Keeping the Urban Ministry Legacy Alive

by mo leverett

I recently completed a West Coast Tour - visiting Bend and Portland, OR; Seattle, WA; San Diego, San Luis Obispo and Fresno, CA - speaking and performing. It was a great trip - seeing many old friends and making new ones - though tiring on an aging body. Even more recently I drove a few thousand miles for a house concert in Texas. No one can say that I’m not working hard to keep our ministry funded and my family afloat. I am also pursuing alternate creative revenue streams to provide a financial foundation for our continued efforts and ministry legacy.

This month I turn 50. I look back on the past 10 years - the most challenging decade of my life. I have wrestled with God for His blessing in spite of my many mistakes, flaws and the travail of natural disaster and loss. I’ve gnawed on the proverbial bone of abandoned scraps others have left behind. I’ve offered myself to God for new directions, alternate paths - but He continues to keep my feet on the rougher, yet more purposeful road of urban ministry. I have been provided a tremendous helpmate, encouraging and supportive partner in Lori - and together we trudge the rubble - making a way of prosperity for others even as we struggle to make ends meet.

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Character Makes all the Difference

by chasitee roberts

What we feed our souls, manifests into character. If the word of God, then godliness. In the past months Rebirth has been studying the Ten Commandments in light of the work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Our youth today, are facing difficult external influences to do the wrong things. How do we combat that?

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What We Do?

Youth Ministry with a view to Church Planting and Community Development Enterprises
- Bi-weekly Bible Studies and services
- College and Career Counseling
- Job Training and Placement
- Family Assistance
- Juvenile Advocacy
- Character Development
- Camping

Ministry Mobilization and Consultation
- Internships and Workshops
- Concerts and Speaking Engagements
- Site Cultivation and Assignment
- Incarnational Ministry Replication

What we need
- Monthly Donors for Operations
- In-Kind Contributions
- Transportation
- Board Members
- Prayer Warriors
I’ve seen former students and interns launch ministries in East St. Louis, Dallas, New Orleans, Orlando, the Mississippi Delta, Atlanta, Montgomery, Birmingham, Mobile among others…and am thankful to have participated in a movement affecting thousands of urban youth in gospel centered transformation and the realization of their heart’s Desire. I periodically visit and consult with each of them - when they let me - and couldn’t be prouder as the movement expands.

Our ministry in Jacksonville is also thriving. We have about 30 or so urban youth at our house on Wednesday and Sunday evenings (for a good dose of food, fun and faith) whose lives are transforming before our eyes. We are seeing typical and vulnerable inner-city kids fall more deeply in love with Christ and forging new and better visions and plans for their future.

We do so while finishing the task of parenting in excellence - our children doing us proud - all nine of them. A stream of grandchildren has begun to flow - from Eden (1) - (we’ll call it Eden’s Stream) - and her soon-to-be-born little brother or sister. Thanks to our oldest ‘chirrun’ Michael (structural engineer) and Jodi (interior designer) for their generosity in this regard!

Lindsay is preparing a mission to Nicaragua - Lacey and Maggie are both finding their way out on their own. Katie recently married Adam - and Manning and Kendall are making excellent grades at prestigious local high schools in Jacksonville while prospering in their extracurricular activities in Theater and Athletics (football, baseball, volleyball and basketball).

Please pray for us as we continue to raise support and hobble together a new foundation amid the rubble for rebirthing our lives, keeping the legacy alive.

For some of our students, Rebirth is the only refuge from negative influences. And for most, it is the only place where they are constantly being poured into, with the loving words of God. Many people fail to notice how urgent the work is. For our students it is literally the line between life and death. It's not only about keeping our kids out of trouble, but introducing them to a life they never imagined possible. Many are succeeding - all are struggling. This is why your support is so necessary and so greatly appreciated.

We are called to love God and help our neighbors, even those on the other side of town - and we are learning this to be the full summary of both the Law and the Prophets - and perfectly portrayed in the life and ministry of our beloved Savior.