

REDEEMER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



WE'VE MOVED!



After 27 years on Jefferson Blvd., we moved to a new location on Adams Blvd. The sale of our previous location necessitated the move. The new landlord made it clear he wanted to move in a new direction, possibly converting our tutoring center to an art gallery. In the face of rent increase threats and forced closure of the tutoring program for repairs we looked for a new space. Thankfully, the First AME Zion church opened their doors to Redeemer. We are grateful for the Lord providing a larger, more affordable space, and an opportunity to expand our partnerships in the community.



“When nothing seems to help, I go look at a stonecutter hammering away at his rock, perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred and first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not that blow that did it, but all that had gone before.”

—Jacob Riis

Eighty-five percent of students who enter Adventures Ahead are reading below grade level. Many have already experienced the frustration of struggling to keep up just to watch themselves fall further behind. During the summer, it can be even more difficult to maintain an attitude of work, especially when friends, neighbors, and cousins are playing video games, watching cartoons, and going to the beach.

So we try to make our summer program as engaging as possible. This year, our interns came from UCLA, UCI, and Cal Poly SLO to lead the students in reading, art, and science lessons. We studied the geosphere with edible models, bubbly volcanoes, and jello earthquakes. We painted brightly colored landscapes and made geometric art. We joined the Los Angeles Public Library's reading challenge, and we also learned how to skip count by 6s, 9s, and 12s. In the midst of it all, we practiced reading skills.

By the end of our four weeks together, two thirds of our students demonstrated clear increases in fluency and comprehension, but a third did not see their reading level change. And yet, the daily work they put in—reading leveled books, answering comprehension questions, justifying their answers with text evidence, writing down unfamiliar words, drilling flash cards, practicing fluency—was another blow to the stone. On the last day, we celebrated everyone's accomplishments with water games, cake and ice cream, and a piñata. **We know it's only a matter of time before the stone splits in two.**

The Beginning of the End

Work has begun to abandon and cleanup the toxic Jefferson Drill Site which had poisoned our community for more than 50 years. Recently, we hosted a community meeting to surface residents' vision for a redeveloped site. Open park space, affordable housing, and a community center topped this list. Prayerfully, we are sowing the seeds of this vision. Please join us in asking the God who moves mountains (and an oil company named Sentinel Peak!) to redeem this drill site into a place of beauty and joy for the glory of Him who redeems all that is dark and broken in our lives and communities.



MAKE NORMANDIE BEAUTIFUL

In Los Angeles, 6% of streets account for 65% of severe injuries and deaths. Two of these "High Injury Network" boulevards crisscross our community making a child's bike ride or walk to school especially dangerous. Redeemer wrote a successful \$6 million grant proposal to the California Transportation Commission to transform one of those streets, Jefferson Blvd., into a safe route to school. Next summer work will begin repairing sidewalks, planting

trees, installing pedestrian lighting and new crossing signals as well as protected bike lanes.

Recently, the City asked Redeemer to take the lead on addressing safety on the second dangerous boulevard, Normandie Ave. Normandie Ave. was a flash point for the LA Civil Unrest in 1992. Little has changed since then. Make Normandie Beautiful will be an opportunity to reimagine the boulevard as a safe and vital thoroughfare and entryway to South Central Los Angeles. Over the coming months we will lead Walk & Roll audits, workshops, youth photography projects, tree planting days, and community cleanups. We will even test ideas with temporary infrastructure. It is all part of a plan to write a second grant for the City to build safer, healthier streets. There is no High Injury Network in heaven, so in the spirit of praying "your Kingdom come, your will be done in neighborhood as it is in heaven", we view this as Kingdom infrastructure!



Walk & Roll Audit: neighbors gather to vision for a safer and more beautiful Normandie Ave., one that thoughtfully accommodates all residents.