

The Rec-Connection

October 2005



Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more important, for it promises a reward in both this life and the next. 1Timothy 4:8

Mysterious Ways

James 2:14-16 "Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone. Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, and you say, "Well, goodbye and God bless you; stay warm and eat well" — but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?"

"God works in mysterious ways." A tired cliché, yes, but thought provoking nonetheless. The Bible (and maybe even your own life experiences) tells us that God never seems to answer our prayers or work in the most obvious ways. God can take the most uncommon or unqualified, and work miracles. The earthly mother of Christ was an uneducated single mother. The King of Kings was born below the lowest rung of the social ladder. Moses stuttered, Noah was an alcoholic, and Paul was a fierce tax collector whose favorite hobby was persecuting Christians. Yet all these people are heroes of the Christian faith. God took them and equipped them with what they needed to become great. The point I'm trying to make is that God will surprise you, and believe it or not, he knows what he is doing. The same holds true for the hurricane survivors. Hurricane Katrina destroyed homes, took lives, and exposed the delicate fabric that is social order. People were permanently displaced and their lives will never be the same - for some there lies the blessing. Poverty is not an easy challenge to conquer, especially generational poverty. Generally children born into a life of welfare will never know anything different and ultimately continue the cycle for their children's children.

Shortly after the hurricane hit, Christ United Methodist Church was asked to house several evacuees from New Orleans. Literally overnight we became the two-week home to 71 "guests" affected by the hurricane. They arrived with very little, and in some cases still wet from swimming to safety. The point of this article is not to discuss the events of those two weeks, but to reveal the blessing in tragedy. Like it or not, they were forced to start over. Having to find new homes, new clothes, new schools, new friends, a new chance. For a very small group, the generational cycle of poverty hopefully has been broken and the opportunity for a better life has been given...and isn't that all we can ask for?

But there is a catch... you knew there was one coming, didn't you? Turning a catastrophe into a blessing takes the hands of those willing to serve - namely, you. As our opening scripture from James stated, "What good is faith, if you have no actions?" The events of Hurricane Katrina became an opportunity for Christians to become Christ to the world. I do not want this to become a "what DID you do" issue, but a "what WILL you do" issue. Hurricane Katrina showed me personally that, regardless of the horror you see everyday on the news, people are genuinely good and have a desire to help their neighbor. It's been several weeks now and the buzz in the media has begun to fade and less attention is being paid. But that does not mean the need is gone. Even if you do not have direct access to someone affected by the hurricane, I'm willing to bet you can find someone else who is in need. Don't let it end with a single event. There is always a need in the world and it's up to you and me to be the ones that make things happen. Put your faith into action and become Christ to those who need him most.

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Featured Programs



Upward Basketball & Cheerleading

Boys & Girls Kindergarten - 6th Grade Registration has begun for the 2006 season. Space is limited and spots are going quickly. Early Registration ends October 23rd. Sign up now to take advantage of the lower price and discounts.

Deadline is November 1st.

Practices Begin: December 1st

First Game: Friday, January 6th for 5th & 6th Graders, Saturday January 7th for all other grades

Awards Night: March 3rd

A Prayer Commissioner and Awards Night Director are still needed. Contact the CLC if you are interested.

Upcoming Events

BLOCK Party
2005

October 29th

Craft Fair 9am - 6pm
Block Party Festivities 3pm - 6pm
Attractions include a climbing wall, carnival style games, hamburgers, ice cream, live music and much, much more.