

ADVENTURES AHEAD EXPANSION

Recently, the National Bureau of Economic Research touted, "The Impressive Effects of Tutoring on PreK-12 Learning", noting that even lightly trained volunteers drive academic gains. This affirms what we have seen over 25 years of tutoring children in our community.

As we emerge from a year of online learning and fully grasp its devastating effects on low-income students, helping children recover academically must become a national priority. Our Adventures Ahead students have maintained their literacy growth during the pandemic, averaging almost 1.5 years of literacy advancement in the last 12 months. Our simple routines and methods, developed over years of trial and error, offer the educational vaccine our students need. While so many local children are losing ground, our students have pressed forward. We know we are stewarding a resource that hundreds more families could benefit from.

Therefore, we are working to put all of Adventures Ahead's curriculum and administrative resources online.

We hope that churches and nonprofits who want to start tutoring programs can use what we've learned to quickly ramp up their efforts. Please join us in praying that this resource will reach the churches and communities who need it, and that many children will recover what has been lost to fully realize their God given potential.

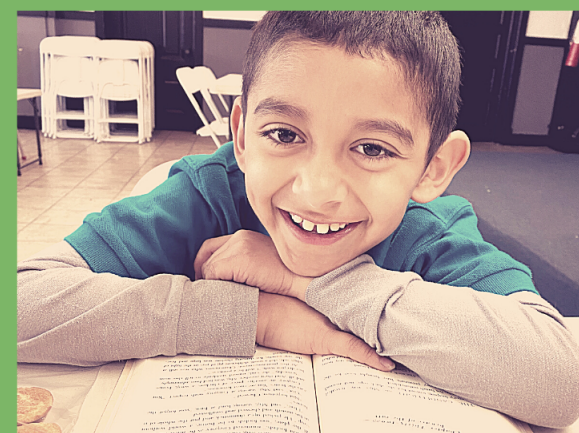
Like David, we may look rather small next to these giants, but past victories remind us that we do not face these challenges alone. Indeed, Immanuel, God with us, walks with us on this journey. He animates our joy and wonder along the way as mountains move and we become something of a new creation, a beloved community that welcomes justice, beauty, peace and goodness into our neighborhoods, even as it is in heaven.

In all of this we are so grateful to be on the journey with you. May you know the joy of Immanuel, God with us, this Christmas.

Richard

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT FOR 2021!

A wonderful sign of God's love and provision this season is a challenge gift made by a couple who volunteer with Redeemer Community Partnership. They have offered to match new monthly pledges made for 2021 up to \$20,000! You can see their hearts in this. They love being part of the work of RCP and want to expand the base of those who share deeply in these efforts. If you would like to become one of our "waymakers", check the box on the response card and your monthly gift will be doubled in 2021.



Some victories are so startling that they capture our imagination and alter our sense of what is possible. Our local PBS station, KCET, recently memorialized our community's improbable victory over a big oil company. In the documentary *Power & Health* they framed it in terms of David vs. Goliath. The show ends with a view of the Los Angeles Times headline announcing the Jefferson Drill Site's closure and the voice over declares, "And David won!"

Jesus tells us that with faith the size of a mustard seed we can say to a mountain, "Be moved" and it will move. In the drill site's closing he moved a mountain, one that ironically was owned by a company named Sentinel Peak.

The story of David and Goliath has been memorialized in scripture to give us hope and courage for the large challenges that inevitably rise up before us. Strengthened by the memory of his improbable victory over Goliath, David went on to face ever larger threats with courage and faith. Likewise, the experience of vanquishing an oil company with a \$38 billion market capitalization has strengthened our community's courage and faith for the bigger challenges that we now face.



DRILL SITE REDEVELOPMENT

Last year we convened neighbors to ask what they would like to see the Jefferson Drill Site become. The response was a park, housing, and a community center. This was a bit audacious because we do not have millions of dollars to acquire and develop the site. But prayerfully, we began to share this vision with those who had talents, relationships, and resources to bring such a vision to fruition. A beautiful partnership is beginning to take root.

MURPHY DRILL SITE

Having vanquished one neighborhood drill site, we have turned our attention to the last remaining drill site located in our densely populated neighborhood. We have spent the year documenting a history of regulatory failure that has put residents in peril for decades. Methane becomes explosive at 50,000 parts per million (ppm). Inspectors found a 1.6 million ppm leak which resulted in no notice of violation. We have uncovered regulatory papers confirming that the oil company abandoned radioactive material at the drill site. We have photographed tens of thousands of gallons of toxic chemicals and acids being brought to the site and pumped into the ground. The warning labels are chilling. For example, Surfatron DQ-86 has a label that reads, "DANGER. Harmful if inhaled. Damages fertility and the unborn child". Success putting one drill site on the path to closure and cleanup has given us the courage, faith and hope to take on a second.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



In 2016 we won \$6 million in State funding to implement a safe route to school project in our neighborhood. Next year the City will break ground on this transformative project repairing sidewalks and adding bike lanes, pedestrian lighting, street trees, and signalized pedestrian crossings. This past year we worked with the City to submit an \$18 million proposal to transform a second high injury boulevard, Normandie Ave. If funded, this project will create safe routes to school for 9,000 students attending 13 local schools. We will learn the result of that competition in spring 2021.

As the City of Los Angeles prepares to host the Olympic Games in 2028 we have wondered how infrastructure created for this short-term event could provide long term benefits to our neighbors. Thousands of athletes and spectators will be passing through our community, with major housing and competition venues right up the street.

Prayerfully, we approached the City and asked if they would prioritize an ambitious six mile active transportation project in our community. If built, it would create 30 miles of protected bike lanes and connect South Los Angeles residents to the

regions' two major job centers in coastal communities and downtown LA. It would repair vast stretches of sidewalks so our neighbors in wheelchairs could navigate sidewalks safely instead of rolling into a dangerous blvd. Thousands of children could walk, skate or bike to school more safely.

Neither of our past projects compare in scope and complexity with the 2028 Olympic River to Rail Connector. It is Goliath on steroids. However, we have already seen some encouraging signs. Recently, the City agreed to elevate this project as a priority noting that it would fill an important gap in the City's network. The victories we have already experienced encourage us that our small daily efforts and mustard-seed-sized faith can produce surprising results.

