



Old “Urban Promises”

A letter from Pastor Dave

There is a long and beautiful road that I use whenever I travel to my old seminary, Alliance Theological Seminary. I’m always reminded that our church was conceived and an “*urban promise*” was made some 20 years ago on that quiet road. It was the recalling of a prayer request from a young homeless man that God used to break and capture my heart. The young man was temporarily living at

my house when he asked a small group of friends to pray for his 10 year old niece who was being prostituted by her step father to support his crack habit. We all sat stunned by his request. A few of us mumbled a prayer, all of us had a similar reaction, our heads were bowed, but our hearts were screaming: *“Don’t go there... Don’t let that in... If you think about that too much, you’ll lose your mind.”* Who can

bear to ponder the unthinkable sorrow of this city? I was heading to seminary to be prepared for ministry and I sensed God saying, “Do you really want to serve me?...You have to go there, You have to let it in, You have to begin to feel what I feel.” I said, “Yes Lord” and I wept in a way I never had before and never have since as I promised the Lord, *“Whatever it takes, help me to make a difference in my*

A letter from our Director, Naima Lynah

First, I wish to express my deep gratitude for the support our work has received from so many colleagues who have championed the startup of UrbanPromiseNY.

I am honored to serve as the Director and to have worked alongside Reverend Grace Richardson who shared our vision and was extremely instrumental in seeing to its daily operation.



Old Urban Promises, a letter from Pastor Dave

city.”

God has also given us His “Urban Promise.” His constant promise to us throughout our ministry has been: *“The wilderness and parched land will be glad, the desert will rejoice and bloom.”* (Isa. 35:1) What a blooming we saw with our own eyes this summer, as our Summer of Promise Camp exploded with joy and excitement. What a delight to see 75 young people from our community being ministered to in such a powerful and meaningful way over six glorious

weeks of summer camp. Black, White, Spanish, Muslim, Christian all rejoicing as they heard the word of God, sang the songs of salvation, and experienced the amazing love of God. Many of you have been a blessed part of the best and most transformative summer ministry outreach to urban youth that we have had in 20 years. With all my heart I would like to thank each and every one of you for your prayers and your generous, sacrificial gifts in support of the Urban Promise NY ministry that began last summer. Without

your kindness, we would not have been able to provide the rich blessing that the children of our community so gratefully received.

As we prepare to launch our after school program in February of 2009 and our subsequent Summer of Promise 2009, we ask for and treasure your continued prayer and support.

With promises to keep,

Rev. David Beidel

A letter from our Director, Naima Lynah

Although the responsibilities of this role seemed daunting at first, I am encouraged and inspired by the efforts of the many people who have contributed to the launch of Urban Promise NY.

UrbanPromiseNY is at the beginning of a very exciting journey. A veritable army of heroic Christian soldiers pooled their time and their resources to see this great work begin. We will all look back one day and rejoice to have participated in its birth.

UrbanPromiseNY continues to operate under the umbrella of UrbanPromise, Camden NJ. (www.urbanpromiseusa.org) It has been an honor and a strength to network with and model ourselves after one of the most applauded, effective and transformational inner-city youth ministries in our nation.

I look forward to our continued correspondence and partnership in 2009.

Our city holds many great challenges but infinitely greater promise.



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Naima Lynah
Executive Director

SUMMER OF PROMISE 08

UrbanPromiseNY officially opened its doors on July 7, 2008. We hired 22 “Street Leaders,” (junior counselors) youths ages 14 – 17 from our church and from the NYC Summer Youth Employment Program. One of the great components of the Urban Promise model is its powerful street leader program. The High School students that we hired were paid to minister to and serve the elementary school children that attended the camp. However, in serving and ministering the love and truth of the Gospel, all of our street leaders were powerfully impacted,

personally ministered to, and well paid.

We were also blessed to work with 5 Urban Promise interns from our parent organization in Camden, NJ. They were wonderful and inspiring to all of us. The kids and street leaders alike loved them and enjoyed the energy and excitement that they brought to our program each and every day.

When our doors opened we had 5 children registered. However, as word of our program spread throughout the community, we continually grew until we were bursting with 50 elementary school age children. They were wonderful,

full of life and laughter, curiosity and excitement, just beautiful. It is our over arching goal to connect with these children at their young and tender years and, with the help of God and a loving Christian community, guide them through some of the difficult and perilous years that await them.



GREAT EXPECTATIONS: GOALS FOR 2009

- **UrbanPromise NY intends to begin it's Afterschool and coinciding Street Leader Mentoring Program in February of 2009. This will be a year round program that will allow the Street Leaders the opportunity to mentor the younger children within the community as they themselves are being mentored and challenged to walk with integrity and honor.**
- **Our Street Leader Program will be, for many of our teenagers, their first job. They will receive extensive on-the-job training to help them succeed vocationally and academically. Our teens will be given many opportunities to take on additional responsibilities and develop their leadership skills as peer leaders. This kind of positive, part-time job has proven to be a lifesaver for thousands of young people in Camden and already for many of ours. In Camden, 80% of the young people that began as campers, continued on to become street leaders, graduate high school and enter college. The Street Leaders Program will be a constant support system and lifeline to our Staten Island teenagers, helping them to succeed in school, providing an atmosphere of positive peer pressure and challenging them to avoid negative activities and early parenthood. Mentoring, community service opportunities, life skills classes, weekly tutoring sessions, performing arts opportunities, SAT prep courses, classes in reading, writing, and math and a youth group which focuses on Christian and social development, are all an integral part of the Urban Promise paradigm.**
- **UrbanPromiseNY will provide after-school activities for Limited English Proficient (LEP) students and emphasize language skills and academic achievement as well as programs that promote parental involvement and family literacy.**
- **UrbanPromiseNY intends to open its doors for the second year of summer camp on Monday, July 6, 2009. Our summer camp will again be staffed by youths from both our StreetLeader Program and NYC's Summer Youth Employment Program.**
- **Our summer camp will be free to all who attend and will operate from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. Our campers will be attending trips, experiencing visits from other youth ministry groups and again attending All Camp Day where they will interact with all of the UrbanPromise summer camps located in NY, NJ and PA.**



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***"Building a House of Hope in a
World of Pain"***

Financial Needs for 2009

Our operating budget for last summer was a total of 40,000.00. We project a 160,000.00 budget for a full time after school and summer program in 2009.

For a more detailed budget breakdown, please email us at: urbanpromiseny@comcast.net or houseahope@aol.com

- Urban Promise NY is a non-profit 501C3 organization (not a church). Many corporations have charitable gift incentives for 501C3 non-profits, through which they will "match" the charitable contributions made by their employees. Through corporate gift matching, your employer can multiply your gift to UrbanPromiseNY.
- Stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc. can also be transferred to UrbanPromiseNY. Check with your financial advisors (attorney, accountant) to learn about tax advantages.

*We assure you that your investment in the children of NYC
will bear fruit forever.*

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Gifts in Kind

- Chris Sayre, Assistant Pastor *Provided 1 week of Vacation Bible School* Lighthouse Alliance Community Church in Little Egg Harbor, NJ
- Gary Naegel, Minister Songwriter *Provided free Gospel Hip Hop Concert* Leader of G-86 Crossover Community Church