STREETS MINISTRIES
P.O. Box 42181
Memphis, TN 38174-2181

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

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After the Sun Sets: Continued

safe haven. Here, kids don't have to worry about violence, gunfire, and being abused.

Here, we can continue to equip more and more kids with the word of God so that they will be prepared to go out into the community when the Lord says, "Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves." (Luke 10:3)

The staff at Streets deeply appreciates your prayers of support. We need them! As we continue to expand the reach of our programming, please consider joining us in ministry here in the 38126. Each new semester brings new opportunities that need you.

Delvin Lane is the Assistant Director at Streets Ministries.
delvin@streetsministries.org

Bible Study Boys: Tavarus, Jeremiah, and Kenny, all members of Delvin's weekly Bible Study Group, during Summer Camp last year.

Streets Ministries would like to thank Konica Minolta Danka Imaging for their printing services.

This seal is our pledge that your gifts are used as you planned.
Thank you for your support of Streets Ministries.

(901) 525-7380 x201

STREETS - BETWEEN THE LINES
FEBRUARY 2010

Be Still, Not Paralyzed: The Tension of Our Faith

Before refrigerators, people used icehouses to preserve their food. Icehouses had thick walls, no windows, and a tightly fitted door. In winter, when streams and lakes were frozen over, large blocks of ice were cut, hauled to the icehouses, and covered with sawdust. Often the ice would last well into the summer.

One man lost a valuable watch while working in an icehouse. He searched diligently for it, carefully raking through the sawdust, but did not find it. His fellow workers also looked, but their efforts too, proved futile.

A small boy heard about the fruitless search and slipped into the icehouse during the noon hour. He soon emerged with the watch. Amazed, the men asked how he found it. "I closed the door," the boy replied, "lay down in the sawdust and kept very still. Soon I heard the watch ticking."

A week or so ago, Debbie and I sat and watched the "Hope for Haiti" concert. It was a fundraiser for the earthquake ravaged country that featured some of the most popular recording artists of our day. The thing that was most impressive to me about it was just how quickly they pulled it off. Ordinarily, something like that would take weeks, if not months to come to fruition. But the obvious need was immediate and waiting around made no sense to the concerned.

At Streets, we live in that spiritual tension daily. The Streets staff and board often fall on our knees in silence before our Lord. We never want to do anything apart from the one who created us. It is a constant struggle. Psalms 46 starts with the proclamation that God is our strength and refuge and repeatedly reminds of us of the position that our God is to hold in our lives. Verse 10 says, "Be still and know that I am God."

Often times we take "be still" and parlay it into the age old phrase "paralysis by analysis." How many times is our "praying about it" simply code for "I'm going to string this out because of my fear to be a risk taker for the Kingdom?"

As you read through this newsletter, you will come across many new things that are going on at Streets. Some of these will deal with how we are changing the way we operate day to day. Others deal with how we are addressing a new opportunity that takes us into unchartered waters as we strive to empower young people on a city-wide level.

Let us start everyday aware of God's presence and with a desire to follow Him. May His timetable be our timetable, even if it scares us! Be still, listen to the ticking, and know that he is God!

Your Brother in Christ,

Ken

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Delvin Lane Assistant Director
Carmen Coleman Education Director
Sarah Coleman Elementary Coordinator
John Cowherd Middle School Coordinator
LaToya Dansby Mission Graduation Advisor
Whitney Hale Development Coordinator
Katie Hobson Mission Graduation Advisor
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Erica Jones Pathways Coordinator
Vic Lightning Recreation Coordinator
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After the Sun Sets: Delvin Lane

As the sun sets in most scary movies, the music foreshadows the terror that the protagonist characters are about to endure. Although no music plays, the sun setting in the 38126 symbolizes the clear and present danger that kids and their families face in their community.

Just the other day, about fifty yards from one of my discipleship kids' apartment, a lifelong member of our community was gunned down right in front of the corner store. The traditional "teddy bears on a light pole" memorial now marks the spot where the tragedy took place and has become another monument to how often our kids are left puzzled by the senseless violent crimes that continue to plague our community.

