



Ricky McCormick, Men's Home Director, Phase I

Changing Lives *Impacting the region... one life at a time.*

Patience and a Ball of String

Recently Pastor Sawyer gave me permission to take a couple of guys from the Race program and go down to Livingston, Texas, where my sister, Barbie, was relocating from Huffman. She had purchased a

trailer and a couple of acres, but had no fence for her horse. So, on a Sunday evening, Mr. Donnie Owens, Ronald Pride, Brandon Crawford and myself loaded up and headed south.

The next morning Ronald and Brandon set about cleaning fence lines, while Donnie, Barbie and I began gathering supplies. That day we set the posts and pulled strings for placement. We had a great day and got much accomplished. On Tuesday we began putting wire up and driving a few more T-posts. Of course Donnie found plenty to do, and Ron, Brandon and myself were really going at it—putting up fence and doing cleanup.

After lunch, Brandon and I, along with Ron had gotten about half of the wire up and began on a new section. Before pulling and stretching wire, we must take down and roll up our string line. Of course it became a ball of knots, and a

real mess. It seemed like a great opportunity to slow Brandon down; and for me to work with Ron a bit. So Brandon began the tedious task of rolling up the string.

For me, the job of rolling up the string is extremely important, since I don't like to have problems with unrolling it later. As Brandon took on this responsibility, he realized all his run, run, hard work mentality would not get this project accomplished. Maybe thirty minutes into it, I checked on him. Being impatient, he asked if he could cut it in some places. "No," I answered, "unknot the string and do what is asked of you." And so he got him a spot on the ground and really went to work.

As Ron and I continued down the line, I could tell Brandon was dealing with some things. Frustrated and mad, he began to talk to God. Thank you Lord, I thought, he desires intimacy. I realized Brandon was crying, and shot a quick "You O.K.?" at him as I passed by.

About an hour or so after all that began, Brandon made his way down to where I was working. He had this joyful smile on his face and I questioned him about the condition of the string. "I am finished," he said. He had done an excellent job and was quite proud of it. I congratulated him on a job well done and asked how that

worked for him. He told his side of it.

"You know, Mr. McCormick, man that was rough." His patience, he admitted, was short. But as he began to ask God for the patience to do it—to help with his frustration and his anger—God began to speak to him. "It seems such a simple thing—son, if you think you have to be patient to straighten out this mess of string, what do you think it is like for Me—the patience I have shown you in straightening out the mess you have made of your life?"

Wow! Well, we cried and laughed. When the Lord teaches a class on His own having to do with our situation, we just have to praise God and enjoy the moment. What a great opportunity to learn the patience of the Lord!

—Submitted by Ricky McCormick



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The CCM HERALD

Change a Heart...

Change a Life...

Change a City.

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Kids Come Running for Sidewalk Sunday School

With spring here, CCM's outreach ministry is going strong! We have now started our ACTS ministry (*Apartment Community Transformation Services*) in four apartment complexes: Bruton Oaks Apts, Trinity Trails Apts, Creekside Villas Apts, and Spruce Square Apts.

Every other Saturday, the "Freedom" bus, with its eye-catching paint job, drives throughout the apartment complexes with all the windows open, playing Christian rap music; and everyone on board calling out blessings and inviting the people to come to Sidewalk Sunday School. The kids come running!

Sidewalk Sunday School was first held on April 25 and the response was amazing! There were 156 kids in attendance, with 130 bowing their heads and praying with us to have Jesus come into their hearts. The following session on May 9 we had 216 kids come out, with 175 actually standing up and praying out loud to receive Jesus. There is a real hunger in these children, most of whom would not be likely to attend a traditional church service.

Jeremy Crane is heading up the SWSS ministry with one team, consisting of Tom and Deborah Nizza, their son Nick and the women from Tree of Life. Jerome McClanahan leads a second team, including Robert and Barbara Jacobowski and the men from the Race program. Volunteers from other ministries are encouraged to join in.

Jeremy Crane reports, "Our first two weekends of Sidewalk Sunday School have been a great experience. A message of salvation was preached and received by just about every kid in attendance. It is such an incredible sight



ACTS



to see those young eyes intent on receiving what God has to offer."

CCM would like to thank our faithful helpers, including Pastor Melvin and Pam Gipson, Robert McCormick and Sandy McDonald, Paul Jones and Melissa Munoz, who came from The Basket and are to be married here next month. Recent Phase Two graduate, Jim Conerly, now in leadership training, really shines when he gets out there with the kids! For information on how you can get involved, call the CCM office.

Ministry Needs List

Thank you for believing with us in the Lord's provision for:

ACTS:

Mid size bikes for ages 6 to 13
50 gallon bins (4)
Prizes (\$5 to \$10) ages 2 to 14

Tree of Life Women's Residence:

Backyard vegetable garden & landscaping

RACE Phase I Men's Residence:

\$300 Motor for Commercial Vent-a-hood
\$300 Repair on Commercial Range



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Come see what
God is doing!
Sundays
at 10 a.m.**

Loaves and Fishes

God has been working to meet needs at The Basket. Thanks to donations from Whole Foods, we now have gallons of milk and dozens of eggs to give away. One day we were able to give every family 3 dozen eggs and a gallon of milk. We are getting fresh fruit, including cases of strawberries, as well as fresh salad fixin's, very healthy food!

At a time when many area food pantries are experiencing shortages, our shelves have not been empty for months. Boxes are now full and we don't seem to run out anymore. It seems like the more we give the more we have to give.

This ministry is making a difference in the community. Every Sunday we have someone from The Basket come to visit our morning service and some are returning weekly. Come experience loaves and fishes every Wed and Fri.



Inside this month...

PATIENCE AND A BALL OF STRING

KIDS COME RUNNING FOR SIDEWALK SUNDAY SCHOOL

**You can make a difference!
Become a volunteer...**

Go to the mission fields in the inner-city. For 1 day outreach ministry opportunities, visit: www.carecenterministries.org

For directions and/or more information contact Karen at 214-824-9852.

Prayer Ministry at the Basket Saves Lives

She knew God had moved us to pray to keep her family safe.

Recently at The Basket one of our regulars came in for food and the person checking her in noticed something was not right. Even though the woman said everything was okay, we all felt led to pray for her, with one of our community service

volunteers acting as translator. It was a simple prayer for God's protection and provision; coming against any plan of the enemy. Two weeks later she came back, and could not wait to tell the community service volunteer what had happened. Her whole family was in their car on the freeway, headed to Dallas, when a tire blew out. In the midst of the car losing control, she said it was as if we were there praying that day at the Basket. Suddenly calm came over her and the car came under control. She knew it was okay. Then, as they were stopped on the road, another car suddenly rear-

ended them. The car was totaled and her son started going into a seizure when, again, the calm of the prayer came over her. She knew God had moved us to pray to keep her family safe. Her son's seizure stopped, and no one was hurt in any way.

As she looked at the totaled car, she realized what the enemy had planned. But God covered them in prayer the week before, because someone was listening to Him.

Not only was her family saved, but the person doing community service went from simply translating the prayer requests to praying over them himself. He was changed that day because God had involved him in a miracle.

