

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

1:ONE

USA - URBAN MINISTRY

ONE TRANSFORMED LIFE

FRESNO, USA - Joseph is a man in his late 40's. Most of his childhood years were spent **on the streets** and most of his **adult years spent in prison**. A couple of years ago **Joseph was hit with the realization that his life had to change**. He was tired of living in fear.

When he walked off the streets and into a community of faith at Bethany Inner-City Church in Fresno, California all of that began to change. He found the love of Christ. **Now Joseph prays daily for strength** to resist the enemy and do what is right.

"I praise God for Joseph's steadfastness and courage," says ITeams' missionary Nancy Donat, who works alongside Bethany Inner-City Church. "We recently invited him to a leadership conference and the following Sunday he came to church really dressed up. I commented on how well he looked and he smiled and said, **'You know as leaders, we need to step it up a notch!'**"

Statistics show that most men with Joseph's history **end up back in prison**. Yet **God has transformed Joseph's heart** and is doing a work in him that **defies statistics**.

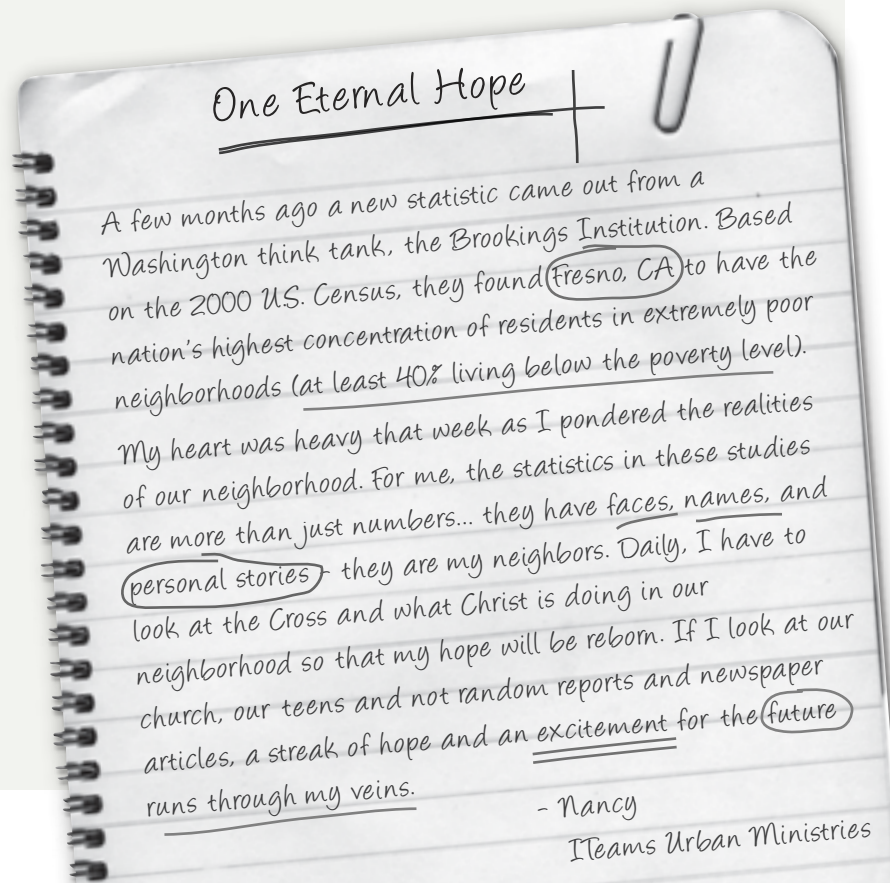
"It is by the grace of God I'm walking down the right path," explains Joseph, "There was something better calling me. Now I don't have to run, hide, or be afraid. **Now, I'm free!**"



Joseph (right) with ITeams' missionary Nancy Donat (left) in Fresno, CA

ITEAMS URBAN MINISTRY...

- Seeks to make Jesus Christ known and see lives transformed by the power of God in poor and ethnic communities in U.S. cities through the establishment and strengthening of inner-city churches.
- Teams work in partnership with indigenous, inner-city churches to share the Gospel, disciple believers, and cooperate in the economic, social, and educational development of the community.
- Is committed to a theology that is both creative and redemptive, for persons as well as places, and so seek the spiritual renewal of persons and the social renewal of places.



One Eternal Hope

A few months ago a new statistic came out from a Washington think tank, the Brookings Institution. Based on the 2000 U.S. Census, they found Fresno, CA to have the nation's highest concentration of residents in extremely poor neighborhoods (at least 40% living below the poverty level).

