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**STREETS MINISTRIES**  
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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

## Building a New Fold: Continued

Jesus stated, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep." John 10:11-13

As the wolves continue to plan their attack, STREETS is planning how to provide more folds. Opening a new site in the Kingsbury area allows us to expand the reach of our programs into a diverse community that has many of the same needs faced by those here in Foote and Cleaborn Homes. We must cling together because we are the sheep of Christ. He is our Shepherd, and building a new fold is the next step in expanding Jesus' Kingdom.

In closing, we recently lost a young sheep by the name of Adrienne to gun violence. Please pray for her family and our community. She prayed to receive Christ at "Club" this past year and was actively involved in a Bible Study group. She had just graduated from BTW this past May. Rest in peace sweet girl!

*Delvin Lane is the Assistant Director at Streets Ministries.*

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# STREETS - BETWEEN THE LINES

JULY 2010

## Diversity: Speaking God's Life Into All Cultures

Two years ago STREETS had the opportunity to expand its ministry into the Highland Heights area of our city when the Collegiate School of Memphis purchased Highland Heights Baptist Church. At that time, the Memphis Leadership Foundation had been running a Red Zone outreach ministry in the neighborhood and we were able to strike a deal that would take over that mission and bring it to scale along side the new school. With this arrangement, STREETS would offer its programming to students in the neighborhood while Collegiate and the church would expand their mission.



The first year was great as we revamped the downtown facility, added staff, and implemented programming using our 430 Vance site as a model. All of a sudden, we had a brand new site operating at full capacity. However, at the end of the school year, an announcement rocked our world. Treadwell High School, located less than a mile away, was closing its doors. In its place, Douglas High School was built and a redistricting had begun. In spite of this news, we continued into the Fall of 2009 as planned but watched the population steadily shift. Furthermore, the Collegiate School was now operating seventh and eighth grade classes and was planning on adding a sixth grade class for 2010. Our space in the facility was going to be significantly reduced, albeit for all the right reasons.

What did we learn? Well, even though the majority of young people that came through our doors there were African American, we did see a steady increase in Hispanic attendance as our presence in the community grew. With that in mind, I arranged a meeting with a young man who had been doing outreach ministry in the Kingsbury neighborhood not all that far from our center. Knowing that he was well acquainted with the demographics of the area, I was hoping to learn more from him about this growing segment of our community. Then the mail arrived. It was a real estate packet. Now I get these sent to me all the time because STREETS is a non-profit landholder. As I flipped through this one however, one parcel caught my eye. It was a church, Graham Heights Baptist, for sale at 1302 N. Graham. On the way home from work that night, I decided to drive past the property. It was a life changing drive!

As I stopped in front of 1302 N. Graham that night, I could not believe my eyes. There were two buildings on the property. One was a 16,000 square foot worship and education building. The other was an old school building that once housed Graham Heights Baptist Academy back in the seventies and early eighties. All told, the site was sitting on 3.96 acres! But it gets even better. As I turned the car off, I noticed that both Kingsbury Middle and High Schools border the south side of the property. Walking around, I noticed that the Kingsbury Vocational Center borders the east side and Kingsbury Elementary borders the north side. I was completely amazed as I stood there wondering if God was giving me a peek at our next move.

The following morning, the breakfast meeting that I had scheduled went well and so I began to pray, speak with staff, and gather information. The property and neighborhood around it became a regular part of my route on the way home at night. As time passed, things were starting to become a little more clear. Due to the redistricting, ninth graders who lived around our site in the Treadwell neighborhood were now being sent to Kingsbury. Second Presbyterian Church had partnered with Berclair Elementary, and Independent Presbyterian Church had established an outreach to Wells Station Elementary. In both cases, students from these schools filter into Kingsbury Middle. Young Life, who had been in the community for some time, and Fellowship Church both had outreach programs in place geared towards Kingsbury High School students.

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STREETS MINISTRIES

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[www.streetsministries.org](http://www.streetsministries.org)

