



VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

NOTES FROM THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

AUGUST 2013

Inside this issue

Chris Pender

Summer Camp:
Kids Musings

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UPCOMING DATES

Events - located at 900 E. Howell Street, 19149 unless otherwise indicated:

- Back to School Festival, 9/14/13 12-4pm
- After School, 3-6pm, Mon-Fri Begins 9/30/13
- GED and ESL, 5-8pm, Tues & Thurs, begins 9/17/13
- Workshop Series with Christian Legal Clinics, "Bad Landlord, Know Your Rights!", 6:30pm, 9/26/13

A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast."
--Psalms 139: 7-12

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

I've been meditating lately on God's presence in and among Oxford Circle. The above passage reminds us that regardless of where we find ourselves, his spirit is still with us. In the midst of the noise of 90 children filling our halls this summer, I am reminded that he is here. Whether in solitude or lack of it, he is present. In the midst of staffing changes, he holds us fast and his hand leads us. When it seems there are no answers to the dilemmas of poverty, violence, education, I remember that "the darkness is not dark... it is as light to you". In that is rest... Selah.



We are excited to welcome our new Program Director, Chris Pender, to OCCDA! Christopher A Pender, Sr. is a native of North Philadelphia. Chris has been married for 26 years and has four children. He holds an undergraduate degree in Business Administration and a Masters degree in Human Services from Lincoln University. In 2010, he was awarded the NAACP Extraordinary Citizens award.

Chris has accumulated over twenty years of experience working with young people and families in a variety of capacities such as coach, mentor and facilitator. Chris served as Director of Programs for Urban Family Council beginning in 2001 before becoming the President of Urban Family Council in 2007. After serving as President of Urban Family Council through May of 2009, Chris became the Director of Programs for People For People Inc.

A few of his greatest accomplishments include writing a book, designing curriculum on such topics as Abstinence, Healthy Relationships, Vision/Purpose, and Choices & Consequences.

Chris believes just as George Washington Carver wrote, "No individual has any right to come into this world and go out without leaving behind him legitimate and distinct reasons for having passed through it." "My legitimate reason for being here on earth is to make a difference in the lives of the next generation and their families in a positive way."

Here is an interviewed by Nyah, one of our summer campers: *The person I interviewed was Mr. Chris and he works as the program director in the office upstairs at OCCDA. His favorite thing about working there is working with the kids. Something I think makes him unique is that he likes vanilla ice cream. Most people that I know like ice cream like a lot of flavors. He has 4 siblings.*

Kid Musings



Thoughts on U.S. involvement in the Syrian civil war By Shawna

I think they shouldn't get involved with the rebels because its a waste of time. It is not our business about what happens in Syria. Sending guns over there is the worst thing to do ever. Someone is going to get hurt and then we are going to get blamed for people dying. What if the people from Syria decide to turn on the U.S. government and start shooting at us and many families will get hurt. We must help and protect ourselves by ignoring them. We will just make things worse. That is my opinion.



Wow Jam! Camp news By Emily, Isaiah, Ibtihal and Gabriel

Hello. Today we are gonig to talk about the arts at OCCDA's summer camp. But specifically we're going to talk about Wow Jam. Our teacher, Ms. Emily, teaches us. The support staff help keep us in order. We are there at summer camp sitting in a circle in the sanctuary. We are at Oxford Circle Mennonite Church in Oxford Circle community. We have it on Monday mornings, the first day of the week. It at 9:30 am. I guess the reason we have it is to learn music and have fun. We learn different songs, also to learn melodies and rhythm. One way we can tell rhythm is by a pitch pipe. And last but not least, what it's for is music and learning music. Also it's for being creative and showing your creativity. Here I am going to interview four campers and a staff. The first kid is Robert. He says "I like when we do a car song." Ibtihal says, "I like all of it." Isaiah says, "I like the car song like Robert." Gabriel says, "I like when all in a circle to sing a song." And that's Wow Jam, our favorite class. Thank you!



Kid Musings



"Pledge" by Dominick Wyche

I take a pledge to drumming
a pledge to humming. Just put
Down your weapon and join the
beat with your feet.

