



Change a Heart...
Change a Life...
Change a City.

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Pastor Barron Leads VBS

Vacation Bible School is and always has been a blessing. It is a great honor to be able to communicate the gospel to small children who are at a formative stage in their lives. You never know what fruit may come forth years later from your efforts.

This year, CareCenter Ministries VBS was made up of two groups of children; about 60 to 70 from the Hispanic families coming to the Basket and about 30 kids bussed in from the ACTS Ministry at Trinity Trails Apartments.

Pastor Mario Barron, leading the Vacation Bible School ministry, said, "It was amazing to see almost one hundred kids praising the Lord Jesus with us. I remember that when we

first began doing VBS we started with only 4 families. But this time, we can see the hand of God bringing all these kids to learn about the love of God. This event was a blessing for us and we pray that the seed of the Word of God grows in the



lives of those who accepted the invitation to receive Jesus into their hearts."



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

Jim Conerly

As a child, Jim Conerly was raised by a Christian mother and father and was the youngest of nine children. After reaching adulthood, he served in the United States Army Infantry. But, as is the case with so many others, he strayed from the values he was brought up with and became involved with companions whose values were directly at odds with those of his parents. This in turn led to prison.

He first came into contact with CareCenter through the prison ministry of Pastor Melvin Gipson. According to Pastor Melvin, there are many in prison who realize their need to be in right relationship with God, but few who continue in their commitment to Him once they are on the outside. Entering the RACE program after being released on parole, Jim applied himself to "the renewal of his mind".

Mishelle M. Kochel is the Assistant Director of the DFW National Cemetery Administration. They work with the Department of Veteran's Affairs to provide a program for veterans that have suffered some type of setback in their lives, known as the Compensated Work Therapy / Transitional Work Experience (CWT/TWE) program.

In a letter she recently wrote on Jim's behalf she stated, "Unemployed and homeless, the first to give him support was an organization called CareCenter Ministries, which assisted him with guidance, mentoring and fellowship, as well as leading him to the CWT/

TWE program that VA offers."

"One reality he had to face was that in order for him to change, he could not hang around his old friends. He found that his 'friends' would be the first to tempt him back to the old life he tried so hard to overcome. This, he found, was the harshest of realities and difficult to do. His new friends, his church group, as well as his faith, have given him the strength to continue to improve his life. To this day he continues to gather strength with his new family there, as well as now becoming a mentor himself. Jim sets a shining example of achievement and hope to those that walk in the shoes he once wore."

Since completing the RACE program, Jim has stayed on in order to go through Leadership Academy and become an ordained minister himself. He is currently involved in the ACTS Ministry (Apartment Community Transformation Services), which brings Sidewalk Sunday School for children, as well as Overcomers for adults, to the residents of several apartment communities in the Pleasant Grove area.

In Jim's words, "CareCenter Ministries opened their doors to me when no one else would. I came here to experience God. With the help of CareCenter, God has changed my whole life."



God Answers Prayer at The Ballpark in Arlington

Nicole, one of the residents in the Tree of Life women's program, shared this story of how God used her to pray for two women she was working with at The Ballpark in Arlington, so He could move in their lives and show Himself real.

"I was led to pray over a situation involving a girl named Jessica, who somehow made a bad mistake on the cash register in a stand I was prepping for. The manager was going to fire her and if she lost the job she would not be able to continue in her schooling to be a special education teacher."

"I had been talking to Jessica about God and how He created her and sent Jesus to die so that she could be healed and set free. She said she did not believe in God, but then she broke down crying, telling me what had happened in the stand. Right there my spirit told me to pray and pray boldly, because it was going to be a testimony to the faith she would have. So I stood in the middle of the stand and prayed that God would do a creative miracle and fix the problem."

"One week later I ran into Jessica, and not only did she get to keep her job, but she got to move to another stand where she has the opportunity to go into management training! She could not stop smiling!"

"Another miracle God performed was a divine appointment Miss Vangie (Underwood) and I had with a girl who had half of her face paralyzed from being involved in wrestling. I asked her if she knew Jesus died so that she could be completely healed physically, emotionally and spiritually, and she said she did. God had me just say 'be healed in the name of Jesus,' and she stood in agreement with me."

"The next morning when she woke up her face was completely healed, but she was especially touched because she finally had her smile back! Now she is going to start praying for others to be healed!"

God doesn't only want to bless us, He wants us to be a blessing as well.



Nicole helps with the children at an ACTS outreach.



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

CCM: From the Outside Looking In

The various people and programs that make up CareCenter Ministries touch many lives, both directly and indirectly. Not only the lives of individuals who come to us for help, but also employers, volunteers and total strangers see the impact of changed lives first hand. In this issue, we have included stories that illustrate that impact from those who are outside CCM and looking in. Their lives have been changed as well by seeing the love and practical assistance that CareCenter brings to others and the difference that Jesus makes in the lives of the broken and poor in spirit in our own city. CareCenter Ministries is not just a name. It is not just a church. It is a work that is made possible by the many financial partners, volun-

teers and associated ministries that give of their time and resources. Because of you, we are making a significant difference in this city.



Sojourn Church Jr. High youth group volunteered at CareCenter in July. Read on to see how they were impacted by the experience.



