

Lights...Camera...Action

By Dawnn Breynae, Youth Director

The 2nd season of the *Tuned In Youth Project* has begun. This year's cast includes five girls and five boys between the ages of 13 and 17. This production team is developing four public service announcements (PSA) dealing with subjects that are relevant to them and their peers. Topics such as teen driving, drug use, abstinence and interracial dating are the subjects of their storyboards and scripts. They are learning how to operate the video camera and the value of quality lighting, audio and pre-production planning.

In addition to developing the scripts for the PSAs that will air during their television program, they will also participate in a series of physical and mental challenges such as getting 10 people on a 2 x 2 board and creating a structure out of 25 straws and 3 feet of tape that will protect an egg from a 12 foot drop! What's the purpose? Ask not Why, but How! Teens learn best by doing! These activities will assist them in building confidence, cooperation, creativity, trust, communication and problem solving skills. The teens will be videotaped and this footage will actually be featured in a series of 30-minute television programs on Raleigh's Cable Access Channel.

Well . . . that's a wrap! Stay tuned for more on the Tuned In Youth Project!



Extra Curricular is Extra Fun: (Top) Tuned in Youth Project participants; (Left) After School Academy dance class with Kistie Tye.



Lighten Up?

By Linda Leigh Hargrove

"Lighten up!" I tell myself as I look at the low attendance stats for supper clubs and community choir. People are tired and busy. They don't want to start on another journey toward reconciliation. They are about the business of building walls - for protection, for security; they don't have time to learn how to move beyond charity, beyond knee-jerk reactions.

"Don't trust them," is the motto of the day like never before. The "them" being anyone of another skin tone. People are bruised and scared. For many now is not a time for talk of reconciliation; it is a time for retaliation.

Above all the dust of fear, I hear clearly a question and in it is the answer to what we must continue to do about race issues in America. "What would Jesus do?" I believe He would keep on having potluck dinners and asking the person across the table what she thinks about welfare reform or racial profiling. I believe He would keep on bringing lovers of music together across racial and denominational lines. I believe He would do crazy radical things in these crazy radical times.

In 2002, Racial Reconciliation Supper Clubs resume January 8 and 18. We will be using the Sojourner's study guide,

"Crossing the Racial Divide." Racial Reconciliation Ministry at BTM will be linking efforts with other churches in the area as well as with Christian campus ministries. A conference is planned for the spring. Plans are even in the works for public service announcements for radio. Interested? Contact Reggie Edwards (reggiee@bellsouth.net) at 834-7626 ext. 15.



Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1199
Raleigh, NC

POINTS of HOPE

The Newsletter of Building Together Ministries

Winter 2002

Lights of Christ in the Neighborhood

By Helen Johnson

Over these last few months, we have been blessed by the lives of our neighbors and friends. At Murphy School Apartments, we have seen wisdom, humor, and love in the elderly that live there. Their trust in the Lord is like living spiritual devotionals. They have learned to praise Him in all things. God whispers to us through our precious visits, conversations, and prayers. The following are a few examples of those blessed encounters:

At our Thanksgiving Praise and Prayer Hour *Evelyn Mason* prayed, "Lord we do praise You, we do thank You for the good and for the not-so-good things in our lives." Although she suffers from poor health and mourns the loss of a sister, her life is an example of being content and having absolute trust in the Lord.

Louise Hinson, though blind, brings an increased light of Christ to my life. When asked how the news of September 11 tragedies left her. She

remarked, "I'm intentionally not going to mope around or fill my life with worry. It was a wake-up call for me. I'm determined to do more for others - whatever I can." Her handicap will not leave her in darkness; she is determined to give the light of Christ through her radiant smile, her listening ear, and warm laugh. Her door is always open to friends and family to offer her gifts and especially her stories.

Ellen Mitchell, a diabetic, is confined to a wheelchair. In spite of numerous operations and long stays in the hospital, she has a sparkle and spirit of joy. "I thank God for life and each new day!" she says. Though she is confined, Ellen has offered to volunteer for BTM's NeighborStore, by doing donated puzzles to make sure all the pieces are there.

Every year, we look forward to the Pride-for-Parents Christmas Sale. So many offer the light of Christ as we share gifts and volunteer time. We think of *Richard Tilley* and how he and his

son, *Richard David*, oversee the assembly of 100 bicycles each year. We think of six-year-old *Abby Adams* who had all her birthday party guests bring donations for the Store instead of gifts for herself. Our deep thanks go to people like Richard, Richard David, and Abby. And thanks to all donors, volunteers at our 13th annual Pride-for-Parents Store, which has been successful once again.