Autobiographical Poem by Jaron Tinsley

Jaron M Tinsley
Energetic
Brother of Kai, Nyah, and Amari
Who loves my mom and dad
Who wants people to
stop smoking
I do not like violence
I need food, water, and a
house. I share a room, a
house, a sink. I am scared
of roller coasters and bananas.
I want to see Shel Silverstine.
I dream of being a chef.
FACTS is my school
JJ



Ode to Peace By Rebecca Phillippe

Peace, the only thing we all want
Stopping the violence for only this
No more just this one thing
Stop it for the children, the babies
Children have passed away
Because we don't have this.
THE one thing that we need WAS PEACE.
Become a leader not a follower...
The world goes black, no lights,
no people.



If I gave you a pencil and paper, what would you write about?



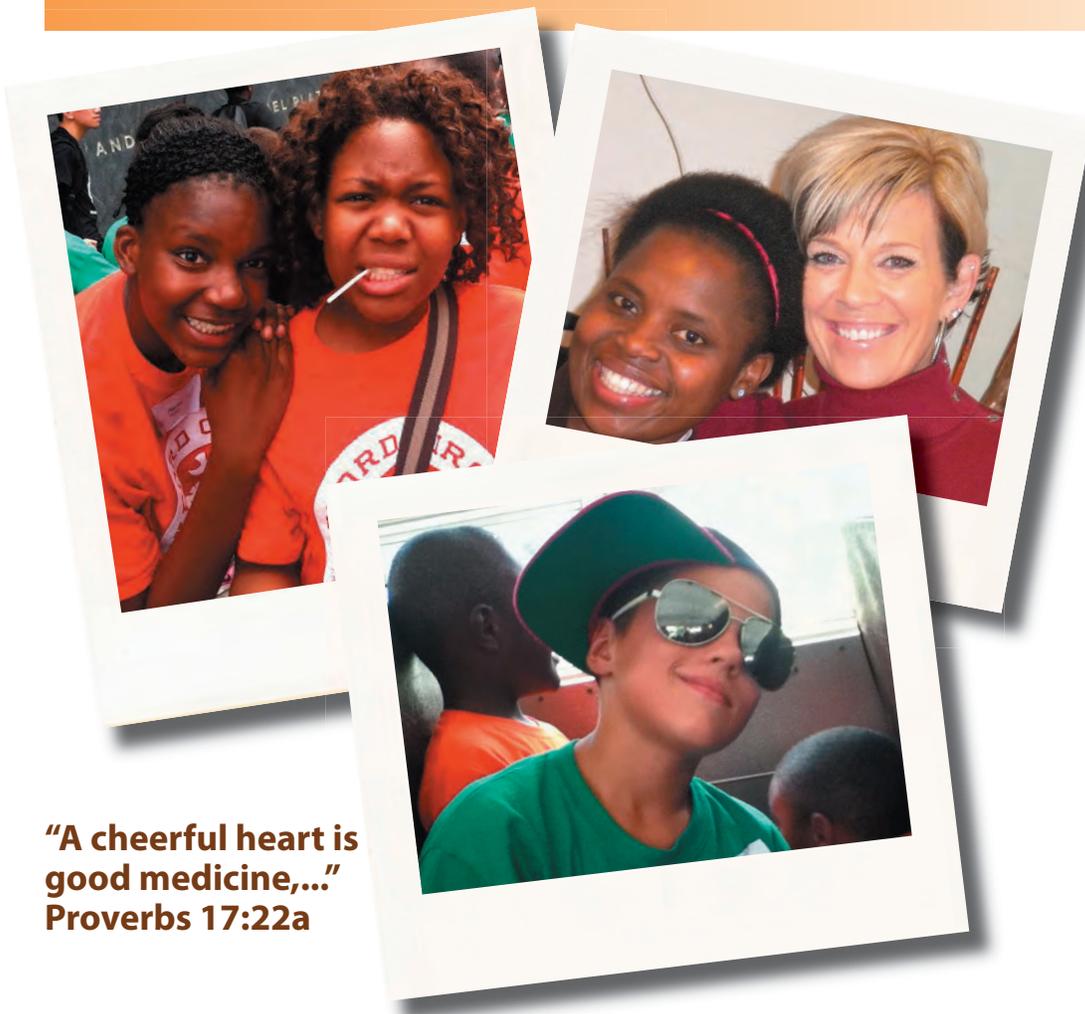
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*To extend
healing and hope in the
Oxford Circle community,
believing that God's
purpose of reconciling
all people to Jesus
leads us to minister
on spiritual, physical,
social & economic
levels.*



NOTES FROM THE BELOVED COMMUNITY



**"A cheerful heart is
good medicine,..."
Proverbs 17:22a**

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