Youth Groups Help at The Basket

CCM was blessed this month by youth groups from Sojourn Church in Carrollton, TX and LakeShore Church in Rockwall, TX. The teens passed out flyers on the first day, announcing the 4th of July outreach and telling people about The Basket. The second day, they worked The Basket, making boxes of food, as well as new friends and came away with a great experience of helping others less fortunate. Here are a few of their testimonies:

LAKESHORE CHURCH The purpose of our missions trip to our home city, was to change the way we view missions. We so often see missions as an overseas thing and we forget to serve right here in our own town. We partnered with several local ministries for a week long outreach. —**Nick Dekold, Youth Pastor, LakeShore Church.**

“Having just come back from Africa, I expected to simply do a few chores to help out with the community. Instead, we had the opportunity to pray with people, and rather than having to work

around a cultural difference, it was easy to relate and understand their situations. God spoke to me more clearly while guiding my prayers with my mere hours at the CareCenter than during my two weeks of ministry in Africa, and He ministered to me through it all.” —**LONDON**

“My favorite part of the mission’s trip was packing boxes. I really enjoyed doing things that will help other people. God really showed me that there are people in Rockwall who need help. Now I realize that I don’t have to go to another continent to help people.”—**KERRI**

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Area Teens Get Blessed Helping at The Basket

**You can make a difference!
Become a laborer in the harvest...**

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

www.carecenterministries.org



Servolution youth group from LakeShore Church volunteers at CCM.

“My favorite part was apartment ministry. I got to see real people and I also talked with people who didn’t want to talk about God. My heart broke for them and I finally see beyond my four walls. And I really had to stretch my comfort zone.” —**KELLI**

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Youth Groups Help at The Basket

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“The part that really stood out to me was handing out the food to those less fortunate and the faith in God’s provision as lived out by the staff. Each one of them has had to give up something to be there and fulfill God’s calling on their lives. It was amazing to see how much we ought to be thankful for each little thing the Lord gives us, rather than



focusing on what we lack like our consumer-based culture often does. It was very eye-opening.” — **KIRSTEN**

“Working with CareCenter was such a great experience! To see those people who couldn’t even afford food broke my heart and made me all the more thankful for having that privilege! Seeing the little kids there though made me wonder what hope they would have if not for CareCenter, because they most likely have no one in their lives to show them the way to Christ. The ministry gives them that hope! Also seeing how open the people at the apartments were to our prayer gave me the strength to step out and pray for them and I truly believe that God will work in their lives, in every one of those people’s lives, no matter the situation!” — **REBEKAH**

“OK, so I was initially kinda hesitant to go on Servolution, just because I wasn’t really used to the whole idea of an in-town mission trip. But I must say I absolutely loved it! I had a great experience at CCM with helping putting the boxes of food together. It doesn’t sound like much fun but I loved doing it knowing that each box I did was helping someone immensely! Praying for people was over all my favorite part. We prayed for a woman to help her get back on track and break her addictions. I felt so good praying for her knowing that she would never be the same because she finally let God in! Also walking around in the apartments was a big stretch because it was ridiculously hot and just awkward for me to knock on someone’s



door that I don’t even know, but I did and prayed for some people and I’m so glad I did! It was truly an amazing experience and I would do it again in a heart beat!” — **LILLIAN**

“I got the opportunity to volunteer at CCM recently with a group of youth from Lakeshore Church in Rockwall. I was really refreshed and encouraged to see all that was being done day in and day out to serve the community there and the impact that it had. In our short visit we were able to turn a storage room full of unorganized food boxes into a week-long blessing to local families that needed it, as well as get some face-to-face time with some locals. I learned a lot there about loving people in a practical way and I hope I’ll be able to make my way back soon!” — **ANTHONY**



SOJOURN CHURCH “Our students had an opportunity to go to Care center ministries and be a part of one of their outreach programs. I believe that it totally transformed their lives. They will never be the same again because of the power of God they were able to see working in the inner city. Thanks to Karen and the team, my students were set up for God to show up in many different ways. They were able to step out of their comfort zone and do things that they would not normally do, like pray for people they don’t know or get a heart for the lost. My prayer was that their eyes would be opened to see the hurting and needy people in our city and God totally surpassed all I could ask or think. Many of the kids were touched and moved with compassion for His people. Seven people gave their heart to God that week and God was glorified! Thank you Care Center for the opportunity to be a part of a mighty move of God!” — **Chris McRae, Youth Pastor, Sojourn Church**

“They were really happy to see us. They knew by our faces that we cared about them. I really enjoyed it.” — **VICTORIA**

“They were so happy when they found out that they were going to have food, and a lot



of it.” — **STACY**

Here are more comments from some of the kids who were greatly impacted from a day at CCM:

“I am more understanding of people who come from those areas. Typically I get picked on by people like that and over the years I have grown an attitude of hate toward them. But now I understand what they come from and

will be more understanding of these people.”

“An older lady named Barbara was very receiving of our prayers. It felt like she was coming back to the Lord.”

“I loved seeing all the people in the complexes —how they seemed to be one big family. How they worked together and helped each other out. I enjoyed the feeling I got after we prayed for healing or jobs or finances. It felt good praying for several people.”

“As I saw a lady with a Mavs jersey and only two teeth, I thought to myself, this woman has been through a lot. And as we were praying, the Lord



told me that she was going to be all right. That lifted my heart up.”

“I liked praying for the people. It was good seeing people getting touched with the Holy Spirit.”

“They were so happy to see someone cared. The kids were so happy even though they didn’t have much. God has truly blessed me with this opportunity. I liked it when the two older women let us in their homes to pray for them.”

