

## To the Thirsty

**Commuters bustled along the 79th Street train station in Chicago.**

In that busy setting, college students from around the U.S. partnered with Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church for a day of outreach on Summer Mission (formerly Summer in the City<sup>®</sup>) with Cru<sup>®</sup>. The students gave cold, refreshing bottles of water to thirsty passersby and offered to pray with them.

One person who stopped by for prayer was a friendly young woman in her 20s named Brittany. With an eager, open spirit, she asked the students to pray for her health.

After praying for her, a Summer Mission participant, Marc, asked if

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she was interested in hearing more about God. “Yes!” she answered, “I definitely have a need for God in my life.” Her receptiveness seemed to indicate the Lord had been pursuing her heart. So, Marc shared more about God’s love with her. As they continued talking, Brittany revealed that she had tried to read the Bible in the past but had difficulty understanding it. Marc handed her a new Bible, in a more readable format, and explained how to go about reading it. By the end of the conversation, Brittany wanted to ask Jesus to be the Lord of her life!

“I’ve been wanting to connect with a church in the area,” Brittany said, “but I don’t know of any.” That day, Marc was able to introduce her to one of the deacons from Pleasant Green. The deacon helpfully arranged a ride for Brittany. That made it possible for her to attend church and grow in her new faith.

We are praising God for Brittany’s new life in Christ! Thank you for supporting college students to serve the Lord on Summer Mission. Your gifts and prayers open the door for people like Brittany to hear and respond in faith to the gospel.

Every summer, students on Summer Mission connect people like Brittany with the Bible and the message of the gospel.







# Each One Teach One

Group games, Bible lessons, crafts, homework help, and space to celebrate students' birthdays—these are just a few highlights children enjoy at after-school S.A.Y. Yes! Centers for Youth Development®. City Church of Compton hosts a S.A.Y. Yes!® Center in Los Angeles to give at-risk children a solid foundation for a successful future. They call their center “Each One Teach One.”

Maria first heard about Each One Teach One through a neighbor whose children had been participating in the same program. Then, at a taco fundraiser for the center last spring, Maria connected with Liset, the program director. God continued to draw Maria and her 7-year old son, Francis, into Christian community through Francis' attendance at City Church's summer Art Camp and other programs.

In light of the steady, consistent connections developed over time, it was no surprise when Maria enrolled Francis in Each One Teach One this past September. But what happened next was inspiring!

As Francis continued attending the after-school program, Maria would ask Liset more about God and

his love at every opportunity ... even while cheering at soccer games!

Vivi, another believer, was intentional with Maria and invited her to City Church. Maria began attending the Spanish service, and gave her life to Christ! She couldn't wait to visit Vivi the very next day to share her testimony!

Maria continues to share her heart and life with her new church and S.A.Y. Yes! community. She

openly expresses her struggles so other believers can walk with her as she raises her son and grows closer to Jesus. She continues attending the Spanish service and even volunteers on a regular basis at Each One Teach One!

Whether on the soccer field or at a taco fundraiser, the Lord works in all circumstances to redeem lives and break down walls, so that all may know Jesus! We praise God for His ongoing work in Maria's life, and for your support which helped facilitate the S.A.Y. Yes! Center that initiated her connection to the gospel and a warm Christian community!

She couldn't  
wait to share her  
testimony

# Your Investment Multiplied

**Through your generous giving**, the inner-city ministry of Cru is able to offer planning, structure, support, programs, and Compassionate Products™, such as Boxes of Love®, to our inner-city church partners. In 2017, we...



Worked with more than  
**2,000** churches in **26** cities.



Had **37,050** Gospel conversations.



Reached almost **200,000** people through  
Programming and Compassionate Products.

# A Personal Word



Milton Massie  
Co-National Director

Why does Cru® serve in the inner city? When reading the gospels, we find that Jesus' pattern of ministry often found him among castaways, the marginalized, the sick, and the forgotten. Jesus was known among his contemporaries as "the man from Galilee." The Gospels

present Jesus preaching to crowds by the Sea of Galilee and show him returning to Galilee after leaving Judea and passing through Samaria.