After having a great Bible Study last night, we jumped in the van and started the take home process. When we reached Mississippi Street where the notorious "Yellow Store" sits, we saw a group of young men gathering in front of the store as if an altercation was taking place. Next, I saw a couple of Streets kids who are known members of the Crips street gang run in. The Bible Study guys in the van shouted, "Look! There's Lil Bob!" At once, I immediately pulled the van over and jumped out with intentions on rescuing Bob from the potentially dangerous situation that was about to take place. But when Bob noticed me walking towards him, he acted as if he was just going to the store. So I walked in behind him and

Makeshift Memorial: Residents attach teddy bears to a utility pole in Cleaborn Homes near where a young man was shot to death in 2008.

bought a drink. I didn't have to say anything to him. He knew exactly why I was there. Bob grabbed some chips, spoke to me for a second, and then left the store and headed off in a different direction. The Lord was revealing to me that just our (Streets') mere presence in the community can keep kids from making life-changing decisions. If those kids in the van with me had not been at Bible Study that night, a few of them would have most likely been in front of that store. It was clear to me that we need to invest more time in the lives of the kids we serve.

As Jesus crossed the far shore of the Sea of Galilee, a great crowd of people followed Him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. (John 6:1-2) Over the past twenty-two years, the 38126 community has witnessed Jesus' miraculous signs through His changing the lives of hundreds of people who have come through the doors at Streets. The crowd has indeed grown into a great multitude. Our Lord continues to feed that multitude and change lives every day.

Trouble for many of our kids happens after we shut down for the day at 6:00 pm. With this in mind, we are actively making preparations to extend our daily hours until 8:00 pm. This will give us more time to conduct our evening recreation program, and our kids an extra two hours of a

continued on back panel

Who's Bad?: Delvin and his Bible Study group boys reenact a scene from a 1987 Michael Jackson video late one night at camp.

Coming Soon to Streets: If I Had A Hammer

The *If I Had A Hammer* program was founded in 1987 by Perry Wilson and is based on the principal that all children can learn when given the opportunity to apply their education to their life. The result is a unique, exciting way of exposing children to the world of applied mathematics.

Since inception, *If I Had A Hammer* has impacted more than 400,000 students in over 100 cities across the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

How does it work? Well, if *I Had A Hammer* is a hands-on, 40 hour-classroom math program designed for students in grades four through nine. The program primarily focuses on conceptual development of student understanding in:

- Geometry
- Rational numbers; specifically fractions
- Measurement
- Pre-algebraic thinking

At the end of program, groups of students whom have successfully completed the program get to participate in the building of a "Hammer House" as a reward.

This spring, *If I Had A Hammer* and *Streets Ministries* will be teaming up to empower fifth graders in the Memphis City School System through this unique approach to applied mathematics.

To find out more about the program, please visit www.ifihadahammer.com.

Build Day Reward: A student puts the finishing touches on his freestanding 8'x11' "Hammer House" after completing the program.

"Not only is *Hammer* an incredible teaching tool for Math through practical application, but it also teaches the student life skills along the way."

Dr. Cheryl Cleaves is an author of math textbooks for Prentice-Hall and is a longtime Streets Supporter.

Outside the Textbook: *If I Had A Hammer* engages students in a way that shows the importance of math and how works in the real world.

Teamwork: Students working together on a "Hammer House" build. After each build, the house can be broken down and reused.

What We've Been Up To

- To close out the year, Streets hosted a series of Church Partner Lunches at the Streets Center. Churches in attendance included **Christ United Methodist, Colonial Hills, First Evangelical, Heartsong, Independent, Living Hope, Redeemer, Second Presbyterian, Sycamore View,** and **White Station Church of Christ**. In addition to a tour of the expanded second floor, the lunches served as an opportunity to talk about the neighborhood and the specific needs our students face.
- Beginning on New Year's Day, the Streets Center played host to a group of thirty members from **Nueva Direccion Christian Church**. During their three days here, the group held services in the Rec. Room, played games in the Gym, and participated in various team building exercises as a part of the retreat.

