

CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH/  
Urban Community Ministries  
**COMMUNITY  
CONNECTION**



Winter  
2017

## PASTOR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

I'm celebrating 40 years of ministry this year. God has done some amazing things with the young boy who was raised in a single parent home in the Clayborn Homes Housing Projects. As I think back over the years, God has taken me places I never thought I would visit, and I have met many wonderful people I never dreamed of meeting. As I reminisce over the past 40 years, my mind goes back to when I first accepted Christ into my life. I immediately started a bible study in my apartment with teenage boys on Saturday mornings. Even though I had no previous training in teaching God's word, I wanted everyone to experience the joy I had in my life with Jesus Christ. I would purchase refreshments to serve because I knew some had not eaten breakfast. Their mothers and grandmothers would tell me how much they appreciated what I was doing in the neighborhood, and with their sons and grandsons.

A short time later, I ran across the late Pastor Paul Coleman who would then expose me to street evangelism and prison ministry. We would go on different street corners in rough neighborhoods and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We would share our testimonies about how God changed our lives and wanted to change theirs, as well. I remember one night in particular, while preaching on the corner of Mississippi and McLemore, two police officers threaten to take us to jail if we didn't cut off our microphone and stop preaching. Well that night was an opportunity for us to bring glory to the name of Jesus Christ. Pastor Coleman said he was not going to cut off the microphone because a record shop across the street was playing its music using a microphone that was blaring through the air, why should we stop using our microphone? So, the two officers arrested Pastor Coleman. I asked were they going to arrest me and they said no because I had not done anything wrong. At that point, I grabbed the microphone and said, "for God so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son." They then handcuffed me and took me as well. As we were in booked and processed, we had an opportunity preach in jail. Many of the inmates and jailers gave their life to Jesus Christ that night.

Since that time and thereafter, Donna and I have been involved in Juvenile Court ministry, door to door evangelism, and foreign missions where we have traveled to Africa, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Dominican Republic, India, Italy, Jamaica, and Japan. We have visited some of these countries several times. As long as we can raise the support we will continue to endeavor to fulfill God's Great Commission. We also have done pre and post marriage counseling. We have hosted couple gathering where couples would share with each other how to keep your marriage strong. We have taken hundreds of children to camp, college tours, field trips and out of town trips to expose our children to a life outside of their neighborhoods.

FBI statistics reports that we are presently serving in a community that is one of the worst neighborhoods in the nation. We say praise The Lord. Many people may avoid this community, but we see the opportunity to bring change and hope to an area that is filled with many fatherless children and people living a life of despair and hopelessness. This is the community in which I was raised as a young boy, and I can identify with everything that people are facing. Jesus rescued me and my prayer is that the people in this community will allow Jesus to rescue them as well.

Looking back, it has been a journey. I have had many sleepless nights, and many trials but I thank God for saving MY SOUL and allowing me to give back what He has given me, love, Joy, grace, and oh so much mercy. One day when I stand before God, I hope and pray that I will hear "well done my good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a few things and now I will make you a ruler over many."

I thank God for all of our friends, brothers, and sisters that have supported Donna and I over the years. We could not have accomplished what we have done if you all had not been supportive of the work God had assigned us to do. I am looking forward to another 40 years or until God calls me home. Thank Jesus!!!

*Pastor, Lemar Walker*

### HELP US WHILE YOU SHOP

If you do any shopping on Amazon.com please consider designating **Urban Community Ministries** as your AmazonSmile charity of choice. For every purchase you make there, Amazon.com will donate a percentage to help our ministry. See [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) for more information on setting up an account and making a charitable selection. Thank You! ☺

**Prayer Requests:**

1. Please pray that God will bless us:
  - i. A Youth/Outreach/Education Pastor.
  - ii. Spirit-filled musicians who understand that leading worship is ministry.
  - iii. Faithful, mature, dedicated servants (regardless of race, socio-economic status, education, or skill) who have a heart to see our city transformed by the love of Christ, and who will come alongside to volunteer/mentor teens, moms, men, and families in the church and community.
  - iv. Tutors for our afterschool program.
  - v. School supplies for our Back 2 School rally and afterschool programs
  - vi. Hygiene items we can provide to our kids.
2. Pray that God would send keyboardists, other musicians, AV, and website people for our worship service and community outreach.
3. Pray that God would continue to provide the wisdom & resources we need to maintain and add to the following:
  - After School/Tutoring
  - Summer Safe Haven
  - Operation Christmas Child
  - Community Thanksgiving Meal
  - Community Christmas Baskets
4. Donna and I are seeing more and more the effects of sin on families. As Donna finishes up her Clinical Mental Health program at Freed-Hardeman and both of us having been trained in the American Bible Society's Trauma Healing Groups, we are feeling the urgency to have some type of community counseling offered at our building. We are also hoping with expectation to see how God will bring ministry-minded people to us – those whose only agenda is God's not their own. Be in prayer with us as we endeavor not to go ahead of God but to always be sensitive to His will for this ministry, this building, and our lives.
5. Please continue to pray for the Walker Family.

Also, we have a tutor who goes to First Evan who needs to carpool with someone during the winter because it gets dark early. Contact us if you are interested in connecting with this person.

