



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE - YEAR END RECAP

It's truly a Blessing from God for Christ's Community Church (CCC) to have its own home. We are most grateful to God and to all our brothers and sisters who have supported us over the last 14 plus years. We have now been able to have the following activities in our new home - teen sleepovers, Super Bowl parties, an after school program, a summer feeding program, and more is to come.

This has been a busy year for CCC, but a very rewarding one for sure.

First, my wife, Donna, left FedEx to be come Director of Programs for the church and our non-profit, Urban Community Ministries. After 29½ years as a Sr. Instructional Design Specialist, she came on board full-time with the ministries. Donna hit the ground running working with our summer feeding

program. Pastor Walker thought it would be a good idea since we had the children here for the summer feeding program, to seize the opportunity to engage the children in an educational enrichment program. With a short time to prepare, Donna was able to key in on reading and math skills during the 8-week program. Through the Office of Gang Awareness' Summer Youth Works Program, we were also able to employ a few boys from Booker T Washington high to help us out with the program.

Second, we are very pleased to have Malcolm Green join the CCC family as a part time staff worker. Malcolm spent his childhood in the Clayborne and Foote Homes area. As a matter of fact, growing up, he lived in the apartment next door to the one in which I spent most of my upbringing.

Malcolm brings a tremendous amount of insight and wisdom to the ministry. He is proving to be very reliable and a hard worker. He also desires to see God do something big in the lives of the people in this community.

Third, we have joined forces with Memphis' Coalition for the Homeless, TN Community Service Agency, MIFA, Department of Human Services, North Memphis CDC, North Memphis Mental Health, and the Urban Youth Initiative (UYI) in a Health and Human Services federal grant servicing the homeless. Urban Community Ministries (UCM), the non-profit arm of CCC is tasked with providing after school activities for school age children. Through the church we are also providing resources (food, toiletries, etc.) for these families that are moving into the area.

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## Dedication and Celebration Service

On September 15, CCC had an open-air event that certainly blessed the neighborhood. There was lots of food, beautiful weather, and wonderful fellowship. Last but not least, Pastor Tony Wade preached a most inspiring message that challenged and encouraged. It praised Jesus for His faithfulness. When we are faithful to the call of God, He is for sure no less faithful to us. Where God guides, He provides. This brings to mind John 8:12 from the Message, *"No one who follows Me stumbles around in darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in."* This has been our philosophy, that if God wants us to do it, He will make the path plan for He provides the light showing us the way to go. We thank Him continually for His faithfulness to us!

## Prayer Request:

1. Please pray that God will send faithful, mature, dedicated workers (regardless of race, socio-economic status, education, or skill) who have a heart to see our city transformed by the love that only Christ can bring.
2. Since we have received God's blessing with a place of worship, many have discontinued their financial and volunteer support. Please pray:
  - a. That God will touch hearts for continued investment in God's kingdom through our ministry opportunities.
  - b. That individuals and families will see the need to come alongside and volunteer/mentor teens, moms, men, and families.

*Don't tell me how me you love me until you have shown me how much you care.* Helps us be Christ's hands and feet.
3. Pray that God will continue to bless the Walker Family.
  - a. Pastor Walker and Donna want to continue to be vessels for His use, always listening for God's wisdom to counsel His people and reach the lost.
  - b. The Walker girls (Kimberly, Kandace, and Rachel) need prayer to finish nursing school, college, and high school well and to always remember to keep God first.
  - c. Good health for all is also coveted in your prayers.
4. We still need a keyboardist, other musicians, AV, and website people.



Mack McCarroll with Pastor Lemar and summer youth workers



Freezer filled with soup

## YEAR END RECAP CONT'D.

Mack McCarroll, the brother of CCC and UCM councilman Andy McCarroll, coordinates the soup ministry for the needy at Holy Apostles Church. Mack purchased a 50-gallon pot about a year ago to cook his delicious soups. Mack recruited other church members to get involved in providing soup for the needy. When people from the community or CCC members are in need of food, we can give them frozen bags of soup and any other can goods we have in the pantry. I'm so excited when the Christian community gets involved to make a difference in the lives of others. As an old African proverb says "a lot of a little hands make the load light."

