

# UYM

## Urban Youth Ministry

AN UPDATE FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF URBAN YOUTH MINISTRY



*“Sowing the seeds for tomorrow”*  
*Matthew 13:3-8*

**MARCH 2012**

**REAL STORIES...REAL HOPE**

### “TURNING A CORNER” by Emily Wood

About a month ago, my husband and I moved to downtown Aurora. We previously lived in a church parsonage in Shabbona, IL; a town of under a thousand people. Because of the desires and passions that the Lord has placed within us, we have both always felt called to both live and minister in an urban setting. We both felt at peace and excited when the Lord opened the door for us to move to the city of Aurora.

Not only is it now easier to minister to those in the neighborhoods in which we serve, we also live so close to Wayside that I am able to walk to work many days. On my short walk from our apartment to work, I have to turn a corner to cross the street and enter the Wayside parking lot. Many times, before I turn, I look back on where I had previously walked. When I have turned the corner, however, my focus is completely on what is ahead of me at work and for the day ahead. When thinking about this past school year and the summer ahead, the metaphor of “turning a corner” comes to mind. In Philippians 4:13 Paul says, “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” ESV. It is such a joy to look back on the highlights of this past school year, but it is also a “prize” to press forward for the work the Lord has for the programs of Urban Youth Ministry this upcoming summer.



**Anthony and Juan Carols having fun!**



**Going home with goodies.**

These past six months in the after school program at Brady Elementary have been filled with tutoring, craft projects, dodge ball in the gym and lots of fun and laughter. We have had the privilege to have groups from the Boys Scouts of America and Children Evangelism Fellowship host weekly extracurricular activities for the kids. We also had Myron Frye and friends come again during the Christmas season to host a Christmas party for the kids filled with face painting, McDonald's and presents. There is

*continued on next page*

continued from page 1

no greater joy for me than to see the hope and excitement in the kid's faces when they are encouraged by godly partners in ministry who show them that they are valued in the eyes of Jesus!

The mild weather and loads of sunshine that we have been blessed with this winter, is a great reminder of the upcoming summer camp that is only THREE short months away. I already have many kids and parents from the school asking me when summer camp starts again, and saying that they want to enroll! We would like to be able to take at least 120 campers again this summer. Unfortunately last summer we



Volunteers for our Christmas Party.

could not take all the kids that enrolled and had about 30 on the waiting list. This is where YOU, our faithful partners come in. Would you be willing to volunteer your time this summer to help these kids? The more volunteers we have the more kids that can have a safe and fun place to be this summer; but most importantly hear about God and from His WORD DAILY! The Lord has grown and taken

this ministry in bigger ways than I could ever imagine and I cannot wait to "turn the corner" and be amazed at His work in new ways again this upcoming summer!



Hanging out with one of the volunteers.



Eating some yummy McDonald's.

## Looking FORWARD and Looking Back by Ryan Kabara

I am excited as I look forward to an upcoming summer of baseball and sharing fun times with great kids. The most important part of the summer will be the lives of kids that we, as coaches, get to pour our lives into. This will be my fourth season coaching in the ANBL and I am looking forward to the great experiences that are to come as I remember the past



Batter up!

experiences that my family and I have had coaching. It is these memories and the passion of sharing a great game of baseball with kids that keeps me coming back year after year.

An essential component of the ANBL is the opportunity to share Jesus with young people and their families. It has been great to see the creativity of the coaches these past years. Some coaches have had team dinners at their homes; others had Bible studies and verse memorization, and some reached out by bringing members of their team to their youth groups and getting them involved and active in a church. When adults are willing to follow the Word and use their talents and abilities to grow the Kingdom of God, amazing things happen.



Throwing practice at an ANBL Camp.

continued

Our coaches in the ANBL heed the call not only to coach their teams, but to also disciple a new generation of Christ followers.

As the 2012 baseball season grows closer, I cannot help but look back and reminisce about all the great opportunities that I myself and other coaches and players have had in summers past. I think about the times when players learned how to

catch a fly ball or their excitement when they got their first hit. But above all else, I love seeing the smile on a child's face when they see a loving and caring adult pour into their life and show them the love of God.

I as well as all of UYM look joyfully towards the new season and the promise that it brings. We would also love to see you at a game. If you're interested please contact Scot Thurman.

