

Redeemer Community Partnership

UPDATE

South Central Los Angeles

May 2007



When Justice and Peace Kiss

An evening of original poetry, music, and rap

Family members, friends and church folk crowded into the small theater. Every seat was filled and every wall lined with people. The show opened with drumbeats and poetry as two dancers portrayed the contrasting personas of Justice and Peace. The dancers returned to the stage twice, gradually moving toward one another, synchronizing their movements.

Between dances we heard teenage performers express personal longings for Justice and Peace in their lives, their friendships, their neighborhood... even their fast food establishments. Adult mentors came alongside them with vocal harmony, percussion and instrumental accompaniment. The result was a stirring, sometimes startling, expression of Psalm 85.

There's too many Burger
Kings in our hood
Even though I know I
think's it's so good.
They put so much grease
on their fries
I stopped eating them
because I might die.
People keep eating it cuz
it's so good
But just cuz they eat it,
they shouldn't put it
in our hood.



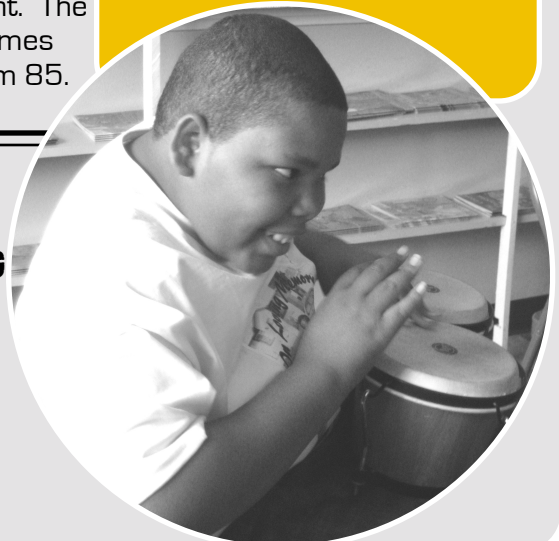
**Fast food hamburgers are
not healthy
Just another corporation
feedin' the wealthy
Not allowed no input on
the cards God dealt me
But the schemes with the
burgers in the hood is
just stealthy.**

(from *Fast Food*, by Phillip Crouch, Shaquille Rodriguez and Jedd Bloom)

PSALM 85:10-12

**LOVE AND TRUTH MEET IN THE STREET, RIGHT LIVING AND WHOLE LIVING
EMBRACE AND KISS! TRUTH SPROUTS GREEN FROM THE GROUND, RIGHT
LIVING POURS DOWN FROM THE SKIES! OH YES! GOD GIVES GOODNESS
AND BEAUTY; OUR LAND RESPONDS WITH BOUNTY AND BLESSING.**

(from *The Message*, by Eugene Peterson)





SPRING 2007 PROJECTS

MARCH 4TH - 18TH

Six performances of Streetlamp Studio's first original play called **Table Setting**. The second one happened free of charge in Richard and Anna's living room.

APRIL 14TH & 21ST

Rehearsals for **When Justice and Peace Kiss**.

APRIL 27TH & 28TH

Two performances of **When Justice and Peace Kiss** at Occidental College and the Lucy Florence Coffeehouse in Leimert Park.

MAY 11TH

Jenny Hall's twins are born. Welcome to the neighborhood Tyler and Lucy!

I sit I look
I let time pass me by
Thinking open
Letting my thoughts drift
off
As I ask myself, Why?
Why have I sinned?
And why have I been put in
this position?
I ask God for an answer.
Wondering and wandering
Are no longer apart of me.
So now I sit I look
I energize my power
I think the unimaginable
But above all I know who
God is.

(from *Sean's Song*, by Sean Hartley)



from left to right: Jenny Hall, Anna Klein, Malika Williams, and John Negrete

What if churches were creating the most innovative, provocative and interesting art in Los Angeles?

Could youth and adults in South Central Los Angeles collaborate on shows that redemptively portray the issues they are dealing with? Could this theatre reach out to spiritual seekers throughout LA and beyond? These questions brought together the talented troupe of writers/performers you see pictured above.

Jenny Hall, Malika Williams, Anna Klein, and John Negrete founded **Streetlamp Studio** this Fall. Their vision is to weave together life in the city and biblical themes to make art that challenges, inspires and provokes. Jenny Hall, who leads the team, lives just down the street from Manual Arts High School where most of our neighborhood teens attend. She envisions "a movement of well-disciplined, theologically savvy artists investing their lives in the mentoring of urban youth."

Streetlamp Studio sought out partnership with RCP so they could pursue their work in the context of other vital ministries...tutoring, block club organizing, youth group activities, worship and discipleship. RCP, working with Church of the Redeemer, will be the extended family of faith that surrounds Streetlamp Studio's ministry.

We are thrilled to welcome Jenny and her crew into our ministry!



Sean & Rajeev

The heart of our own vision is to help people find where God's story and their own story intersect. Creative arts are one of the most powerful vehicles we know of for this work of the Spirit.

Please pray with us that the Streetlamp Studio mustard seed will grow into a mighty tree!