Fourth, our Thursday night free hair cuts community outreach program in cooperation with Tennessee School of Technology is going very well. I'm seeing young and older gentleman alike taking pride in their appearance, plus it has allowed CCC to meet and serve many of the residents in

the community. We do thank and praise God for that opportunity.

Fifth, Pastor Walker is also serving as a volunteer for the FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) ministry. As a volunteer chaplain for the athletes of Booker T. Washington High School, Pastor Walker is afforded an opportunity to share the Gospel and his personal testimony of what God is doing and has done in his life for the last 35 plus years.



Members of the BTW football team with FCA leaders from Advent Presbyterian

Want more information; check us out at [www.christschurchmemphis.com](http://www.christschurchmemphis.com).





## Bridging the Gap

God used Peggy Barkley, a missionary from another church in the area, serving as a children's leader, Women's Ministry teacher, and a prayer warrior at CCC to bridge the gap between the haves and the have-nots. Mrs. Barkley, a Victory University graduate, serves as the Athletic Department secretary where she is also instrumental in helping students stay in school and achieving their academic goals. Mrs. Barkley was contacted by John Jarnagin, the Victory University Baseball coach, about a service project for his baseball team, contacted Mrs. Barkley. The entire baseball team provided Thanksgiving dinner for one of the families that CCC and UCM have been assisting.

While delivering the food to the family, three of the team members learned that one of the teen residents was having a birthday the following Monday. Coincidentally it was the day prior to one of the ball player's birthday. With a desire to share his birthday, and in the spirit of compassion and caring, the young men used our building to surprise the teenage girl with a birthday celebration of ice cream, chocolate milk, and a giant birthday cookie. The look of amazement on the young girl's face was priceless. She said it was a birthday that she would never forget. Her mother, siblings, Rachel, Donna, Pastor Walker, and now three new friends from the Victory University Baseball team had thought enough of her to share in her day.

Sometimes it doesn't take a lot to make a difference in the life of others. Only if we would just take the time to do so, we will find that we are the true recipients of the blessing. Jesus said give and it shall be given unto to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over shall God return to your bosom. Everyone needs to know that there are people who care.

## MINISTRY IN PICTURES

Below are snapshots of other activities that have taken place over the past year.



Community Mercy Day with Center Point



Summer feeding program



Thursday night haircuts



Community Hallelujah Night (Harvest Festival)



Pre-Thanksgiving dinner for the community

## CROWN Ministries at CCC/UCM

After 29 ½ years at FedEx Express, God opened the door for Donna to more fully be involved at the church and non-profit as the Director of Programs. Coming from Corporate America with a background in Training as a Sr. Instructional Design Specialist, she now has the opportunity to add a bit more structure to an already loving organization.

With a desire to see all young people (and older, as well) understand the principles behind Jeremiah 29:11 and Psalm 139:1-18, Donna has a burden to see people reach their God-ordained potential. After seeing so many of our youth get to high school and beyond with little career or clear goals, Pastor Lemar and Donna went to a 3-day Crown Ministries Career Direct training session in Atlanta. Donna did her first consultation there and is now a Career Direct Consultant. She is excited about the opportunity to share with people how to get in tune with their God-given design.

There are two assessment types: educational (\$160) and career (\$220). It is Donna's hope that she can get enough of these assessments done to underwrite the costs of those who may not be able to afford the full price. No assessments will be conducted free because we want all to invest in their own future. Each assessment looks at these four areas: personality, skills & abilities, interests, and values. This identifies your strengths and truly enables you to live by God's design for your life.



*Please contact Donna Walker directly if you have children needing an educational assessment or if you are facing a career dilemma. She will be glad to work with you to ensure you are operating according to your bent and God's design for your life. She may be reached @ [ruwalking@yahoo.com](mailto:ruwalking@yahoo.com).*

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