

Redeemer Community Partnership

UPDATE

South Central Los Angeles

Summer 2005

V2LA: Vacation to L.A.

Shoreline Covenant
April 2005



This April, a team of 29 people from Shoreline Covenant Church near Seattle took a "vacation" to South Central Los Angeles, joining us for a week of service, fellowship, and lots of fun. They lived in homes around the community, ate at local restaurants, and shared in the hope and vision that God has for our city. They came armed with some pretty impressive skills and a strong desire to work, but even more impressive were their servant hearts, their humble postures, and their obvious love for God and neighbor.

While in college, I participated in several mission trips, and each one brought me to a new understanding of God, His heart for the poor, and His purposes for the world. But this was my first time on the "other side" of a mission project.

Hosting a volunteer group is a pretty daunting task, and in the midst of all the organizing, I experienced a deep longing to see our group changed by their experience. But I quickly learned, that this is not something you can create or control. It can only happen

through the power and grace of a divine and holy God.

While we felt incredibly blessed to have access to the elementary school facilities, working within the public school system posed its challenges. There were surprise scheduling conflicts with our facilities. Many of our kids had to get special releases from another program in order to continue with our camps. And every day one hundred grade schoolers had to be led off campus so that they could participate in Bible skits and songs.

But when all was said and done, we knew that God's hand had been in it all. We had a great opportunity to invest in our public schools. We had strong teacher support with teachers requesting fliers to pass out to their students for the next time around. We had grateful parents and happy kids. And we had 29 people return home with new friendships, new stories to tell, and new expressions of God's love.

What a truly memorable missions experience!

Lauren Tigrett
Adventures Ahead Director



In the mornings, the team hung drywall, installed new lighting and repainted our tutoring center. They also did projects in the homes of community residents.

Each afternoon they led sports and dance camps on the campus of 24th St. Elementary School. Over 100 children participated each day!



On the last day of camps, they helped Church of the Redeemer throw a huge community picnic for all of the participating kids and their families.



Volunteer Opportunities

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

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

Donation Opportunities

We are in need of :

- A web designer!
- Educational CD ROMs for 4th-6th grade students.
- School supplies (notebook paper, spirals, paints, etc.)

Giving Opportunities

- Give a one-time gift or become a monthly donor.
- Sponsor a child.

See the enclosed envelope for more details.

Summer Activities

July 5 - August 5, 2005
Adventures Ahead Summer Program with the Los Angeles Urban Project
Please pray for us during this time.

Adventures Ahead Awards Ceremony

We wanted to try something new this year to commemorate the Adventures Ahead students and their achievements. Instead of holding our annual awards ceremony at the tutoring center, we brought the celebration to a Sunday service of Church of the Redeemer, a local church that supports the program. Many families came, and it was a great time for all involved.

Our teachers passed out awards to each of their students and expressed a unique quality that child offered the rest of the class. A special moment took place when Pastor Danny Martinez walked along in front of the line of children and prayed for them. The whole congregation extended their hands in prayer, and the families could see that their children are supported by more than just a few individuals who read with them week to week. They are supported by a entire church congregation dedicated to serving them and the neighborhood they are growing up in.

*Mercy and Truth have met together.
Righteousness and Peace have kissed.
Psalm 85:10*



THANK YOU!

We want to thank **Shoreline Covenant Church** for all of the joy they shared with our neighborhood and for the new life they brought to our tutoring center facilities. Thanks **Sean Fleming** for your leadership, grace, and humor during a hectic but beautiful week! And thank you to **24th Street Elementary School** and principal **Grace Yoon** for hosting our after school camps.

Thank you, also, to everyone in our community who opened up their homes (and their lives) to host our volunteers for the week. We're grateful for your service!

Thank you **Jennifer and Guy Vantrease Kinnear** for your generous donation of an air conditioner. We can now look forward to the hot summer months ahead of us!

Thank you **Diane Woods** for your time and energy in helping us with much needed development research and support!

A special thank you to **Kimberly Sielen** for the four years of service that you poured into the Adventures Ahead program and for the love you showed to a countless number of kids. You were their teacher, mentor, and friend, and it was a blessing to have your partnership in the ministry. Congratulations on graduating!!

Thank you to the **Center for Student Missions (CSM)** for equipping us with volunteer support for the 2004-2005 school year. The extra help always came at the perfect time! And thank you to all of the students who participated in CSM. You were a blessing beyond measure!

Thank you to **USC** for a 2005-2006 Neighborhood Outreach grant!

And finally, we want to send out a huge thank you to *all* of our supporters for your partnership in making Adventures Ahead possible. May God bless every one of you.