Room Adopter: Mary-Madison Riley, a Ready Reader volunteer, spends time with Georgia Avenue students during a Room Adopter party.

- Throughout the month of December, Streets took van loads of students through **Starry Nights** at Shelby Farms thanks to a donation of passes by **Second Presbyterian Church**.
- On December 22nd, Streets' **Pathways** students attended a showing of "Narnia" at **Playhouse on the Square** as part of a reward for their participation in the program this past semester.
- January 20th, Carmen and Whitney attended the Memphis Mentoring Partnership's quarterly networking meeting in order to discuss ways to grow and improve Streets' Pathways programming.
- As a part of **National "Thank Your Mentor" Day**, forty-six Streets Pathways students and their mentors enjoyed a catered Tops BBQ dinner at the Streets Center before walking over to the FedEx Forum to see the **Memphis Grizzlies** beat Dwight Howard and the Orlando Magic on January 25th. A special thanks to the **Memphis Grizzlies Foundation** for their donation of tickets to the game. Go Grizz!

Building Trust: Members of Nueva Direccion Christian Church participate in a trust fall as a part of their three day retreat.

De Nada: A group "thank you" from the members of Nueva Direccion.

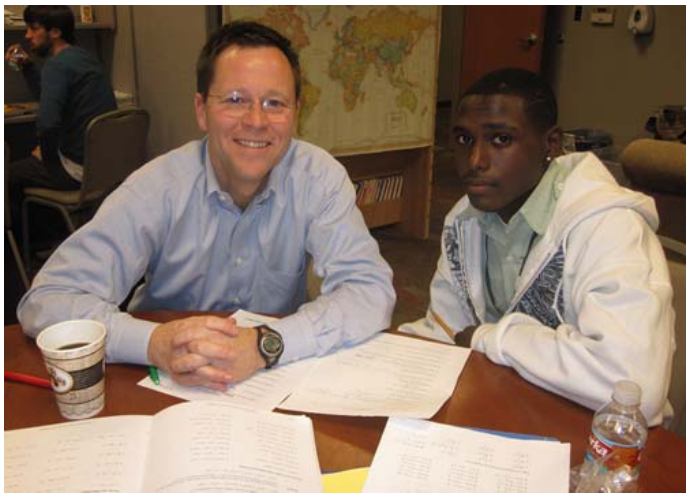
What's Coming Up

- Thanks to a grant from **First Books of the Mid-South**, all enrolled Street Smart, Pathways and Streets Summer Institute students will be able to purchase a book at **Borders Bookstore** free of charge.
- As a part of **Independent Presbyterian Church's** annual Missions Conference this February 14th-21st, Delvin Lane will speak on the needs of Memphis from an urban perspective. For more information about the conference, visit www.indepres.org/missionsconference.
- Thanks to a generous donation from our friends at **Metropolitan Bank**, the new William "Max" Rose Outreach Room will have a "Club" quality lighting system installed later this semester. The system, which includes over 400 LEDs and six moving light pods, will add even more excitement to the room on "Club" nights.

On Campus: Katie, a 9th Grade Mission Graduation Advisor, meets with a student on the campus of Booker T. Washington High School.

- From March 4th-7th, adult members from **Hope Presbyterian Church** will host their annual "Urban Plunge" at the Streets Center. During this time, the group will eat and sleep at Streets, tour other ministries in the neighborhood, and participate in various service and work projects throughout the community.
- Beginning March 29th, Streets will be taking forty-four students and eight staff members on "College Tours 2010." During the weeklong tour, students will visit ten colleges and universities across Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee. In addition to these on campus tours, students will tour The King Center in Atlanta, race at Andretti Indoor Karting, and go rollerskating in Birmingham.
- Streets is currently hosting 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 about available opportunities.

College Tours 2009: Last years College Tours participants preparing to re-board the bus en route to visiting another University.



Mentorship: Scott Fleming, Streets Board Chairman and Pathways Mentor, meets with Tajaylen, a junior at BTW.