



# INNER CITY MISSION

helping the homeless find Home



## GOD PROVIDES THE GROWTH!

Another Resurrection Sunday is in the books and another springtime underway. How wonderful it is that we can freely worship and celebrate our God, and that He allows us a role in expanding His kingdom! In this brand new edition of Inner City Mission E-News we'll introduce you to Ellie, a little girl who doesn't live at Inner City Mission...but she wants to. We'll unpack our campus expansion plan to add five rooms to our campus, and we'll squeeze in a few other goodies as well.

### ELLIE'S DILEMMA



Just last year, this precious little girl was preparing to be born to loving parents who had prepared a home for her. Then something awful happened. Both recovering drug addicts, her parents experienced a full relapse. By the time Ellie made her entrance into this world her home was gone and she was whisked away into foster care for her own protection.

Ellie's father, Brandon, was raised in a drug-dealer's household. "I was a victim of molestation, I had a hatred for the world and my family didn't care. I started with marijuana at age 9 and graduated through cocaine, meth, and finally heroin." At 30 Brandon overdosed and was in a coma for several days. Afterwards he got clean with the help of the Salvation Army.

Danielle, Ellie's mother, also had a rough start: "It started when I was 13 with cocaine. By 14 I was on heroin. I couldn't stay out of trouble. I was in and out of prison because of drugs. After that last stay in prison I moved to Galesburg, and started to change my life."

Brandon and Danielle met at a Narcotics Anonymous meeting. They married a year and a half later. "We had our own house and I was seven months pregnant and we relapsed on drugs," Danielle admits. "Ellie was born prematurely and went into state care. My

house and my child were gone....

"I begged the DCFS case worker to get Brandon and I into rehab, and she made it happen. Someone at rehab told me about Inner City Mission...what they do for people. I wanted to come here so bad. I was raised going to church, but one thing I lost to the drugs was my spirituality. I knew ICM would help me get back in touch so I wouldn't lose faith and hope again.

"I called every day for two weeks, until a room opened up for me. By some miracle, they immediately found a room for Brandon, also."

While settling in at ICM, Danielle visited a nearby convenience store, where she met a clerk named Christina. When Christina learned that Danielle was at Inner City Mission, she felt compelled to tell her *own* story.

You see, Christina and her husband, Ryan, used to be residents at Inner City Mission. They came to the facility under nearly identical circumstances to those of Danielle and Brandon. Fully committed to recovery, but with their home and child lost to heroin addiction.

"Christina got her family and life back while staying at ICM," Danielle explains. "That's such an inspiration. I think God wanted me to meet Christina.

Danielle and Brandon are continuing with outpatient treatment at Gateway, taking a parenting course, and seeing a therapist regularly, in addition to classes and case management at ICM.

And Ellie? She is safe in care while her parents do the tough work that will bring them stability and strength. Once a week she gets to see them for a session of peek-a-boo, hugs and kisses. When the time is right, they will be a family again.

"At end of the day," Danielle says, "I'm glad we lost the house, and even our daughter to foster care. It has been a miracle and blessing."

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## CHRIST IS MOVING AND WE ARE GROWING!

Would you like to be involved in helping families like Ellie and her parents? "TIME TO GROW" is the name of our new 12 page booklet that briefly outlines our ministry and highlights the expansion plan by which we hope to add 5 rooms. This booklet has been prepared specifically for supporting churches, but anyone interested can request a .pdf version via email at [caleb@innercitymission.net](mailto:caleb@innercitymission.net).

In a nutshell: we are renovating our old clothing program house into an office building so both our brick and mortar buildings can be used to house and minister to the homeless. We are doing this with as much volunteer help as regulations allow, so this is an excellent opportunity for your church or small group to get involved in a hands-on way.



## A REWARDING DAY

You may not have heard of Hope Church in Modesto, Illinois. This group of about



30 worshippers is so new the internet hasn't discovered them yet. Ed Linhart is the pastor: "My wife and I have been in ministry 25 years. We moved to Palmira and bought a little farm. We saw a great need and decided to open a church in Modesto.

"We don't want our focus limited to just our neighborhood. We want to see people ministered to, see change in lives. We asked God to open the door for us to

be His hands and feet and we hit the ground running. This is only our third week as a church, and this is our first missions trip."

Fifteen members of the Hope Church arrived as scheduled at 10:30 in the morning on a Saturday, bringing some furniture and clothing. Pastor Ed took a moment for this interview. "We did an easter egg hunt and served lunch," he reported. "We'll stick around until about 2:00 just to fellowship and hold a Bible Study.

"This is good for ICM's residents but it's good for us, too. Seeing change take place in people's lives...it gives those of us trying to help hope that our work is not in vain. We walk away from something like this as blessed—if not more so—than the people who have the need."



## VINE CONFERENCE

400 high school students were invited to Illinois Christian University for their annual Vine Conference in April. The Vine Conference is a weekend retreat to engage and challenge high school students (grades 9-12) to own their faith and draw deeper into the Word.

Kids from 25-30 churches were in attendance. Inner City Mission was honored to be selected as their "ministry focus for the weekend event. Caleb Payne gave a presentation on the work of ICM. Over \$650 was raised for our ministry. Many thanks to LCU and these bright kids for inviting us.





## PRAISES AND PRAYERS

Join us in praying for peace, encouragement, and wisdom for Ellie's parents. Lord, please help them maintain hope and focus and never look to their broken past for answers to present circumstances, but to keep their eyes on You. We praise You for bringing them to a place where Your love can work miracles.

We thank you for the fruit growing out of the investment the body of Christ has made in Ryan and Christina. As they re-engage with the world, we pray they feel Your presence in their lives every day.

We ask for prayers for Christy, a friend of the mission, and also for Myrna. They are both facing specific health issues right now and we pray for healing. Send that same healing spirit to members of the staff who face health issues or challenges of life. Let them draw strength from You.

## FACILITY NEEDS

If you're out and about this week and happen to think of us, God bless you. We could use some general cleaning supplies, especially a floor cleaner like Pine-Sol. We're running low on sugar, and of course those 39-41 gallon trash bags.

Dropping off items like this are a great help in keeping our monthly expenses down and it gives us a chance to see and

