



# Summerhill Community Ministries, Inc.

Newsletter ~ May 2007

*Sewing Inner-City Youth and Families*

## A Common Question

(A portion of Justina's Testimony)

### *Can I really make a difference?*

After that tragic day at Virginia Tech, we found out that this one young man's decision to take the lives of over 30 people, affected not only the lives of the victims families, but affected people all across the country. And now the world is trying to find out what went wrong and how they can prevent something like this from happening again.

I've been counseling a family whose 14-year-old daughter was raped by a 17-year-old boy who was high on drugs. This young man was kicked out of school several times and sent to alternative school. He is now facing 10 years in jail for this rape.

After many year of collaborating and working side by side with many parents, teachers, principals and even doctors, I have found that they all are looking for answers as to how best to deal with the

troubled children and teens. Some of the answers they have come up with are to build more alternative schools. (This is a place where kids are being attacked, robbed, and beaten as they go to the restroom.) Another solution is to have the kids undergo counseling and therapy. This can be helpful in some cases, but too often this leads to the child being medicated. They are now medicating children at much younger ages.

The news has alerted us that some of these medications are causing kids to have suicidal thoughts.

Let us hold on to the days where the people of God got on their knees and cried out to God for the salvation, deliverance and obedience of their children, and others that they knew were going astray.

I can truly say that, "**Somebody prayed for me!**" I was 16 and pregnant - on my way to Texas with a young man who did not have a mind to work and had turned me



against my parents. In my "young mind", I was determined to get an after school job. I could get some money to make the trip and then break the news to my parents that I

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*"Because of this one woman's obedience to share the Gospel with me, God totally redirected my life and changed my heart, which ultimately changed my mind and way of thinking."*

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was expecting and did not need their help to take care of my baby. I would be responsible for my own child. (My older sister had 2 children out of wedlock and I knew how they had to help her support her children).

I got a job cleaning a lady's house that kept children in her home. Before I could do anything in her house, she sat me down and read the Bible to me each day. At first I wondered, "What have I gotten myself into?" Soon I was hearing things that pertained to my life. I could not believe that the Bible was so plain to understand and how it knew all about me. I found out about fornication and God's grace.

*(Continued on page 3)*





## Summer Camp is Coming!

Join in with us as we strive to ...



**Change Minds**



**Change Hearts**



**Change Lives**

Through the **Love** and  
**Word of God**

### *Sponsor a Child/Job Trainer/Camp Teacher for Summerhill Community Ministries, Inc. - Camp 2007*

With summer quickly approaching, children in Summerhill, Peoplestown, Mechanicsville, and Grant Park will be in need of constructive activities. With your help these children can participate in SCM's Inc. Summer Camp.

Our camp is a quality, God centered camp where the young people can learn the Bible, receive love and encouragement from staff and caring volunteers, and participate in enrichment

activities and trips. In the past years, many children have prayed to receive Christ into their lives.

Please consider giving a special gift to one of our urban youth this summer by sponsoring them for camp.

While we ask the parents to contribute \$50.00 to send their

child to camp, the actual cost is \$350.00 per child for the seven weeks. You can sponsor a child for one week for \$50.00, for the whole summer for \$350.00, or with any amount you wish to give.

Volunteers are also needed to provide meals, snacks, chaperone trips, and teach enrichment activities.

**Above all, we need your prayers!**

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I learned about sin and it broke my heart to know that I had sinned against God. It amazed me more when I found out how and why Jesus died for me. I was convicted and felt this sense of being loved and cared for like never before.

After a few weeks, this lady invited me to church and I remember sitting on the back row. My ears were wide open as the sermon came forth. I heard that **I was forgiven**. I remember sitting there praying and confessing sins to the Lord. I said over and over, "I'm sorry Lord, I'm sorry." I was crying uncontrollably at this point. I knew there were other people in the church, but I was drawn into a feeling of it just being God and me. I knew in my heart I was forgiven. Once able to speak, I prayed the prayer of salvation, and confessed Jesus as my personal Savior and Lord of my life.

Because of this one woman's obedience to share the gospel with me, God totally redirected my life and changed my heart, which ultimately changed my mind and way of thinking.

Each of us has our testimony of how we met God. At some point, someone shared the Word of God with you. We are also called to share the Word with others, and to



Serving lunch at Summerhill Camp

be a witness of the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, Can you make a difference? **YES YOU CAN!**

There will be more "bad things" that will happen in this world. Yet God is calling us to witness. Help

us share the gospel and provide a safe, positive, fun filled camp for 65 children and teen workers this summer.

*Justina Dix*



Summerhill Camp at Centennial Park

## Summer Camp June 11th - July 27th

YES, I want to volunteer this summer \_\_\_\_\_

(area of interest)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ YES, please mail me the newsletter

YES, save postage and EMAIL the newsletter to me at:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes, I want to sponsor a Child/Job Trainer/Camp Teacher for Camp!**

\$ 50.00 One Week       \$1,800.00 Job Trainer  
 \$ 350.00 All Summer       \$2,200.00 Camp Teacher  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Checks should be made out to "**Summerhill Community Ministries**" with "**Summer Camp**" specified in the memo line. All donations are tax deductible

## Back at Summerhill

Coming back to Summerhill is something I have looked forward to for almost a year. After working and living in Summerhill for almost four years some very deep and lasting relationships were formed that I hope will last forever. Since I last came to Atlanta I have talked with several of the children I used to work with and have kept in touch with Justina, but nothing is better than being face to face with the people you love and miss.

However, there is also the issue of change. A lot has changed since I worked with the kids in the after-school program. Monday, April 9th, was the first day I was back in Summerhill and I have to admit I was so excited to see all the familiar faces I used to know and love. My first thought when I walked in was, "Who are these kids?". And, my next thought was, "Where are all the kids I used to know so well?". I was in shock, and also a little sad. Then I realized that most of the kids I knew had grown up, moved to different grades or were no longer in the program.

When two of my former kids raced up to give me hugs life was much better, but I still had to deal with all of the new faces. I went to sleep that night wondering what the rest of the week would be like, but I was determined to make the most of my time in Summerhill.

The next day the new kids I had met the day before greeted me as if they had known me as long as any of the others had. That day I set out to try to learn all of their names, so then I could call on them during devotions and throughout the day. God worked in such a beautiful way during the week! He never ceases



Jennifer & Justina with the Summerhill after school gang.

to surprise and wow me! Not only did I have some very special time with the children I used to work with, but many new relationships were also developed. The last day I was with the kids many of my new friends asked me if I really had to leave and told me they wished I could I stay. I received many hugs and have some great memories of my week in Summerhill.

I see now how the Lord worked through my disappointment to give me more than I ever asked or imagined. I hope you will get to experience the great work that our Savior is doing in the lives of the very precious children in Summerhill. I know you won't be disappointed!

*Jennifer Brumfield*

**SCM Honor  
Students to be  
announced in our  
next issue.**

**Summerhill is  
in need of  
someone with  
accounting  
skills.**