



NEIGHBORHOOD M I N I S T R I E S

Dear Friends,

May, 2007

28 out of 40 are 30 years old or under.

I was preparing for a presentation about our ministry the other day. In reflection, I decided to take some time to write the names of our staff, including interns on a sheet of paper. Without really thinking about it, the left side of the paper had names of the “younger” staff, on the right, the “older”. Whether intern (full time, part-time, or volunteer intern) or staff, if you work here, your name made the paper. The results confirmed a great deal about our leadership development. Neighborhood Ministries currently has 40 staff and interns (17 full time staff). Of the 40, 28 are 30 or under!

I have been carrying this paper around, for prayer, mostly. But I am still reflecting on this marvelous reality. Our work is hard. It is heartbreaking, sacrificial, time consuming, life consuming. And it doesn't pay much (or not at all). It is mission to the core - a relentless pursuing of God's objectives - His heart, and mind. Who would pick this kind of work when life in America offers young people a whole host of alternatives and creature comforts?

Well, Jeremy would. He is one of the 30 year olds and the Director of our Education Department. This week, he has been working through custody issues for a family of seven siblings who have been removed from their distressing home situation.

Sarah would. Sarah began her two year internship with us after high school. By age 19 she was running the largest outreach piece of the ministry, our K-6 program called Kids Life. Today, at 23, she is back into college and works part-time for our Jeremiah Project.

And then there is Irene. At 24, she has five children, supervises a home where a total of 14 relatives live together, works full-time in our office as receptionist, and finds time to volunteer in our high school ministry as a small group leader.

Ian gave up three other job opportunities to serve this community as our youth director. Allison, at 26, directs the Jeremiah Project with five staff and over 100 young adult participants. Emily, who graduated from Dallas Seminary and could work anywhere, chose to come here. Christina, a recent graduate from Phoenix Seminary, brings her biblical background to the very prayerful work of development and fund-raising. Noel, a graduate from Southwestern Bible College, runs the Art Center. Andrew, who will graduate from Fuller Seminary, works with Ian in our youth department. Chris, a graduate from the Claremont schools in California, is developing our Barrio Works. Nikki and Dee, both with graduate degrees in education, are case managers in our Education Department. Andy graduated from Biola, Dallas from ASU, and Lenny from

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Raffle for our Emerging Summer Leaders: \$10 tickets available through the office or a leader!
- ◆ May 11: A Cord of Three Strands BBQ dinner for our Jeremiah Project and 2 other ministries. Come join us!
- ◆ June 11 Jr. High Kids Club
- ◆ June 25 Kids Club (K-6) for 2 weeks.

For more information, please call 602-252-5225 or go to www.nmaz.org



Indiana State. Ericka opened up our Headstart classroom straight out of college. Diane opened up Hope House, coming home to Phoenix after getting her degree at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena. Victor, Tony, Googoo and Miguel all grew up in the ministry and the neighborhood and now work here. Sara, whose childhood matches our kids, works at Hope House and is trying to get into medical school. Kristen, newly married, has been running our junior high and has now started two NM soccer teams. Karla won multiple Latina leadership awards before coming here. Karen and Malissa did full time internships here with ASU, and Terrance comes to us from the Navigators. I hope I didn't leave anyone out.

In addition, Shylia, Gabriel, Alfonzo, Daniel, Caesar, Skittles, Luis, Carlos, Margarita, Sonia, Josiah, Taylor, Sonia, Johnny, Bethany, Mathy, Alyssa, Andy, Francisco, Veronica, Marcos, Luis, Genevieve, Lilian, Octavio, Fernie, Alicia, Felicia, Jessica, and Kimberly are all from our community and are coming on this summer as interns.



Leadership development! For us, it is not only a high calling, but mandated by our mission: "To be the presence of Jesus Christ, sharing his life-transforming hope, love and power among distressed families of urban Phoenix, **igniting their passion for God and His Kingdom.**"

Does the future look brighter all of a sudden? Hungry for purpose, determined with vision, willing to risk all, even fail, take on insurmountable challenges, and jump straight into the deep end ... that's who we have working for us here at Neighborhood Ministries. Future leaders **passionate for God and His kingdom** are being developed here—even running things around here.

The summer is the best time for Neighborhood Ministries, hands down! Yet, it's grueling. Please remember us with your financial support and prayers!

Love,


Kit Danley
President