



Redeemer Community Partnership



UPDATE

South Central Los Angeles

December 2005

Raze Raise the Gates!

In the course of church planting Anna and I have knocked on a lot of doors in our community, getting the word out and inviting neighbors to church. Generally the reception is polite but cool and there is little or no opportunity for further relationship. I have persisted, but I find the exercise tiresome. Recently, however, my neighbors Clifton, Manuel and I have had a very different door-to-door experience.

The alley behind our homes has become a dark passageway for gang members and taggers, drug dealers and users, as well as prostitutes and their "Johns". The alley is routinely used for illicit sexual encounters, smoking crack, selling dope, urination, defecation, illegal dumping, and graffiti. We commonly find used condoms, drug paraphernalia, abandoned cars, furniture and all manner of trash. Over the last year burglars invaded Clifton's and Manuel's homes while others were present, entering through the alley. In short it is a magnet for criminal activity and a danger to residents, especially our children.

As the three of us went door-to-door together listening to neighbor's concerns and asking if they would like to work together to gate the alley we were welcomed warmly into homes. We spent significant time talking with our neighbors and developing new friendships. My friendships with Clifton and Manuel have also deepened as we worked to secure funding and now engage a cumbersome bureaucratic process.

Interestingly, Clifton is a Muslim and Manuel does not attend church. I have found again and again that addressing felt needs first opens the door to talk about real needs. I love meeting people on these terms and getting to know them in the course of working on something larger. Invariably, sharing



Christ in the context of friendship comes more naturally and often meets greater openness.

The Old Testament prophets describe the kingdom of God with vivid imagery—lions and lambs lying down together, swords beaten into plowshares; when I pray for the kingdom to come into our neighborhood I often envision the demise of ugly fences, security bars and metal doors. So I find it ironic that I am trying to build community by erecting more gates. But I remember that Jerusalem's rebirth once had its roots in the reconstruction of its wall. My hope is that this human effort to bring peace to our alley will prepare the way for our neighbors to meet the Prince of Peace himself.

He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found!

Joyfully,

Financial Update

We give thanks for all of you who have made the ministry of Redeemer Community Partnership possible over this past year. On June 30th we ended the fiscal year with a positive balance that will help us take on new insurance responsibilities in the coming year. THANK YOU!

<u>2004-2005 Budget</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
Income		
Grants	\$22,000	57%
Individuals	11,005	29%
Churches	4,636	12%
Non-profits & Corporations	525	1%
Registration Fees & Other	231	1%
Total Income	\$38,397	100%
Expenses		
Program staff and materials	33,739	95%
Newsletters and postage	985	3%
Overhead	724	2%
Total Expenses	\$35,448	100%

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 desperately need the assistance of a web designer!
- ☛ A vacuum cleaner!
- ☛ 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 for one year, \$500.

See the enclosed envelope for more details.



SPECIAL THANKS



We would like to send a very special thank you to the following people:

Peggy Moore who generously handles our payroll calculations and reporting!

Tom and Rose Roark for their incredible generosity!

The **USC Neighborhood Outreach** for a beautiful color laser printer!

Kimberly Sielen, Donna Martinez, Jason Batten, Justin Chao, and Jaclyn Pazos, our teachers for the fall semester. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the kids!

The **RCP Board of Directors** for their vision, guidance, and love for this community. Thank you for everything that you do!

And we want to wish everyone a happy holiday season.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

