

Chicago Outreach Mission Update



INCM went to Chicago for worker training and children's from June 28 - July 8, 2009. Below are updates we received from the team throughout the trip.

July 2, 2009

This morning our Global Focus Team is packing to move to a hotel near the second church where we will minister. Our training there will be on Sunday afternoon, since Saturday is the 4th of July. Major Londa, from the East Chicago Salvation Army, said that the area where we will be is similar to East Chicago, as it relates to the economic status and ethnic mix. We feel that a positive impact was made in this East Chicago community.

We closed last night with a Family Event and a Worship Service. The Salvation Army provided hot dogs and hamburgers. They also rented two inflatables. Captain Peredes calls them inflammables. I admire how he and his wife don't let their primary language get in the way of ministry.

We started this Global Focus Project with training on Saturday. On Sunday evening we decorated the foyer and the sanctuary. That was the night that we ate dinner at 10:45 at a McDonalds near our hotel. The next morning we were at the church at 7:30am. Only 2 pews of children were there on Monday. The next day we doubled in attendance. Last night the sanctuary was filled from front to back. One church brought their children who had participated on Tuesday and Wednesday. Last night they also brought their youth group. Erika, a beautiful African American woman who brought the children, said she wanted the youth to come so they would experience worship that they have only experienced in black churches. *(continued next page)*



We had games and prizes (most were provided by donations). The worship time was sincere and a sweet fragrance to God. Eric preached and shared his testimony which is a message of hope. Numerous children and adults stood to indicate that they wanted someone to pray with them. Our team from Colorado prayed for each person. It was a precious time of ministry. Once everyone left about 9:30 last night, we started carefully taking down our decorations as they will be used in the next church. Some of the team went to dinner at 10:30 last night. Carl and I chose to say good-night. That was a very long day.



Your prayers are appreciated. Tomorrow the team will go to downtown Chicago. The two Denver families have never been to Chicago. I have been very impressed with the involvement and contributions made by the children of these families. We needed them and their lives have been impacted. Each of these kids whole-heartedly participated in every aspect. I especially appreciated their spiritual insight. I can't say enough about what was accomplished and how God used this unique endeavor.



July 7, 2009 - Update from East Chicago

Dear Team,
Thursday morning, we went back to the Salvation Army Church. The pastors had offered a movie and lunch at the church for the children. Our team arrived just before lunch was served to say our final goodbye. The children ran into our arms...literally. Some of them saying, "Please stay. You made church fun!" (continued next page)



Captain Nivia Peredes got some free downloadable songs from Eric. She plans to incorporate this music and other strategies she learned into their programming. Carl provided Daniel Peredes with the videos he had recorded of the week. Daniel wants to use this as part of his report to his superiors.



Eric, Carl and I transitioned to the room where the homeless adults gathered for lunch on Thursday, as they do each day during the week. Most of these people are men. I was pleased and impressed with the loving care that Eric extended as he shared a brief devotion and prayed for these needy people.

The food served to the people off the streets is the same food that was served to the children and our team each day. These meals were creatively prepared from the food donated by grocery stores, restaurants and bread companies. Of course, all of the food is day old, or older. Eric reminded us that on a mission trip we gratefully eat what is set before us.

After lunch, Captain Daniel Peredes was ready to help transport our team to Joliet. He drove the Salvation Army van with our luggage and part of the team. The rest of the team and all of our supplies were in the 12 passenger van driven from Denver. We are now resting and preparing for next week's training and VBS at a new church in Joliet. We will have 6 college student interns helping us next week.

*Judy Comstock, INCM Executive Director and
Eric Hamp, INCM Global Focus Director*



Please continue to pray for the East Side of Chicago and the Salvation Army that serves this area. The needs are many and the workers few.