Special thanks also to the Raleigh-Wake County Homebuilder's who selected Building Together to be the recipient of a portion of the proceeds from its first Parade of Remodeled Homes. The successful tour, which was organized by *Michael Powell*, was held November 17 and 18, 2001. Seven beautiful homes were featured. We hope to continue to be part of this fun annual event.

To all of you who support Building Together with your gifts of prayer, volunteer time, and monetary contributions, we are grateful. Thank you for enabling us to share the light of Christ.

Looking for ways to serve the Lord in 2002?

There are so many ways to share your time and talents with BTM and HES.

BTM needs volunteers in:

- the After School Academy to tutor and read.
- the NeighborStore to sort clothes, make sure household items work properly, and help keep the store supplied with the donated items.
- the Outreach to the Elderly at Murphy School Apartments. Get involved in our Adopt-A-Grandparent program.

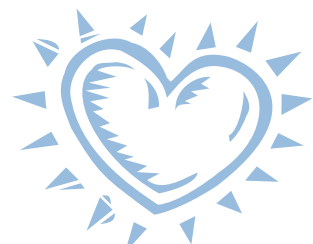
- a man with experience in video production for the Tuned In Youth Project
- readers for Playing Together

Call Linda Riggins, the volunteer coordinator, at 834-7626, and she will find a place for you to use your God-given talents.

God is faithful.

“Lord, bless the children ...”

By Scott Bass



Before me I see only bare clay, piles of dirt and rubble. Sadly only a few scattered trees remain. It takes a few minutes for me to see past what looks like destruction to what will soon be homes where children will be playing, going to and from school, doing their chores. It helps a little to see the Peace College softball field over to the right and the Halifax Recreation Center in the distance over the way. That helps me think of children playing.

I look down at my prayer guide and read silently: Jesus took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.” (Mark 9:36)

Then I pray, “Oh God, help us always to see Your image in the children and to receive them as we would receive You. Help them to develop into the persons through whom You are made flesh in this world that needs You so desperately. Let Your love and power work in and through the children.”

Next I read Mark 10:13-16 and prayed, “Lord, I ask that You bless the children



Praying on location for our new neighbors.

who will live here and those who already live nearby. Touch them with Your hands and embrace them in Your arms. Use us as Your hands and arms, Your instruments of love and hope for the children – to embrace them; to lead them gently by the hand to You; to pat them on the back and wipe tears from their eyes; to pick them up when they fall. May we never cause them to stumble or hinder them in any way from coming to you.”



I head back to our gathering spot and rejoin my companions in a prayer circle. As some of us speak brief sentence prayers aloud, the passing pedestrians and commuters seem to have joined with us in prayer. The sun warms my back and drives away the cool nip in the air. This has been a precious time with God and with each other.

Come join us for a Prayer Walk. We meet at the corner of North Blount and Franklin streets on the first Tuesday of each month at 12:30 PM and walk the southern edge of the old Halifax Court community. Three neighborhood churches – Powerhouse Church, Pilot Baptist and Raleigh Mennonite – are assigned to Prayer Walk on the other sides of the neighborhood.

We will continue throughout the months as the neighborhood is being rebuilt. If interested or for more info, contact Scott Bass at 835-4889 or scottbass@att.net.

Suzanne Chandler prays as she walks the perimeter of new construction.

Bright Little Lights

By Anne Cooper

The youngest lights at BTM shine brightly in the depths of the building in the Playing Together Preschool. These enthusiastic children practically run into the classroom and into their teachers' arms for hugs each morning! It is a dedicated, knowledgeable, and experienced staff working as a team who create such a positive environment for these young learners. “Donna Sorrell and I have worked together for four years,” says Kathy Boos, PT Director, “And this year we have been

blessed with an answer to prayer: the delightful addition of Jen Lacher, a certified teacher who works with us in the classroom, drives our van.”

During this half day, structured, developmentally appropriate early education program, the children are fed a nutritionally balanced breakfast and lunch and are introduced to literature, art, music, and math and science concepts each day. They also learn conflict resolution skills, responsibility, independ-



A great beginning for lifelong learning.

Thanks!

- Nancy and Chuck Molesworth of Big Sky Bread Company who have donated two or more loaves of whole wheat bread each week for the past four years
- Readers Don Bickel, Elizabeth Cook, Anne Cooper, Dawn Dillon, Carole Miller, Tammy Summers, Velma Wells
- The Landis family (Nieta, Katie, Daniel, and Peter) who have groomed and tended our garden every week for the last year.

Sign Me Up

By Fran Doherty

Volunteers come in all ages at BTM and Hope Elementary School (HES). From teenagers to senior citizens, they all enjoy sharing their time to help others.

