

Redeemer Community Partnership UPDATE

South Central Los Angeles

August 2006

Summer Program 2006



108 popsicles for kids
to keep cool on hot
summer days
...\$15



One bus to drive
families to the beach
on a Sunday
afternoon
...\$300

On July 5, thirty-six kids filed into the tutoring center, many of them eager to meet their summer teachers and catch up with old friends. But most were new to the program, looking slightly hesitant to leave their parents' side and join this group of strangers. However, by the end of the program, all the children celebrated with hugs and tears, sad that the summer was ending and not quite ready to say good-bye.

A summer having fun
with new friends
...priceless.



Meeting Timothy

By Elliot Ling

God did some amazing things this summer to remind us of his heart for the youth in our neighborhood.

At the first youth group meeting, I brought two of the interns Tiff and Jared to help lead our meeting. After the study, the two were discouraged and disturbed to say the least. Few of the youth engaged in the study at all; many tagged on marker boards and cups the whole time and the others either

offered up rude comments or listened to rap music blaring out of headphones. After sharing the experience with the rest of our team, we decided to fast and intercede for the remaining youth group times in hope that God would move.

A week and a half later, Jared, Tiff and I went to play basketball and ran into several young men from the neighborhood. After earning some respect by soundly winning all the games, we ended up inviting a pair of them to join the youth group. While one of the young men did everything he could to come up with an excuse as to

why he would be otherwise occupied, the other young man named Timothy jumped at the opportunity. He insisted that I call him Wednesday to pick him up and even asked if he could bring a friend. It was quite the exciting moment! Not only did this young man seem genuinely excited at the chance to come to youth group, and not only was he interested in bringing one of his friends, but this would be the first time in my two-year tenure that an African American male would be joining our youth group.

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Would you like to learn more about RCP?

Come and See!

Tour our neighborhood and tutoring center
Saturday, September 23, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

R.S.V.P. to Richard at (323) 377-9686

How you can help!

Volunteer Opportunities!

- ★ Reading Buddy to read weekly with an Adventures Ahead student.
- ★ Teach a class of 6 for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Contact Lauren at:

(323) 733-6173

lauren@tigrett.com

Donation Opportunities

- ★ We are badly in need of a copier! - \$300
- ★ Books for 4th-6th grade students
- ★ School supplies and prizes for our prize shelf!

Giving Opportunities

Partner with us by:

- ★ Giving a one-time gift or becoming a monthly donor.
- ★ Sponsoring a child for one semester--\$150

See the enclosed envelope for more details.

Prayer Requests

30 Reading Buddies

3 new teachers

Financial support as we work to replace USC's
\$22,000/year grant

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Wednesday rolled around and everything went as planned – Timothy got our call, got ready for youth group, and came with a friend to our Bible study. Most of the guys who regularly attend our youth group, for one reason or another, were not able to make it. So we ended up with a potentially awkward set of Bible study participants: 2 Latina youth and two African-American youth – different races, different genders.

But the Lord was at work and what unfolded was one of the most beautiful, exciting and engaging youth group Bible studies that I have been apart of. Tim was so engrossed in our study of Joshua 6 and 7 that he asked if he could circle words he didn't understand and ask me about them after the study. At different points, he'd prod his friend Devon to share and answer questions. By study's end, Tim voiced his disappointment that "you guys only do this once a week!" Even the two Latina girls seemed more comfortable than ever.

I'm excited for how God was at work in our interactions over the summer and look forward to how the work will continue in the fall. Tim seems eager to bring along other friends to the study and really learn what it means to be in a relationship with Jesus. That, and God has given my faith a shot in the arm. Tim is a powerful reminder of how God is at work in our neighborhood youth!

Elliot lives in the neighborhood, co-leads our youth group and directed our interns' summer experience.

"...You guys only do this once a week!"

THANK YOU!

A very special thank you to **Elliot Ling, Briana Guzman, Jen Huang, Nancy Vera, Tiffany Chu, and Jared Warner**, our college interns who taught our summer classes. You guys did an amazing job with the kids. Thanks for making it such a memorable summer for them!

Thank you to **Pastor Lee and the Korean United Presbyterian Church** for opening your facilities to the community this summer. It was a huge blessing to have the extra space! Thank you **Jin Lee** for your service to us!

Thank you to all the **Adventures Ahead** parents who provided us with supplies and special snacks throughout the summer!

Thank you to **Church of the Redeemer** for partnering with us to provide the kids and their families a field trip to the beach! Everyone had a great time!

Thank you to **Center for Student Missions** for sending a team to volunteer with us this summer. Thank you to the youth of **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** for reading and working with our students for a week!

Another special thank you to **Jason Batten** for volunteering with us regularly the entire summer. It is always a blessing to have you working with the kids!

