kindness and come looking for deeper solutions to life problems.

After being released from three years of incarceration, Daryll looked to William for help in making a fresh start. William assisted him in finding a job and place to live and brought him to worship services and recovery meetings. Now Daryll is working, paying his rent and getting re-established in society. He attended church with a family member and was encouraged with his progress.

Church Planting Advances

Mike Fariss' church planting in Newport News reached another milestone as he transitioned out of the Peninsula East End Church's (PEEC) Sunday Morning Outreach. He still

mentors Chris Williams, who will be installed as pastor in September. Mike trained three PEEC leaders for personal evangelism in a Faith Bible College course. PEEC developed its missions component and sent five members to serve for a week in Ja-

maica. Mike and Kim also began a cell group with intern Shanice Fuller in Jeff and Nicole Hankerson's home located near Norfolk State University. Mike met with leaders of three PCA to plan a new church plant in that area of Norfolk.



Greg Johnston Receives MA, Provides Service Training

Greg Johnston has been encouraged by a new development in the Dream Team vision. Not only are the guys still engaged in the chocolate making business, but on April 2nd, they had the opportunity to develop other practical work skills (painting, and landscaping) while helping Radiant Fellowship Church, in Chesapeake, prepare their facility for Easter worship services. Eight guys (helped by six adult volunteers) worked hard for six hours. They were encouraged to see the fruit of their labor. Greg is looking for similar work opportunities this summer where the boys can experience the blessing of hard work. He still needs three more mentors to fulfill the goal of matching each boy with a godly man.

After nine years of part time study at Columbia International University, Greg Johnston received his Masters of Arts in Theological Studies on May 14. During the last three months, Greg taught two classes to equip people to serve with UDM in the inner city. The first course was held in an online forum for three people interested in learning how to lead a cell group. The second class began on May 10 at First Baptist Church of Norfolk. Twenty-one people from First Baptist and the Urban Community Church of Norfolk have been attending this course, which is based on Mike Fariss' book, Transforming Inner City Evangelism. It will culminate in joint outreach efforts in an inner city community this summer.

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Ronnie McAdoo and Faithful Volunteers Reach More Teens

Sunday night basketball ministry is back in full operation with a strong group of young athletes who come and hear the Gospel being preached. The outreach attendance averaged 40 teenagers and Ronnie McAdoo expects an increase as the school year comes to a close. He gives thanks for a core group of volunteers who minister weekly, "standing in the gap" for these young people, many of whom are unchurched. Pictured below: James McAdoo addresses Corporate Landing Middle School FCA students. Dwight Freeman speaks at Sunday Night Basketball.



Dwight Freeman's Testimony: "I have known of Ronnie McAdoo since moving to the Norfolk area in 2002. Recently, I have had the opportunity to really spend some time talking with him, and have come to realize how much he loves the Lord. During this time of talking with him, my pastor was in a season of men finding an accountability partner. One day while dealing with the pressures of life, I picked up the phone and called Ronnie. I was going to ask him to be that partner that Pastor was speaking of, but before I could get it out, Ronnie started telling about "One to Won" a workbook and guideline for men's mentoring. He asked if I would be a Timothy, which I gladly accepted. When we first met for this weekly Bible study type session and I saw all the required chapters to cover I said, "We need to meet at least twice a week!" Ronnie replied, "This is a marathon Dwight, not a sprint!" "One to Won" has been a tremendous experience for me. Paul is grooming Timothy to go out into the world to carry on the Word of God. This time of sharing with another brother of faith and imparting the word is a life changing encounter. I have definitely come to know Christ in a more intimate way by our meetings. Every man should have a Paul and then go out and get a Timothy."

Park Place School Made the Difference

Cleo Simms Graduated from Norfolk Christian High School



In the beginning of my fourth grade year, both my mother and teachers realized I was struggling academically. At that time Ms. Audra Green, a family friend and past secretary at Park Place School, introduce my family to the school that would soon change my life.

When I first arrived at Park Place School I couldn't write in cursive, I struggled with mental math, and also I didn't have confidence in reading out loud. The Principal at that time clearly explained

why I was going to attend Park Place. She told me that everyone has two sides of a brain. My brain works a little different though. One side works extremely fast and the other side works slower. She told me that the teachers were going to help me train my slow side to work as fast as my other. With that goal in mind, I worked hard in everything I did at that school.

I had amazing teachers/ therapist. They taught me many techniques and skills that helped me in different areas. Park Place School took my struggles and made them my skills. To strengthen my mental math they would give me math problems randomly and I had to solve it on the spot, they made me write in cursive all the time, and lastly I would always have to read out loud to them so my confidence level for reading went up. Park Place School did not just help me academically but also spiritually. I grew closer to the Lord. Park Place teachers encouraged me to read the Bible and have a relationship with God.

Many doors were opened to me because I attended Park Place School. After finishing my elementary years at Park Place, Mrs. Michele Shultz, the Development Associate, told my family about Norfolk Christian. She got all the paper work and set up an interview for me to meet the Principal at Norfolk Christian. Because I attended Park Place and had a so called learning disability I was granted money so I could attend Norfolk Christian. I was also blessed to still receive educational therapy sessions. Park Place School trained me for academic success and helped me achieve my goals. To this day I will never forget how much this school impacted and changed my life. Because of Park Place School I never failed any grades, I gained confidence not just in my reading but also in myself and I grew closer to the Lord.

Although I do not attend Park Place School anymore, it will never leave my heart. I joined a club called Park Place Pals at Norfolk Christian, which gave me an opportunity to go back to Park Place and hang out with the students there and become a role model to them. I also did an internship at Park Place School this past school year, which opened the door for me to do my senior project on the school, and lastly I was offered a job at Park Place School. God took this small school and made a huge success story out of it. I give God all the glory. I pray that the students who attend Park Place School realize how blessed they are and that God will open up doors for them if they let Him.

[UDM and the National Institute for Learning Development conducted a three year pilot school program that became the Park Place School. Bill Cofer, pictured left, served as the School's first board chairman. Cleo is going to Virginia Wesleyan University in the fall]

UDM Partners with IVCF at Norfolk State University



Twelve Norfolk State University students attended InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's camp for college students at Rockbridge. Mike Fariss and UDM intern Shanice Fuller assisted Shane Arthur (IVCF Regional Director) and his wife, Dawn, in holding Bibles studies at NSU for the purpose of starting a chapter there. InterVarsity also hired Thurston Benns to serve on the NSU campus in the fall.

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