Hope enrolled in Adventures Ahead in September. She was supposed to be heading to second-grade, but was held back. On every measure of reading she scored below kindergarten level. At school, Hope's teacher said she was so far behind that it wasn't possible to predict whether she would be ready for second-grade next year. She hated going to school, she hated her teacher, she hated doing homework. She threw prolonged temper tantrums each morning when it was time to get ready for school.

However, when she came to Adventures Ahead, she could barely wait for the car to stop moving before grabbing up all her things and bursting through the door. She made slow progress with her sight words and her phonics, but she pushed each day.

Every student at Adventures Ahead takes home a book on their level everyday. Kids who read at Hope's level can't read independently, but we hope that someone in their family will read with them, or that they spend time getting into the pictures and the words. After weeks of being read to, Hope discovered she could read the book. She kept that book and she practiced each day. One night, Hope's sister overheard her reading. In shock, she grabbed a phone and started to take a video midway through the book to memorialize the moment. Her sister didn't believe she was capable of reading like that.

Hope showed that video to everyone she met for the next two weeks. She also refused to bring the book, "Chicken, Chicken, Duck," back to Adventures Ahead. We were able to give Hope her own copy, which she often takes into her bed with her at night.

Last week, Hope's teacher at school seemed to think that the progress that was made in two short months was fairly miraculous. Hope has a ways to go, but she's made incredible gains and is on track to go to second grade. Hope's oldest sister cannot yet read. She worries about her inability to read signs and forms, get and keep a good job, and how she will help her child with homework someday. Because of your partnership, those are uncertainties that Hope will not have to face.

That one book made all the difference to this one child. You could put that book into a child's hand.

This Christmas you can share hope with the families of South LA. Your tax deductible year end gift will help us reach more families with life-changing literacy. We will send you a handmade ornament to remind you to pray for South LA, as a token of thanks.

Thank you for all you do for the families in South LA!

Looking for ways to get involved?

Give!

Give a tax deductible gift before December 31st and you will receive a handmade ornament

Volunteer!

Volunteer as a one-on-one Reading Buddy for those who live in the LA area, or find out how you can bring a group for a weekend or week-long service trip.

Contact Lisa at lisa@redeemercp.org or Lauren at lauren@redeemercp.org

Pray!

If you would like to receive regular prayer updates contact Lisa at lisa@redeemercp.org or use the QR code below:

Hope in South L.A.
Find out how you can spread some hope to families in South Los Angeles this Christmas season
A Winning Season: Lego Robotics Update

Our team didn’t take home a trophy this year, but the experience continues to be invaluable for our young students.

If we judged our robotics seasons on awards won, this year would be a disappointment. But even without the accolades, this was a winning season for our team and for two 4th grade boys in particular it was a chance to feel individual success - something that they haven’t experienced much in school.

Just two years ago, both boys were reading well below grade level. This put them significantly behind academically. Shame and fear had built up in them over time, though they responded to it differently. One continued to be a diligent worker, but shied away from the spotlight, spoke up little in class, and moved very slowly though each homework assignment. The other often acted out, frequently got into arguments with other kids, and would hide his homework around the room claiming that his teacher had not assigned any.

This fall they were both introduced to the Lego NXT robots for the first time. In just a couple of months, the boy who used to shrink back every time you asked him a question rose to become a leader in our robot rounds showing a steady hand, attention to detail, quick thinking, and coolness under pressure.

The other who would get in fights because he felt stupid, programmed one of our more complicated missions. It took awhile but when he finally got it to work, he pumped his fist in the air with an emphatic “YES!” As long as kids are learning to overcome fears, being challenged to think critically, and discovering their own gifts in math and