My heart was heavy that week as I pondered the realities of our neighborhood. For me, the statistics in these studies are more than just numbers... they have faces, names, and personal stories - they are my neighbors. Daily, I have to look at the Cross and what Christ is doing in our neighborhood so that my hope will be reborn. If I look at our church, our teens and not random reports and newspaper articles, a streak of hope and an excitement for the future runs through my veins.

- Nancy

ITEams Urban Ministries

**“DAILY, I HAVE TO LOOK AT THE CROSS
AND WHAT CHRIST IS DOING IN OUR
NEIGHBORHOOD SO THAT MY HOPE
WILL BE REBORN.”**

**- NANCY DONAT
ITEAMS' MISSIONARY**



Children create a clay sculpture while participating in the art program in North Lawndale

ONE CREATIVE IDENTITY

Three years ago, Karmen moved to Chicago's West Side to join the ITeams' Urban Ministry Team serving alongside Westlawn Gospel Chapel in North Lawndale. Little did she know, God would use art as an invaluable opportunity for building relationships with the kids.

Karmen began teaching art as a part of the afterschool program which seeks to help youth develop real art skills, study artists and cultural art forms, bring pieces of beauty to the neighborhood, **connect the youth's creativity with the Giver of creativity and beauty**, and build confidence and vision into the the youth.

Throughout the last couple of years the art program has evolved into a thriving integration of drawing, painting, collage, and pottery. Some of the projects have included a visual representation of the Creation story, a collaborative mural of the neighborhood, and studies on South African art.

“Creativity brilliantly exists in North Lawndale through many art forms including dance, spoken word, and visual art,” says Karmen. “Our art program has allowed the youth a voice to express their stories to their community... and to the world.”

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

OPPORTUNITIES TO GO (Urban Ministry)

- **YOUTH WORKER (CHICAGO, IL)** - Serve alongside ITeams' urban staff and ethnic church leaders.
- **WORSHIP TEAM MUSICIANS (FRESNO, CA)** - Lead the Worship Team at Bethany Inner-City Church.
- **URBAN ARTIST (CHICAGO, IL)** - Bring the wonder of art and God's creative character to inner-city youth.
- **YOUTH WORKER (FRESNO, CA)** - Serve alongside ITeams' urban staff and ethnic church leaders.

**Want to see more ministry opportunities?
Visit www.iteams.org/minopps**

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE (Urban Ministry)

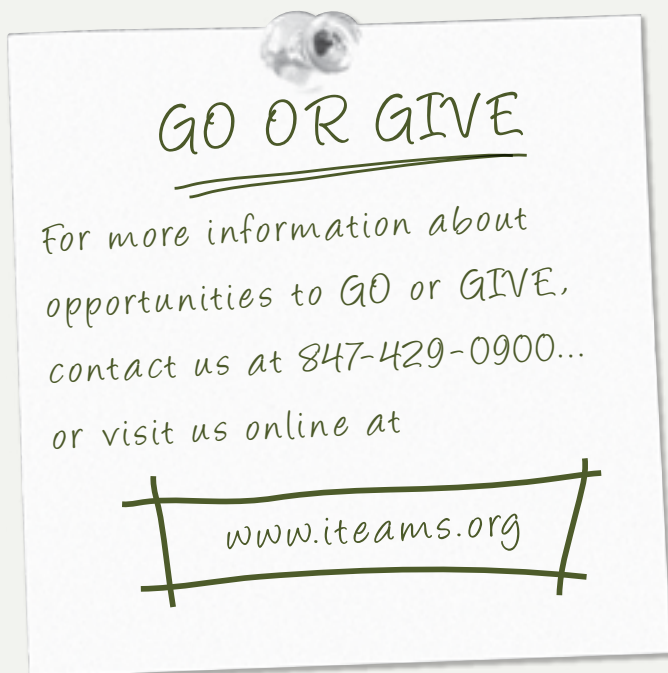
WESTLAWN YOUTH NETWORK YOUTH CENTER (CHICAGO, IL) - When completed (April 1, 2006) this new facility will house all after school programs, including tutoring, art programs, and sports activities:

- \$27,750 needed for multi-pupose gym flooring
- \$7,000 for volleyball and badmitten equipment
- \$19,500 needed for basketball equipment (6 back boards, 6 rims and nets, 15 basketballs)

SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS (FRESNO, CA) - Help Bethany Inner-City Church provide children and youth with life-changing experiences at church-sponsored summer camps.

- \$250 per student 4th-6th grade
- \$280 per jr. high student
- \$320 per high school student

You can now give online at www.iteams.org/give



NEXT ISSUE: Refugee Ministry