You can reach Lemar or Donna at (901) 577-0707 or via email @ [administrator@christchurchmemphis.com](mailto:administrator@christchurchmemphis.com). We'd love to hear from you or have you visit.

## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

### WORKER PERSPECTIVES

**This Was Me**

First, I want to thank God for allowing me to be one of the persons in Christ to work with the children and families of our afterschool program. We have children from five years of age to nineteen. All of our children have their own personal struggles. That's what I think I do best, identify their struggles and help them work through them. Anything from low self-esteem to just knowing they are someone special because God created them that way.

I know for myself, I wish I had had a place like CCC/UCM to come to in the afternoon. A place where I would have been given a snack and a meal, a warm hug, help with my homework, and someone to help tell me about life. As a child, I longed for positive affirmation. I know I struggled with things like hygiene and having clean clothes, and those are some of the same issues that the children that we minister go through. We have to train our afterschool children not to laugh at each other. I can understand how they feel. As a child I just closed my emotions up, whereas the children today will fight about things because they are hurting and in attack mode.

I find many times the things they struggle with are a direct hit from what's going on at home. So, we find ourselves going to speak with the parents because we believe in helping the whole family. Our parents are usually receptive to what we have to say. We also help with homework and areas where they struggle in school, finding the results very rewarding. We had nine honor roll students and the others had really good progress. We send clothes, food, and hygiene items home, as well. Our pastor, Lemar Walker, and his wife, Donna, are very passionate about what they do for the families.

We are Christ-centered and will continue pressing for change. We want to see our children become successful but more

important than that, we pray for them to be children of the Living God. *(Submitted by UCM staffer Barbara Jackson )*

**Not Just a Safe Environment**

Our mothers view our afterschool program as more than just a safe environment for their children. They recognize that this program provides a wide range of activities and enriching learning opportunities for their children. In working with the afterschool program, I encounter many mothers who seem to have given up on life with nowhere to turn. This affects the attitudes of many of our afterschool children, giving them a lack of motivation to learn. This affects me as a leader in the afterschool program. I am often filled with lots of pain and grief for our community.

Most of our parents are single moms with no man as head of household to mentor the young men in the family. This makes it hard for a mentor to try and teach the young men because it's not being taught in the house. It is our endeavor to see some of these barrier's broken. We are beginning to see attitude changes in our male after school young men. They are beginning to step up and take on leadership roles. Little things such as helping out without having to be asked or looking out for the younger children.

We are also glad to share that our children are doing very well in their academics. For the first quarter of the school year, we had nine of our afterschool children to make the "HONOR ROLL". Out of this nine, we had eight which were elementary and one from our High School kids. It brings so much joy to the staff that the little that we do here in the evening time makes such a difference. It helps us to understand what our Pastor and Executive Director teaches us, "Our zip code does not determine our destiny". *(Submitted by CCC/UCM staffer Terry Peterson. )*

# PAST YEAR MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

*Over the past year, CCC/UCM has done the following in our efforts to build up God's kingdom*

**Moore Tech & The Collaborative** - God is continuing to put us in the path of people in the Memphis area who are trying also to build up this community. Earlier this year we were connected with the president of Moore Tech. He informed us that his institution is extremely under-utilized by young people coming out of college in this area. He originally came to our building to possibly look at our space because he knew of another organization that was hoping to set up satellite locations in various communities in the city.

From that meeting two things happened. 1) We were able to get information from him that we could pass on to those in the community and at BTW high school about the programs they offer and the good pay that is waiting upon completion of the programs. 2) We were able to meet two wonderful young ladies from The Collective. The Collective is a membership organization that provides career pathways and opportunities for young adults so they can change the world they see. They do this by providing soft skill development and addressing other road blocks to young people's entrance into college or trade school and providing a stipend during the development process. We were able to steer over 10 people to this new exciting organization.

**Italy Mission** – This October Pastor Lemar & Donna were able to accompany three other pastor and wife couples to Italy in October. The nature of our trip was to bring encouragement and hope to those who were ministering in a very hard place. We saw cathedrals where Mary was exalted more than Jesus and talk of having a personal relationship with Christ was thought to be heretical. Our team spoke in churches, Donna sang at a couple of those events, and we shared our testimonies with those to whom we were introduced. As you speak to people there is a sense in them that there is no need for this personal relationship because the church is there and that is enough, whether I attend or not. As long as our baby is baptized, we got married in a church, and we are buried in a church that is enough, we will be fine- that is all that is required. Some who have come to the saving truth of who Jesus Christ truly is have been

scorned by family and only have their church family to rely on. Pray with us as we pray for Italy and the missionaries there who are giving their lives and separating themselves from family in the States to go where God has called. Pray that the people of Italy will be more open to know of a relational Jesus who is interested in the intimate details of their lives.

**Morning Chapel Camping Experience** - Morning Chapel MBC each year takes their boys on a camping trip in T O Fuller Park. For the past few years they have graciously invited boys from CCC. The first weekend in June. This year there were about 35 boys, 18 of those were boys brought by CCC/UCM. Pastor Lemar did a devotion that Friday evening and eight of the boys came forward to dedicate their lives to the Lord. We are grateful for God moving in the heart of those young men. We know that turning to the Lord at an early age can lead to a life filled with the joy of walking with the Lord.

