

**CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH/
Urban Community Ministries**

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



**Fall
2014**

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

I recall a time of jubilation and celebration seeing young men, CCC has mentored for over four years, cross the stage to receive high school diplomas from Booker T Washington (BTW) High School. I shared the gospel with them many times during club and devotions as a Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) representative and Shelby County Schools (SCS) gang intervention specialist at B.T.W.

We established relationships with many and loved them as our very own sons. As our failures and successes are shared, we want these young men to know we've stood where they are standing, and sat where they are sitting. We also want them to learn important lessons from our mistakes. We've invited successful Christian business and professional men, as well as those who have done many years in the state and federal prisons, to come talk with them about consequences, making a plan, and setting obtainable goals.

Men who share their life experiences as former drug dealers, gang members, and those who have grown up hard but have become successful, professional businessmen through hard work and perseverance. We keep it real and are transparent. We want them to know that their zip code does not dictate their destiny.

While 30 youth and adults from CCC/UCM and I were enjoying a great experience at summer camp in Missouri, five of the boys I mentor, were shot with an AK-47 assault rifle by a rival gang member. They all survived the shooting but another one of my boys later on this summer was not so fortunate. He was shot in the back while two of his "so-called" friends were riding in the car he was driving. The rider in the back seat decided to see if, in fact, the gun would fire. It did, costing the young man his life. It is very sad and discouraging when you spend so much time hoping and praying that your efforts will not be in vain; that our young men will make something of

themselves. This young man leaves his family members, two small children and one on the way. How often are we too hardheaded with God like this to our own detriment?

In our humanness, what do you do when things do not pan out like you would like? In over 37 years of ministry, I've learned you must stay focused and determined regardless of all the mishaps. You cannot quit; you must look toward the mark of the high calling of God. You must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit who gives us the strength to go on. When one of my young men enrolls in college, it gives me hope that all is not lost. When he tells me that he was listening in club time, that he is beginning to see things more clearly after watching his friends, I know why I am called to do what I do. It makes me proud, as if they were my own. I try to find funds to help with college necessities and have him work around the church. This is what we endeavor to do for those who see they can become part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

Back to School Rally

The back to school rally was a festive occasion for CCC/UCM, Morning Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (MCMBC), and the various local Gospel Rap Artist on the line up for the day. One of CCC's very own rappers and new minister, "Ray Ray" (Clifton Covington) arranged the musical guests (God's Prophet, Unique, T.B., M.K.J., Beehutific, and Corey Curtis).

Morning Chapel MBC, located in Cordova, Tn., wanted to team with us and play a major role in assisting with school supplies, food, drinks, and sharing the Word of God with over 300 attendees. After one of the MCMBC ministers preached, three mothers received Jesus Christ as Savior. A deacon from MCMBC stated that he had never really thought of Gospel Rap as being an effective tool to minister the Gospel. He was surprised by the message and by how the Spirit of God flowed through the young people ministering. Joy filled the air as the children played on the playgrounds, had their faces painted, received balloons, ate till they were full, and finally received school supplies to start their year off right. To God Be the Glory!

Prayer Request:

1. Since we have received God's blessing of a place to worship, many have discontinued their financial and volunteer support. Just in a matter of months we have lost 5 major funders. We were trying to obtain funding for an education specialist/ outreach worker, but now we are trying to maintain our present outreach efforts. We are making great strides in the community, we do not want to lose momentum.

Please pray:

- a. That God will touch hearts for continued investment in God's kingdom through our ministry opportunities.
 - b. That individuals and families will see the need to come alongside and volunteer/mentor teens, moms, men, and families in the church and ministry.
 - c. That God will send to our church body faithful, mature, dedicated servants (regardless of race, socio-economic status, education, or skill) who have a heart to see our city transformed by the love that only Christ can bring.
2. Pray that God will continue to bless the Walker Family.
 3. We still need a keyboardist, other musicians, AV, and website people for our worship service and outreach in the community.

If you'd like to reach Lemar or Donna, please contact us @ (901) 577-0707 or via email @ administrator@christchurchmemphis.com. We'd love to hear from you or have you visit.

Service Opportunities

Sundays

Church School - 9:30 A.M.

Service- 10:45 A.M.

Wednesdays

Bible Study/Mid-week service 6:30 P.M.



Malcolm Green with the BTW Boys to Men Club

A HAND UP NOT A HAND OUT

Since CCC started in 1999 in the Lamar Terrace Housing project, we have assisted many families in need. Most were looking for a hand out, some looked for a hand up.

Malcolm Green, a young man I met about a year ago, is one I have come to see as a son, and he sees me as a father figure. Though Malcolm served 18 years and 7 months in federal prison, he was not looking for a hand out when I met him, but a hand up. After joining CCC about a year ago, I don't think Malcolm has missed a Sunday. He has truly been a blessing to CCC and CCC has also been a blessing to him. Malcolm is an integral part of CCC and Urban Community Ministries' (UCM) everyday operation.

God had His hand on Malcolm every since he was a young man. His grandmother predicted that God was going to use him after Jesus broke him- broken and humble he is. While in prison, Malcolm did what he could to better himself and prepare for his release by reading over 400 books, taking management course

(e.g. 6 Sigma), and other college courses. He is now enrolled in Southwest Community College. CCC will do whatever we can to encourage him and spur him on to success.

In addition to driving the church van during the week, he works with UCM's after school program, and aids in keeping the church properties neat and clean. He also assists me at Booker T. Washington when I talk to boys during our Boys to Men club time and FCA talks.

