

ACTION MATTERS

Area Christians Taking Initiative on Needs

A PERIODICAL FROM THE ACTION FOUNDATION

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013

CityKidz-Jesus in Action

“If Jesus was walking the earth today, this is where He would be,” remarked Pauline Rivera, Associate Pastor of South Coast Fellowship of Ventura, as she watched with pleasure as children of the Rose Park area in Oxnard enjoyed a lively game of “blind-man’s-bluff”. It was Monday afternoon, so this was the day that South Coast Fellowship’s outreach ministry CityKidz™ put on their children’s program here. The after school program, CityKidz™, currently visits nine locations throughout Ventura County, with another location launching soon.

Alex Lopez and his very capable and energetic staff of assistants and interns arrive at the Rose Park site with a colorfully decorated CityKidz™ box truck specially fitted with a fold down side stage. The entire staff works hard to fill these weekly programs with lively games, enthusiastic singing with charming hand gestures, applicable Bible lessons with real life illustrations, and instructions in prayer, including how to pray for one another.

What is most important for all the ministry members of CityKidz™ is that the children know that they are valued and loved. From the moment they arrive they are greeted by name and treated with warmth and respect. One mother, Janessa Franco, said that her daughters, Hailey 6 and Jamie 5, couldn’t wait to come on Mondays, that they loved the CityKidz™ music and sang the songs all through the week. “They love Jesus,” she said. “Even though they have had no exposure to Sunday school or church. It has all come from CityKidz™”

Each CityKidz™ team does more than just appear once a week and put on a kid’s Bible program. They also stop by during the week, taking time to build relationships with the kids, visit the families of the children involved with CityKidz™, learn where the individual needs are and to discover how South Coast Fellowship can try to meet those needs. CityKidz™ Coordinator Rafael Robles explained that it’s vital that the families “know that we’re going to be there for the long haul.” CityKidz™ is truly Jesus in action.

- Joyce Marcarelli



CommUNITY Backpacks

A few stories from around the county...

Oxnard Dream Center did not have the finances, volunteers or supplies to send our needy children back to school with new backpacks and supplies. We put the word out and within just a few weeks God’s hand moved in the community. On top of the donations of clothes we received two hundred backpacks, school supplies to fill the backpacks, beans and rice to feed two hundred people, raffles prizes and amazing Christian artists who performed. What an honor and a blessing to see God’s hand move in our community. You’ve heard the parable about the two fish and the five loaves of bread...well we had a bag of used clothes and some willing vessels and it turned into a BIG BACK 2 SCHOOL BASH!

- Pastor Richard Linares, Church for the Nations, Director of Oxnard Dream Center

The Bolker Park outreach by the Church at Parkview in Port Hueneme was truly an ACTION event. Churches and organizations came together from Westlake to Ventura to provide enough donations to send 110 filled backpacks to families in need. Additionally, Calvary Community Church’s Angel Threads ministry provided clothing for at least 75 people. The love of Jesus was shown to the neighbors in need of a savior... It was all about Jesus.

- Carolyn Dosick

"It's such an easy way to be charitable! At the beginning of each school year, if I'm buying school supplies, backpacks, etc. for my own kids, then purchase one more, additional set for a student in need. The extra cost is marginal but makes a huge difference to the families who can't afford it. 20 backpacks stuffed with supplies were distributed to a local "title 9" school.

- Pastor Jonathan Lusche, StoneBride Community Church, Simi Valley

Calvary gave out school clothes and 60 backpacks filled with school supplies and a Bible to kids needing help. They are equipped to have a great school year!

- Doty Santamaria, Calvary Community Church, Community Outreach Director

Jill's Joys

By Jill Upson, Executive Director

As we prepare this “back-to-school” newsletter it makes me think of how children live in the moment. I have found that sometimes we can learn a lot from children. If a five year old wants to help her friend who just fell down she reaches down, wipes her friend’s tears away, and helps her get back to her feet. She doesn’t say “Oh but I better go study so one day I will get a promotion.” In adulthood we often get caught up in the dreams we have for the future, or how we think we need to be, or the “ought tos.”



We need to remember to be of value to people where we are now. Give this moment all you have to give for the glory of God. Invest in what God has for us now. Don’t miss the present because you are too busy looking at the future (or the past for that matter.) “Only if” is no reason to not get in the game today. Don’t pass up the chance to make a difference and have an impact every day.

I invite you to take a look at ACTION’s new on-line needs management system... real needs right now in our communities. This new tool will be up and running within a couple of weeks. Watch for the e-mail announcement. What you choose to do does make a difference. “Get in the game, join God in what he is doing – and grow to be like him in the process! Opportunity awaits.”

Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson. Living a Life on Loan



Christmas Shoppe 2013

This year as the Christmas Season draws nearer, we are beginning preparations for our annual Community Christmas Shoppe’s!

This year we are happy to announce that there will be a new shop for low income families with disabilities in Camarillo at GoldCoast Church!

Check out our Christmas Shoppe page on our website for more details!



LightShine Tutoring

Lightshine Church, a new church plant in the Conejo Valley, is reaching out to the children and families at Walnut Elementary School in Newbury Park. As the new members proceeded with prayer and planning, they decided to “adopt” a school. At the same time, the Conejo Valley Unified School District has been looking for someone to start a tutoring program in Newbury Park. Wow! So amazing how God has lined them up to meet the needs of the community. The church members plan on meeting needs by tutoring and mentoring the students as well as doing beautification in the future. Families will be shown the caring love that Jesus shows each one of us every day.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

The Ventura County FCA story started (restated after years of little FCA involvement) three years ago when we had two certified school huddles and finished the year with ten huddles, plus Ray Caldwell joined us in the second semester. FCA’s mission is to present to athletes and coaches, and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church. By the end of last year, our third year, we had 18 huddles with 750 plus kids worshipping the Lord on a weekly bases during the lunch period at each school. This year we are starting with at least four more schools in the Oxnard/Hueneme area with a total of 22 school huddles in Ventura County and 800 plus kids attending. Most of our huddles have a church involvement, including the youth pastors doing the preaching and bringing pizza.

- Ed Lyon, Area Director, FCA Ventura County

The Landing

The Landing is structured as an ongoing 52-week program— based on the beatitudes where Jesus laid out principles for happiness in the sermon on the mount—for teenagers who are struggling to live their lives in a healthy, God-honoring way.

Lee Krabbe, the COMEpassion Ministry leader at Simi Valley Community Church said, “We started this program in response to the tragic loss of so many teens in our area as a direct result of drug overdose. We felt an urgent need to do anything we could to help. God has opened so many doors to us, and provided amazing resources and dedicated volunteers. The whole church has been excited to see how God is moving through this program.”

The Landing meets every Sunday night at 7pm in the Youth Room at Simi Valley Community Church.



Action Foundation



@Actionvc