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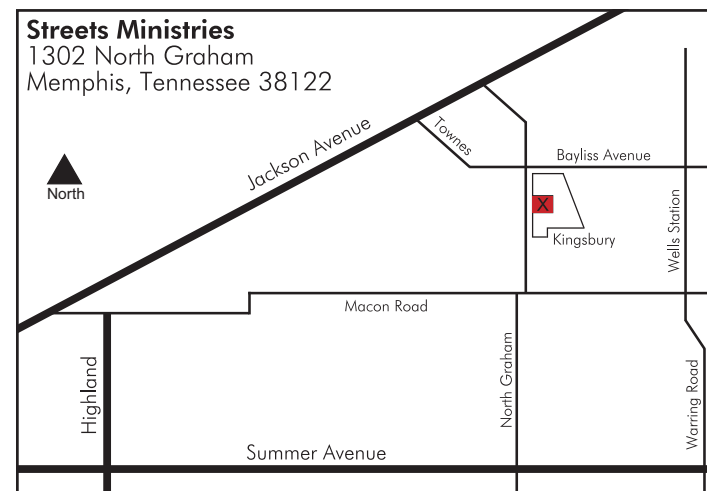


## Diversity: Continued from front

Furthermore, the Memphis Teacher Residency program had made this neighborhood one of their primary target areas. The picture was now really beginning to come into focus. So after much prayer and fact finding, the board and staff of STREETS felt God's leading in making an offer to purchase the property. On June 14th, STREETS agreed to terms and signed a contract.

I do not know of a more diverse community in our city. The schools in that area are composed of 30% African American, 35% Hispanic / Latino, and 30% white. The balance of the enrollment is either Asian, Sudanese, or "other." What an incredible opportunity for the body of Christ! Yes, we understand that it will be a challenge to meld such a diverse population, so we must be prayerful and strategic as we build relationships and hire staff. In turn, STREETS is excited to announce that we have found a site director for this new outreach. He is the man I had lunch with that day - **Reggie Davis**. Reggie has served the urban community through Young Life for the past six years. Beginning July 1, he will be bringing his experience to STREETS.

There is a lot of work ahead that includes building relationships with the schools and the community, hiring staff, and building a new center on the property. But let us not forget to spend time on our knees. Even though we hope to close on the property this August, we will not open the outreach center until January or February of 2011.



Sadly, we closed the doors on the Highland Heights facility May 31. It was a hard thing to do even though we know it was the right thing. The good news is that many of the students served at that site will now be served at the new location because of the redistricting.

### Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Over the next several months, please commit to pray for two things. One is that fundraising will go well for the new site. Pray that we will be able to raise enough capital to make it the same type of center that has been so successful on Vance Avenue over the past twenty-three years. Secondly, please pray how you and your family might become involved. For many of you that have not been able to be involved with our mission, we will now be much closer to where you are! We truly do believe that this will be a light for hope in this community for generations.

*Ken Bennett is the Executive Director at Streets Ministries.*  
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1302 N. Graham: Reggie, Ken, and Delvin in front of the future site.

## Building a Fold to House the Sheep: by Delvin Lane

"New York just like I pictured it with skyscrapers and everything!" This was a line in a commercial that I had once seen as a child. The excitement of maybe going to the Big Apple one day would rush through my mind like a raft on a white water river. Back in 1987, when STREETS was first founded, the kids and parents living in the Foote and Cleaborn Homes community would have had the same feeling about potentially having a multi-million dollar facility built on their front doorstep. Well, because of the faithfulness of your prayers, commitment, and hard work, they do. That place is the Streets Center located on 430 Vance Avenue.

Here at STREETS, kids are provided with opportunities to respond to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ through a variety of ways that includes a combination of athletics, academics, camping, and recreation. When Streets was in its early stages, we were limited in space and were not able to reach our fullest ministry potential. That problem was answered by the Lord in 2006 when we moved into our current site. Here, we not only have enough space to implement our various programs simultaneously, but we can also serve other organizations in the neighborhood.

**Athletics:** Through athletics, we serve as volunteer coaches on the campuses of Vance Middle and Booker T. Washington High School. This gives our staff members an extra angle to reach out to kids and deepen relationships with teachers and school administrators. As a result, we are able to cover just about all the school athletic events with a diverse staff that is ready and willing to step into the gap for His name sake. (Ezekiel 22:30) We have also been blessed to be able to provide volunteers from our faithful church partners. These volunteers have fed athletic teams, painted and built structures, and even provided some level of expertise in their chosen areas of sports. A true blessing.

**Academics:** Academic success is high priority at STREETS. We understand that our kids need to take full advantage of the opportunity to receive a great education, so we have created programs to assist them in this area. Our Pathways tutoring program was created so that students could be paired up with a volunteer mentors like you.

### John 10:11-14

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

Meeting once a week will not completely change a kid's academic situation, but having a Christian adult to motivate them and hold them accountable will. Our Ready Readers program was established to help elementary aged kids focus more on developing reading skills at an early age. In just three years, we have seen how it is making a difference by getting students to read on grade level. Our annual Summer Institute program has given our sophomores and juniors an extra push to not only get into college, but also prepare for life on campus.