Malcolm is an unbelievable person. He wants to learn everything I can teach. We learn from each other. He has much to offer CCC/UCM and the community in which he grew up. Malcolm said, "I did things before I went to prison which were destructive, now I want to do things that will make the community better." He has a business mind and a good sense of the Word and people. It will be interesting to see how God uses him for His glory. Keep Malcolm in your prayers.

Want more information; check us out at www.christchurchmemphis.com.

Bridging the Gap

At Home...

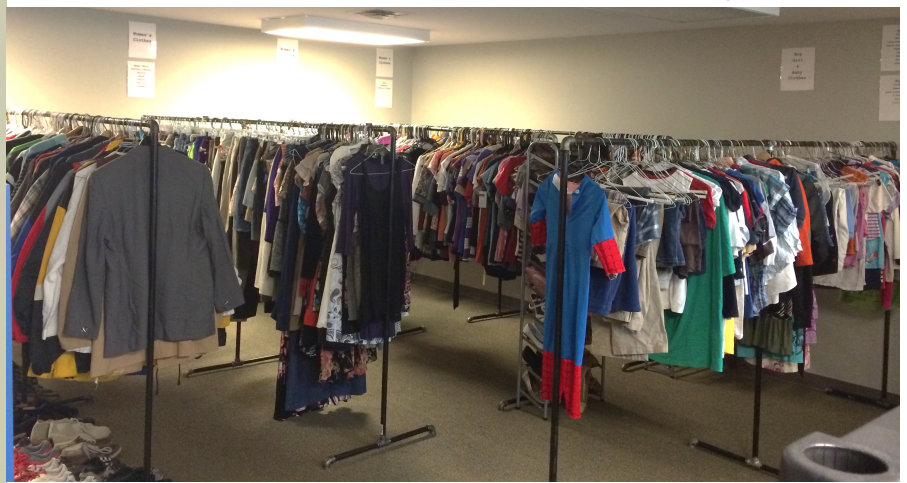
In a desire to continue to be a resource to the community, UCM (with the help of youth from First Evangelical Church, some young men mentored by Pastor Walker at BTW through the GRASSY program, and the ladies of CCC) has put together a small thrift and food pantry. It was originally thought to be just clothing and food, but apparently God wanted much more. Donations brought in furniture, home décor items, bicycles, and even drums. We have also been blessed to receive items with Blues City Thrift. This Community Closet is designed to give families in the church and neighborhood a place close by that can help meet some of the basic needs at extremely minimal costs. In everything we do, we want to do it with dignity and the love of Christ.

Abroad...

In mid-August, Pastor Lemar went with four other pastors (Kelvin Bowen, Brian Carmichael, Bartholomew Orr, and Mondonico Williams) to northern Brazil to share the Gospel with the Quilombolas, descendants of African-Brazilian slaves who escaped the slave trade in 1888. No existence of this people group was known until the 1970s. Most of the Quilombolas live in extreme poverty with little access to healthcare and basic amenities. Voodoo and witchcraft are very prevalent there. The team worked in the villages, schools and churches while there, and hopes to recruit other pastors for future teams. Please pray for this group and other in the world who have been without Christ and who are now being persecuted for standing for Christ. May we never forget how blessed we are.



UCM's Community Closet food and furniture area (top picture) clothing room (below)



Pastors - Bowen, Carmicheal, Orr, Walker and Williams with a family outside of Casheria, Brazil (above picture)



Pastor Walker handing out frisbees (left picture)

OTHER MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

- *Back earlier this year, CCC's Men's and Women's Fellowships had individual conferences that were big successes. The Men's Conference was on Leadership from Great Men of the Bible. The Women's Conference was on Your Body is Not Your Own. The men enjoyed a great time of fellowship and the women didn't want the segment on Health, Nutrition, and Your Body by Julianne Thomas to end. All were blessed.*
- *This was the first year back at Kids Across America for CCC since 2009. We took 31 people in all, 26 children and 5 adult (kaleo/chaperones). None of the children and only one of the adults (Pastor Walker) had ever been to camp. THANK YOU for the donations to make this happen! All of the adults and children would like to return again next year. Four children made decisions to come to Christ and 18 rededicated themselves to Him. It is our hope that next year we can take 50 children.*
- *Continuing our partnership with Advance Memphis, CCC/UCM has five people getting certified in the Chalmers Center's Faith and Finances class organized and generally administered through Advance Memphis. Where Advance Memphis is set up only to work with those who live in the 38126 zip code, we can use this tool to minister to those in our church and throughout Memphis who live elsewhere. We are excited about this use of Scripture to help people see a tangible way out of poverty and how they can make plans that are attainable for themselves and their families.*
- *Don't forget Donna Walker is a Certified Career Direct Consultant with Crown Ministries. Please contact her directly if you have children needing an educational assessment or if you are facing a career dilemma. She will be glad to work with you to ensure you are operating according to your bent and God's design for your life. She may be reached @ ruwalking@yahoo.com or (901) 577-0929.*



CCC/UCMs return to KAA



Men from Morning Chapel MBC help with Back to School Rally (front page story)

Lemar Walker is the Pastor of Christ's Community Church and Executive Director of Urban Community Ministries. The goal of these ministries is to be salt and light, hands and feet in our city and the world, providing the Gospel to strengthen, empower and equip.

CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH WWW.CHRISTSCHURCHMEMPHIS.COM & Urban Community Ministries

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