## From the Director



**Scot Thurman**  
Director,  
Urban Youth Ministry

### His Mercies Never Fail

As we move forward towards summer, we cannot help but reflect on God's mercies. God is merciful in that he allows us the privilege of sharing His good news (that is of Jesus Christ) every day with children in our community. You've seen from the articles and photos that are presented here witness of God's grace in our lives and in our community. These are examples of how God is not only touching the lives of Children in Aurora; but also the lives of those who work and volunteer with UYM. Every time that a child gives their life to the Lord, we (along with the angels in Heaven) rejoice. We then continue in the life of that child and disciple them, as Jesus mandated us in Matthew 28: 19-20. The means in which we continue to make disciples is by walking alongside children by teaching them, playing with them, coaching them, praying with them, and so on.

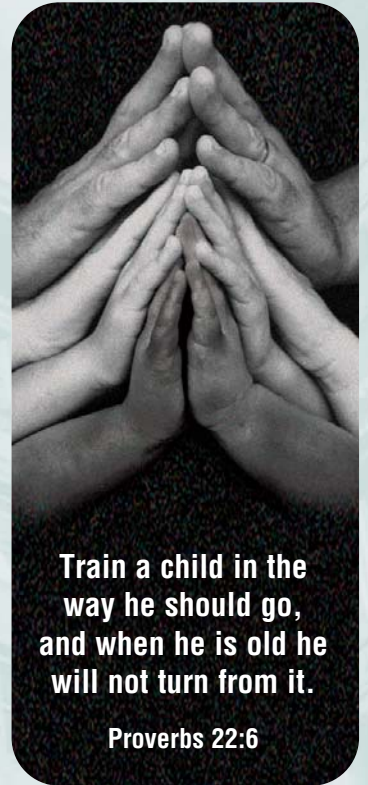
In doing such, we allow God to use us through our interaction with young people that participate in UYM's programming. God grants us the privilege of being able to share His love with young people; who are truly our future.

In doing such, we recognize how God uses the innocence and newness of a young life to affect many of us who have become rigid and hardened by life's experiences. I would go as far as to say that all of UYM's volunteers would say that they themselves are blessed by the work that God has placed before them in working with our youth. Psalms 127:3 teaches us that "... children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward."

In doing such, we also recognize that Jesus has a special plan for children and uses us to accomplish that goal. He made specific reference to the importance of children in Mark 10:14 when he said: *Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.*"

In doing such we also acknowledge God's plan for us. While God has different paths for each of us, we know that he specifically wants us to build on the foundation that was laid by His Son, Jesus Christ. And in doing so, UYM is committed to mentoring and discipling young people; as well as all whom God sends our way. In Matthew 18:1-3, Jesus said "*Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*" This important reference to the eager innocence of a child is something that we cannot overlook. And as such, we continue on; sowing into the lives of young people, because of His mercy and great love for us.

*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:4-9 - NIV*



**Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.**

**Proverbs 22:6**

**Scot Thurman, Director**  
Telephone 630-723-3408  
Email: [sthurman@waysidecross.org](mailto:sthurman@waysidecross.org)  
Visit [www.waysidecross.org](http://www.waysidecross.org) to learn more.

## ministry needs

- ◆ Kids Club Leaders
- ◆ Summer Missionaries/  
Camp Volunteers
- ◆ Financial Partners
- ◆ Prayer Partners
- ◆ Ministry Accountability Partners
- ◆ Baseball Coaches
- ◆ Baseball Umpires
- ◆ Baseball Team Chaplains

Fun With The Firestoppers.



Baseball Lessons with the Aurora Islanders.

Summer fun.



## Annual UYM Friendship Dinner Fundraiser 2012

March 31st, 2012, 5:30 PM  
Village Bible Church  
Sugar Grove, IL

DINNER AND - SILENT AUCTION

CONTACT  
Scot Thurman, UYM Director, 630-723-3408  
sthurman@waysidecross.org



Guest Speaker  
Pastor Mark Jobe  
Lead Pastor  
New Life  
Community  
Church



Master of Ceremonies  
Roy Patterson  
Station Manager  
WMBI radio

Entertainment by  
New Life Community Church's  
"Nueva Vida Praise Team"

*Sowing the seeds  
for tomorrow! -Matthew 13:3-8*