**Camping:** Camping in the summer is yet another way to show our kids how awesome and powerful the Lord is. To see the face of a kid when they first encounter a mountain is priceless. Camping gives the kids of STREETS a firsthand glimpse of God's awesome creation. Every summer we travel thousands of miles so that kids can engage with God's creation and be in awe.

**Recreation:** Lastly, through our recreation programs we are able to teach kids the importance of staying active. To that end, we have a staff in place that has offers intramural team sports, workout programs, and a safe haven in a well air-conditioned gymnasium that helps to protect them from the wolves seeking to recruit them into gangs and other illegal activities.

STREETS has been blessed by the Lord to build this fold in the center of a community that has been labeled as one of the poorest in the nation. This neighborhood has seen many lives destroyed through violence and criminal behavior. I am convinced that STREETS has been strategically placed here by the Lord to make a difference in this neighborhood.

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## What's Coming Up

- Streets annual Summer Institute program is currently in full swing. This year, the twelve enrolled students are attending classes held at the **University of Memphis**, participating in a community service project, and reading Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*. With the primary goal of Summer Institute being to increase college entrance exam scores, this year's program is focusing in on oral communication and math skills. But it isn't all work. At the end of the program, students will make a week long trip to the **University of Alabama**, where they will learn what it is like to be a college student.
- If you give through the **Hope Christian Community Foundation**, you might want to know that they are currently offering to match 2% of gifts or grants made through donor advised funds. For example, if you were to make a \$1,000 grant from a fund, the HCCF will match the gift with an additional \$20! A great deal for Streets! To learn more about the program, please contact Richard at [richard@streetsministries.org](mailto:richard@streetsministries.org) or visit the HCCF on the web at [www.hopeccf.org](http://www.hopeccf.org).
- **St. Patrick Presbyterian Church** of Collierville will be hosting a week of Elementary VBS programming here at the Streets Center. As a part of hosting the event, the group will be staying at the Streets Center during the week.
- Streets is currently accepting volunteer applications for the upcoming fall semester. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer, please give us a call at (901) 525-7380 or you can download an application at [www.streetsministries.org](http://www.streetsministries.org).
- To keep up with the latest happenings at Streets Ministries, please visit us on the web at [www.streetsministries.org](http://www.streetsministries.org). If you would like to be a part of our **Periodic Needs List** and receive monthly updates on specific needs for our students and programming, please email us at [info@streetsministries.org](mailto:info@streetsministries.org).



**Summer Service:** Michele tends to the Binghampton Garden as part of a group Summer Institute community service project.



**Elementary VBS:** Chacyla and Micah smile during craft time.



**Happy Camper:** Destiny, a Georgia Avenue Elementary student, makes a new friend while attending Kids Across America in Missouri.

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## What We've Been Up To

- May 13th, University of Memphis head basketball coach, **Josh Pastner**, assisted students participating in the **If I Had A Hammer** program in the Streets Recreation Room.
- On May 20th, the Memphis City School's **CONNECT** mentoring program held its end of the year party in Streets' new second floor "Club" Room.
- On the front page of the June 2nd edition of the **Commercial Appeal**, it was announced that the **John and Ellen Calipari Foundation** had made a five year, \$1,000,000 commitment towards Streets and its elementary programming.
- During the first week of June, Carmen and Delvin took High School students to **Sharptop Cove** in Jasper, Georgia for Summer Camp.
- Also this month, Sarah and Nick took Georgia Avenue and Downtown Elementary students to **Kids Across America** in Branson, Missouri for Summer Camp.
- Beginning the week of June 14th, a youth group from **Sycamore View Church of Christ** turned the Streets Center into "Avalanche Ranch" for a week as part of a neighborhood VBS.
- The following week, a youth group from **First Evangelical Church** hosted an entertaining youth sports camp for students in the community. Each day, students were able to choose from a list of activities that included gymnastics, cheerleading, football, basketball, and soccer.
- In addition to awarding a grant in support of Streets' Summer Institute Programming from their Community Fund, the senior class from **St. Mary's Episcopal School** raised and donated over \$1,000 to be used towards any of Streets' other educational programming. Thank you!



**If I Had A Hammer:** Memphis City School students pose for a group photo after completing yet another satisfying team build.



**God is Real:** Molly, Takia, and Marquetta smile while working on their "God is Real" bracelets during this year's VBS.



**Howdy Partner:** Lamarcus, a Georgia Avenue Elementary student, smiles as he wears a cowboy hat as part of Avalanche Ranch VBS.