



September 2006

Friends:

New life in Christ, new hope. "The old has passed away and the new has come."
(II Cor. 5:17) This summer at Neighborhood Ministries we watched the "new" –
through Jesus – enter the life of Johnny Garcia who is entering the 11th grade this
fall. This is his reflection on the summer:

A Prayer

As I sit on the soft grass while the wind is blowing
so gently across my face on my knees saying
God please,
Save me from these nightmares
everyday I pray to you
to help me change
because I'm tired of being bad

Lord answer me this: why is it so easy on being bad
but yet its so hard on being good
But no matter what I do or where I go,
Lord I have a history
and it seems like its gonna be next to me

I was only bad cuz I had pain and suffering in my life
God you know how it feels to be hurt
and treated like you are never there
like no one cares,
God, that's how I feel

That's why I am always trying to be alone in the
corner just saying a prayer
but then I think...my mind is a maze
cause I am always
trying to find the right way
but I always end up in a dead end

I try to turn back like I know where I am going
but the truth is Lord
I have no idea where I am going
See, God, I need you to show me the light
guide me to the right path

That's why I am always here just saying a prayer.

Upcoming Activities:

- ◆ Wayne and Kit Danley, Sarah Leon in Ethiopia through September 13
- ◆ Fall Volunteer Training – Sept. 16
- ◆ Fall K-12 Programs Begin – week of Sept 18

> We just received a \$50,000 challenge grant from a new donor who wants to match your gift! This means that you can effectively double your gift right now. If you usually give at year end, please consider helping us early this year. Thank you for anything you can do today.

> Please remember the AZ Tax Credit this year: If you itemize your taxes, you can give \$200 for individuals or \$400 for married couples to NM and get a credit on your AZ tax. Please mark the enclosed form with your gift and we will get you the proper form (2006 forms don't arrive until Dec.) or go to www.nmaz.net/donations.htm For more information, see www.nmaz.net or call 602-252-5225

Also this summer, two participants from Moms Place, Panda and Illa, were asked to join Mrs. Laura Bush in Colorado to speak at the *Helping America's Youth Conference* in Denver. Panda now has three children, but grew up in an abusive environment where drug activity was common. Illa has been her mentor through Moms Place for several years. They meet regularly to pray for their children, study the Bible, or just have some fun. Together, they spoke about their long term friendship. They pointed out that mentoring doesn't just provide support for an individual, but can affect children and families. Panda spoke openly about Illa's becoming even more supportive than her own mom. Illa talked about the difference that Panda and her children had made in the Christian life of her children.

Mrs. Bush remarked at the luncheon: "And in order to make sure every child is surrounded by these positive influences, even more adults must dedicate themselves to helping America's youth. More adults need to care, to be aware of the challenges facing children, and to take an interest in their lives, because when adults believe in children, children learn to believe in themselves. As you've heard throughout these discussions...young people want us in their lives, and they need us in their lives. And as I've learned from the remarkable men and women I've met across our country, each one of us has the power to help America's youth."



Thank you for helping us live out Jesus' love and hope.

Warmly,

Richard Speck
Executive Director