**Summer Safe Haven** - 06/05 - 07/27  
We had over 45 children (some of which are transitioning from homelessness) enrolled in UCM's Summer Safe Haven camp. The push during the summer is to help reduce the summer brain drain by keeping something academic before the children on a daily basis. This summer we visited Stax, the Pink Palace, Chucalissa, and the Children's museums. We also several police precinct visitors to interact with the children, and went skating at Skateland Memphis. We also had visitors from First Baptist Leitchfield in Kentucky who also shared of the time, talents, resources, and testimonies during the last week of the camp

**After School Program** – We are continuing our afterschool program Monday through Thursday from 3 - 6 p.m. In addition to our program assistant, Terry Peterson, we have added to other to help us love on the children and help them with their homework. As usual, Bro. Terry is still visiting LaRose Elementary 2 - 3 days a week connecting with teachers and letting the children know that we care for and are here for them. Snacks and dinner are served daily. We get the children's progress reports and report cards and strive to teach them that God can

open doors and an education can ensure they are prepared to walk through when God opens it. If you have an hour to spare one day a week, we could definitely use you. Give us a call to find out more.

**Prayer Shut ins** – CCC has instituted quarterly prayer shut ins. God has been dealing with our Pastor about our most under-utilized weapon. – prayer. Pray with us as we seek to help the church and the community understand that God has the answer to everything that we need. We just have to align our wills to His and stay connected our power source – Him!

**Hallelujah Night** – On October 31, we had our annual Halloween alternative – Hallelujah Night! This year we had about 70 community children who came in to our safe environment for a time of food, fun, movie, and of course – candy. Each child was given a full bag of candy as they exited the building for the night. We thank God that we have been able to do this for the children in the community.

**Community Thanksgiving Meals** - Our first year in this building the members wanted to do a Thanksgiving dinner for the community. Pastor Walker is a firm believer in holidays being a time to make memories with your family so he suggested having a pre-Thanksgiving meal the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving. We have committed to doing this every since. The first year, 11/21/15, we fed over 150 people. Last year, 11/19/16, we fed about 100 people but more importantly 5 prayed to received Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. This year, 11/18/17, we fed about 75 people and were able to minister to some families who had just moved into the neighborhood and were lacking other resources. We are a very small fellowship but we are so thankful for these who are here who truly have a servant's heart! Please pray that we endure!

**Operation Christmas Child (OCC)**- On 11/13 CCC delivered 100 shoeboxes to an East Memphis drop-off location. Throughout the year, donations for this yearly event are taken in the weekly offering. This year the church raised over \$1500 from the church offerings to go toward this effort. We have had some people in the church question why

**OCC cont'd.** - we push this effort throughout the year when there are so many in Memphis who are in need. One Sunday we showed the He Knows My Name OCC video was shown during service. You can look it up on YouTube and you too will understand why we feel it is important to help our church learn how to give to others and realize that we need to be more grateful for where we live and what we have. We are blessed!

#### Praise Reports:

1. During a Kairos weekend about 6 years ago, I had an opportunity to meet Dave (not his actual name). Over that weekend we had a chance to bond, we are still doing so to this very day. Dave had a life sentence for murder. He went in at 17 and was serving 25 years in the state penitentiary. I was mentoring him through calls, letters, and books. Donna and I were invited to his parole hearing earlier this year and I had the opportunity to speak on his behalf. He was granted parole his first visit to a parole board. He said in all of his years he has only known two other inmates who was granted parole

their first visit to the parole board. Dave promised he would come to church once released and he has been true to his word. He is married and now working full time as a truck driver. Our relationship has grown where now he calls me pops. He is grateful for how God intervened on his behalf.

2. We praise God for what He is doing in our afterschool program. We have about 30 students we are assisting with their school work Monday through Thursday each week. We are pleased to report that 9 of our students received honor certificates and all others had passing grades. Our workers and volunteers are doing a great job.

3. "Adam" the oldest of 8 children is a very mild-mannered young man. Since spending time with him and teaching him his role as the big brother in the home, he has stepped up to the plate and now taking responsibility as the oldest sibling. He is volunteering in the afterschool program and seeking out opportunities to show leadership.

## Ministry Offerings

### Sunday Mornings

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

### Wednesday Night

Prayer/ Bible Study/  
Mid-week Service 6 p.m.

### Mon-Thurs.

After School Program  
3 - 6 p.m.

### Thursday

Free Haircuts w/ TN School  
of Applied Technology  
4:45- 6:45 p.m.

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

Lemar Walker is the Pastor of Christ's Community Church and Executive Director of Urban Community Ministries. The goal of these ministries is to be salt and light, hands and feet in our city and the world, providing the Gospel to strengthen, empower and equip.

## **CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH** **WWW.CHRISTSCHURCHMEMPHIS.COM &** **Urban Community Ministries**

(901) 577-0707  
715 ST PAUL AVENUE  
MEMPHIS, TN 38126