



NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES

1918 Van Buren Street • Phoenix, AZ 85009 • 602-252-5225 • www.nmaz.org

January 2008

Dear Friends,

I couldn't wait to tell you how it went – “The Relentless Pursuit” – the evening and dinner that celebrated NM's 25th Anniversary.

You had to gasp when you walked in. The palatial banquet room was so beautiful, decorated with banners on the walls, table cloths and the gilded poinsettias of the colors we have grown used to seeing on all our literature – golds, browns, reds and tans. It was magical!

But what was, by far, the most beautiful part of the evening was who was there. Nearly 800 gathered to celebrate with us. Most of us would describe the Kingdom of God with images of all kinds of people together, belonging together. I'm not sure I can put into words what that room felt like.

Tim and Willy from KNIX were our Emcees. Guests included two of the sisters from the Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary, Spanish speaking community members who serve at The Neighborhood Center, friends who love the mission, local and national Latino leaders, students, professors and administrators from ASU, who sat next to converted gang members and youth from the ministry who represent the future of the work. Community friends from local churches, businesses and banks along with friends from the City of Phoenix ate with NM volunteers and staff, new and old. Rich and poor, brown, black and white, Spanish speaking and English—all with the same allegiance and all with the same confidence that God desires for His people to engage with His heart and bring **transformation to the distressed places and families of urban Phoenix.**

Eating together, singing together, thinking together, and celebrating together—This was the precious privilege of the night. We took time that night to remember with deep thanksgiving all we have lived through and learned and all whom we have loved. There was a slide show of old photos playing in the background. We acknowledged that in all our growing up, God has done miraculous things with us. We are all being changed by this community and the work He has been doing here.



*I will remember the deeds of the LORD;
Yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.
I will meditate on all your works
And consider all your mighty deeds.
Your ways, O God, are holy.
What god is as great as our God? Psalm 77:11-13*

Scattered throughout the lobby were pictures of the future; drawings that describe the next things to come. For this night of thanksgiving and celebration was a night of looking forward as well. God is not finished with us yet...and The Neighborhood Center isn't finished. We described the hard work of research that has been done in the past few years to put the vision together. The three year completion process of the enterprise building, youth building, gym, art center, thrift store and new auditorium were described, as well as the costs of these renovations. The **Isaiah 58 Campaign** that will accomplish this is underway and our goal of raising \$500,000 in gifts and pledges that night was met. In fact, we exceeded it. Thank you, Lord!

This beautiful night ended with the giving out of our book, *The Relentless Pursuit: Stories of God's Hope, Love and Grace in the Neighborhood*. Hot off the press, this book tells the story of the first 25 years of Neighborhood Ministries. We have been working on this book for almost two years. Filled with pictures and stories, it does what we could not do in one evening...**Tell the whole story.** Every family went home with a book as our gift for coming and our thankfulness for the last 25 years of ministry together.

Well, dear friends...For those who could come and for those who couldn't, thank you for loving us faithfully all these years. As I said that night, "Mission without you would have been a story that never happened."

God bless you. We love you.
And we look forward to the next 25 years.

Love,
Kit Danley
Kit Danley



**NM NEWS &
INFORMATION**

-January 14, 2008
-March 10, 2008

Spring Programs Begin
NM's 4th Annual Golf Tournament

-Don't forget about the AZ Tax Credit (envelope enclosed).

-If you would like to donate to the Isaiah 58 Campaign or if you would like to order our book, *The Relentless Pursuit*, please visit our website at www.nmaz.org or call (602) 252-5225 for more information.