Why Galilee? Galilee was the impoverished region of Israel. It's where struggling families lived. It also was home to several groups of people, Gentiles in particular, who were contemptuously considered "half breeds." In our present day, poverty often pushes people in need to congregate in pockets of large metropolitan areas like the inner city.

Jesus had in his mind to pursue the marginalized from the beginning of his ministry. Luke 4:18-19 describes Jesus reading from the scroll of Isaiah 62:1-2. He explains that he, himself, is the fulfillment of the prophet's words because he came "to proclaim the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to recover sight for the blind and liberty for the oppressed." This is where Cru Inner City and our partners come in: to proclaim the good news in our inner cities!

Let me answer "Why does the inner-city ministry of Cru do what we do?" simply: it's our calling. It's our honor. It's our privilege to serve among those Jesus served while he was on this earth. We are grateful for your partnership. Your giving and prayers permit us to partner with inner-city churches to preach good news to those in need!

*Milton Lee Massie*

Milton Massie  
Co-National Director





Easter Bags, like the ones decorated by James and Abigail, are shared with families every spring. Each bag contains Easter treats, a bracelet explaining the plan of salvation, and a Bible story-activity book for kids.



## Drawn by Jesus



### Erin's children were nervous.

This would be the second year they handed out Easter Bags. They were headed out into the neighborhood Erin called “The Twelve,” referring to the dozen houses pressed together on one Minneapolis block. Last year, with every Easter Bag they delivered, her kids, James and Abigail, gave verbal invitations for their neighbors to join them at church for worship.

This year, the invitation would be on paper bags, personalized by James and Abigail's drawings of Jesus and the cross. It would be something their neighbors could keep after the treats in each Easter Bag were gone. Before long, the kids were racing to be first to ring the next doorbell with an Easter Bag in hand. “I want to tell them about Jesus,” James insisted. And he did. At every house families received not only a bag and an invitation, but a heartfelt promise from either James or Abigail: “Jesus loves you even more than we do.”

“We were curious about the picture on the bag”

Erin serves as a Sunday school teacher at her church. Last year, the pastor challenged her to invest her time in The Twelve ... to minister through consistent, determined love. This year, God showed her the fruit of that ministry. The week after the Easter Bags were delivered, Erin recognized a couple from The Twelve at church. When she greeted them, they said, “We were curious about

the picture on the bag.” The picture was a sketch of Jesus Erin's kids had drawn. That day, as Erin explained what the picture meant, her new friends from The Twelve prayed in faith to receive Jesus as their Savior.

Thank you for helping us to provide the necessary resources and training for our partner ministries as they reach out to families in their communities with the powerful message of the gospel. Your giving makes an eternal impact!

# The Joy of Finding Christ

**It was their very first outreach ... and Paul and Isaac were nervous.** What if no one wanted to listen to the wonderful news of the gospel? What if no one cared?

But the two young college students had made a commitment: they had dedicated their summer to inner-city evangelism. They weren't going to let their nerves get in the way!

They saw a young man sitting alone on a park bench. As they approached him, Paul and Isaac noticed he was reading the book, *Heaven is for Real*. They struck up an easy conversation ...

He was a professional athlete—sidelined by a stubborn injury—and searching for answers

The young man was a professional athlete—sidelined by a stubborn injury—and searching for answers.

Emboldened by the Holy Spirit, Paul and Isaac shared the gospel with him—the three young men prayed together—and the searching athlete expressed his faith in Jesus Christ!

Isaac shared, “He experienced the joy of finding Christ and I gained the courage to initiate spiritual conversations with people. It doesn't get better than this!”

This summer, hundreds of equally dedicated college students like Paul and Isaac will hit the parks, streets, and shelters of America's inner cities and lead the lost to Jesus Christ. Students touch the lives of children and their families serving in neighborhood vacation Bible schools, stringing together colored gospel bead bracelets, and capturing the children's hearts for Jesus. It's part of our proven-powerful evangelism outreach—Inner City Summer Missions (formerly Summer in the City®).

**Please pray for this amazing effort ... and give as generously as possible to help us lift up Jesus in the inner city this summer, and transform lives!**



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Occasionally the names of people featured in this report are changed to protect their privacy.

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