

Seeing Newark Through God's Eyes



In Numbers Chapter 13, Moses sent twelve spies into the land of Canaan to look for fruit in the land that God had promised them. The men, who had spent their lives wandering in the wilderness, walked the Promised Land for 40 days. They came back with a heartbreaking reply: *There are giants, fortresses, descendants of Anak! The land devours its inhabitants and the Israelites were like grasshoppers in their eyes!*

Ministries, especially in the inner city often face this Numbers 13 dilemma. As we walk our neighborhood streets we are faced with the “giants” of city life. Whether these giants are drugs, gangs, sex, or making payroll, we often picture ourselves as grasshoppers in the land of giants. Our response is often either to retreat like the spies, or embrace the role of underdog and “bring the gospel” to the land of giants. When Joshua and Caleb surveyed the land of Canaan, they saw a land that already flowed with milk and honey, a land with great fruit, and remembered that they served a powerful, faithful God. In the face of giants, fortresses, and families with violent reputations, Joshua and Caleb saw fruit, milk and honey, and a powerful God. They saw the land through His eyes.

2011 has been a year where God has opened my eyes to see the fruit he has planted here in Newark. In January our newly created board of directors was formed and began regular meetings. In February our teen staff boys came on an amazing winter retreat with Eric and I that deepened our relationships with each other and God. In March many of our teen staff began to take on new leadership roles. The spring flew by as SHAC continued in full stride. From June-August we hosted over 200 youth on mission trips and 3 college interns, and had three wonderful interns from our community. In August we interviewed 25 high school students for teen staff and selected twelve (eight new members). This fall we accepted thirty children into our SHAC program. In September Mike Malbrough joined our staff to work with our middle and high school students. I have also had the privilege of working together with a group of wonderful community members and local health advocates to help develop a community health initiative which now services two full doctors' offices and 12 healthcare workers in two of our neighborhood housing projects.

When I think about God's faithfulness in planting seeds in Newark I think of the example of Ty Jarell. Taj is on our teen staff. He is seventeen. As a freshman, Taj worked at Safe Haven for a short period before being fired due to showing a lack of respect. Soon after he was removed from the regular high school and forced to go to alternative school. He applied to work with us last year but based on his previous performance he was not hired. This year, a different Taj came to his interview early, dressed in a blue button down, and prepared to answer questions relating to his passions, his decisions, and his ability to be a positive light in the community.

Given a second chance, Taj has excelled as a member of our staff. He comes to work early, stays late, volunteers on days off and is one of our most respectful, responsible employees. His warm personality makes him perfect to work with the “yellow group” with Tatyana, another extremely talented new employee. Together they lead a group of seven energetic Kindergarten and first graders, operating as tutors, teachers, and “jungle jims.” Taj has also grown to be a great friend. As I see him listening to bible studies on our retreat and in staff meetings, loving our kids, presenting ideas for more parental involvement, and laughing from under a pile of kindergarten boys who ambushed him from behind, I see God's faithfulness and a beautiful hope for what He has in this community.

(continued reverse)

We welcome you to join our ministry to Newark!

This Christmas and New Year, join us as we celebrate God's faithfulness here at Safe Haven. God has planted in each individual an innate desire to be part of a story which can only be truly fulfilled in God's Kingdom story line. This is the season where we are reminded to celebrate the coming of our King Jesus into this world. A king who calls each of us into the adventure of following him through redemptive and transformational work in our own lives and in our communities. Please consider partnering with us in God's transformation in Newark. It is a joy to be a part of his work here in Newark and we sincerely thank God for each of you who helps make this possible through your prayers and support.

David Comeau
Co-Director
Safe Haven After Class



Give the gift of music to Newark teens this Christmas!

Our Crossover Teen Program is improving their home at Safe Haven with an upgraded recording studio. This creative space will serve the youth of our community by connecting them with emerging Christian artists who can teach them about life, music, and God's goodness.

Here's how you can partner with us on this project...

Please fill out the pledge card provided, or donate online at www.safenewark.org

Make a Monetary Donation*

We need to raise \$7,000 for the equipment to outfit the studio. Good equipment will allow us to offer the use of our studio to musicians and recording artists in exchange for volunteer hours mentoring teens. This will allow us to impact the lives of more of the youth in our area.

Donate Furniture and Equipment

A clean and comfortable space is important! IF you have a couch, chair, desk, etc. that you want to get rid of, let us know.

We will also take any musical instruments that are taking up room in your closet.

Volunteer

Contact us if you want to help us renovate the space. It's a great way to meet the teens!

* Write "Crossover Studio" on checks, pledge cards to specify your participation in this program.