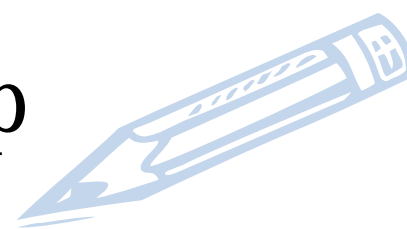
One particular group is the *Teen Servants*, 40 home schoolers ranging from 13 to 18 years of age, work mostly with the AfterSchool Academy (ASA). In ASA they provide games, stories, arts and crafts, and the all important snack for the children at HES. Some of the teenagers from Teen Servants also teach a drama class every Wednesday afternoon for the Kindergarten and First Graders at HES. They have as much fun, if not more, than the children in ASA.



ence, cooperation, good manners and respect for others, property, and self.

According to Director Kathy Boos, “Our goals for the children are to provide a loving, nurturing, and structured educational environment where they can develop reading readiness skills and positive social skills in order to achieve success in kindergarten. We want our children to become lifelong learners who love school and value their educational experiences.”

We would love to include more volunteers in our program. Please contact Kathy Boos at Building Together Ministries, 834-7626 ext. 19, if you have an hour in the morning to read to a child or if you have interest in working in our beautiful garden.



Many other teens from various schools also help out with the after school program and tutoring at Hope Elementary.

With the beginning of the New Year, you may be looking for a way to serve the Lord in a deeper capacity. Please consider serving at Hope Elementary and Building Together. Opportunities abound and the rewards are life changing, not to mention out of this world. Give us a call; we would love to hear from you (834-7627 ext. 21).

Hey, What's The Bright Idea?

By Dawnn Breynae, Youth Director

BTM offers a two-week full day camp for Hope Elementary School students during their track out sessions. In October 2001, 35 Hope students participated in ten fun-filled days of *Camp Hope*. So what's the bright idea? The ultimate goal is to challenge them as they develop their own relationship with Christ.

Each morning during Camp Hope, the K-4 grade campers learned to pray for each other and their leaders in small groups, a new concept for many of the campers. By the end of the two weeks every child was praying out loud. After breakfast and devotions it was time for math and reading labs with the help of two certified teachers and two of HES teacher assistants. The campers got to do cool arts and crafts projects. They went skating and to the N.C. Zoo. They even got to produce and star in their own play, “A Walk Through the Bible,” which was attended by several parents. Two first-time campers *Aiesha and Nekeshia Hinton*, twins in the 2nd grade, share about their experience:

Dawnn Breynae: So girls, what did you think about Camp Hope.
Nekeshia Hinton: (big smile) It was real good. *Aiesha Hinton:* (smile just as big) It was fun.

DB: What do you remember most about camp?
AH: (laughing) When we were at the zoo, my sister got stuck in that thing when we took our picture (pointing to picture). *NH:* (laughing too) Yep.
AH: It was fun to see the giraffes. I didn't really think the animals were going to be real. *NH:* But they were, Sister. *AH:* Yeah, they really were real. *NH:* I liked riding on the big bus with the TV. We got to watch a video and we got to see a real lion and a baboon and a zebra and an ostrich.
DB: Why do you think the children in your school should come to Camp Hope?
AH: We had a lot of fun and we learned about God and different people in the Bible—we did a play and I was Daniel; I got thrown in the lion's den. *NH:* and I was Zipporah, Moses' wife.
DB: Anything else?
AH: It's a real good place.

The next Track Out Camp will be in January 2002. These two campers say they can't wait to go to Camp Hope again! If you have any bright ideas for Camp Hope, please call me at 834-7626 ext. 26.



Nekeshia and Aiesha Hinton

Expanded NeighborStore

at a new location nearby is being considered for this spring. We'll need many donations, volunteers, and shoppers.

Call Chad Lacher at 834-7626 ext. 24

BTM Board Members

- Freddy Johnson, *President*
- Val Edwards, *Chairman*
- Linda Hargrove, *Vice Chair & Editor of Newsletter*
- Keith Johnson, *Secretary*
- Cliff Thomas, *Treasurer*
- Robert Logan
- Skip Long
- Beth McMillan
- Johnny Morisey
- Barry Parker
- Al Reberg
- Joy Sloan

Building Together Ministries Staff

- Dawnn Breynae - *Youth Director, HES Technology Specialist*
- Kathy Boos - *Preschool Director*
- Mary Pat Dewey - *Admin. Assistant*
- Reggie Edwards - *Reconciliation and Women Together Outreaches*
- Eva Harris - *NeighborStore*
- Freddy Johnson - *Co-founder*
- Helen Johnson - *Co-founder*
- Chad Lacher - *NeighborStore*
- Jen Lacher - *Preschool*
- Linda Riggins - *ASA, Community Outreach*
- Donna Sorrell - *Front desk receptionist, Preschool Assistant*
- Stan Wiebe - *Haiti Liaison, Bookkeeper*