I have lived in the very heart of God
since before time began, long before
the earth and man were created.

I am no respecter of persons.
I cannot be bribed, persuaded,
manipulated or deceived...

I am the hope of the
fatherless and motherless,
the widow, the crippled,
the crushed the oppressed,
those without voice, money or means....

I am the mercy of God. I am JUSTICE!

(excerpts from *Justice*, by John Negrete)



Before justice and peace kiss
They get nervous and start to sweat
They'll sit, think, and ponder if it is
Something they'll regret

Not knowing what they have is something
Special from above
Yet that special thing that they
Have is a thing called love

(from *When Justice and Peace Kiss* by Damion
Horsely)

I swaddled the world before it began.
Inside of me, the colors rose
and took shape.
Birthed forward by a power that sang
"Let there be"

My song drowns out the broken beats where
Loneliness and violence meet,
Of war and pain in ghetto streets,
Polluted air and earth and sea

And I
I call back into harmony
Words that tear and tears that tire
the soul of creatures created
to live as it was
In the beginning.
SHALOM.

(excerpts from *Peace*, by Jenny Hall)

How you can help!

Volunteer Opportunities

Become a **Reading Buddy** and read
weekly with an Adventures Ahead
student.

Contact Lauren at:
(323) 733-6173
lauren@tigrett.com

Donation Opportunities

- ★ School supplies (pencils, erasers,
notebook paper, markers, etc.)
- ★ Prizes for our prize shelf!

Giving Opportunities

Partner with us by:

- ★ Giving a one-time gift or becoming
a monthly donor.
- ★ Sponsoring a child for one
semester--\$150

See the enclosed envelope for more details.

Please pray for...

- May 19 - June 16: Lauren Tigrett, director of Adventures Ahead, will spend four weeks attending Spanish language school in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. Pray for safety, successful language-learning and a good relationship with her host family.
- June 24 - June 30: "Vacation to LA" 15-20 members of Pasadena Covenant Church will spend a week painting a house, spiffing up the tutoring center and running after-school activities for kids.
- July 2 - August 3: The Adventures Ahead Summer Program. 8 interns from Pomona College and CSULA will run a 5 day/week special session with extra activities, projects and field trips.
- From now to September: Funding for next year's programs. We were just awarded a \$14,250 grant for Adventures Ahead. We are waiting on a second proposal to fund block club organizing.

Engine House No. 18 Update

An update from Richard Parks

Last March we learned that we would need to find a new home for RCP's programs as the owners of our current building prepared to sell the property. About this time we learned that the City of Los Angeles was going to sell a historic fire station in the heart of our community.

So for the past 12 months we have prayerfully explored the possibility of acquiring Engine House No. 18. Our hope is to convert it to a community center, performing arts theatre and new home for Church of the Redeemer, the church plant that grew out of our neighborhood ministry four years ago. In November our board voted to embark upon a three-year capital campaign to raise \$2 million to acquire the building, renovate it and to expand our current programs.

On March 5th the City released a competitive request for proposals to buy the building for \$860,000. Our board rolled up their sleeves and went to work!

I am delighted to share that that we have received a \$430,000 matching grant to acquire Engine House No. 18! We are so thankful for this gift which will cover half the acquisition cost. In addition, we have received \$140,000 in gifts and donations since December.

A redeemer is one who rescues or saves, literally, one who pays another's debt. Over the past few months a number of redeemers have come forward and so encouraged us with their love and a desire to see transformation in our corner of South Central L.A.

We are so grateful for all who have helped launch this effort. As we continue to look for redeemers on behalf of the children and youth in our community there are three ways you can get involved:

- 1) **Acquisition and Renovation Redeemers** who will either contribute to the purchase and renovation of Engine House No. 18 or make a 0% interest loan (see response card for details).
- 2) **Monthly Redeemers** these are donors who keep the doors of our programs open with their monthly giving.
- 3) **Redeemer Friend-Raisers** who host an event with friends to learn about RCP and the Engine House vision or invite people you know to COME AND SEE what the Lord is doing here in our neighborhood.

Over the last several weeks more than 30 residents have circulated petitions door-to-door to gather community support for our proposal. Neighbors have warmly received us. People who probably would not say "hi" on the street have invited me into their homes and rounded up family members to sign once they learned what we hoped to do. My favorite story, however, unfolded as my wife Anna approached a tough looking character on our street. He was eager to sign but his hands were full. Anna offered to hold something for him. He juggled things for a moment then gave up and handed her a plastic bag saying, "Here, hold my weed."

Please join us in praying for God's provision as we seek to transform our neighborhood. To God be the glory...great things he has done!



Engine House No. 18

Come & See!

Tour our neighborhood and
tutoring center
Saturday, June 9,
from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

R.S.V.P. to Richard at
(323) 377-9686

YET THEIR REDEEMER IS STRONG; THE LORD ALMIGHTY IS HIS NAME.

HE WILL VIGOROUSLY DEFEND THEIR CAUSE SO THAT HE MAY BRING REST TO THEIR LAND.

JEREMIAH 50:34