

"I HAVE NO ONE TO HELP ME INTO THE POOL"

These words, spoken by the lame man lying at the pool of Bethesda, can be spoken by far too many in our world today. Each morning the man was carried to the pool and laid by its edge. When the waters were troubled, the man, along with hundreds of others, struggled to be the first one into the pool and, by doing so, receive his healing. Every day someone beat him into the water. He did not have the strength necessary to be first, his broken condition stalled him on his journey to his healing.

When Jesus passed by and inquired as to whether or not the man desired his healing, the man's response was very telling, "There is no one to help me into the pool." Of course he wanted to be made whole. He was, without question, tired of living in his lame, crippled condition. He would love to walk and not have to be carried on his bed of infirmity. But he was powerless to overcome his situation, even though healing existed so very close to where he lay.

Where were the folks who brought him to the pool each morning and picked him up each evening? Was their life so busy they could not stay and assist him in entering the pool, so that he could experience the healing many others had experienced? Were they filling some need to do "good stuff" by bringing him and picking him up each day?

Before we pass judgment on these folks, let's take a look at how we operate. Could it be that we are guilty of just dropping folks off as well? Maybe we tell them about hope, but never bring them to the place of hope. Maybe we share with them about healing but choose not to sit by their side until their healing comes. Perhaps we sing to them, preach to them, teach them and tell them, but never get down beside them in their place of pain and hold them, nurture them, cuddle them, and make sure they get into the water of their healing. Maybe our "good stuff" is done by just taking them some food, sharing clothing with them, or giving to the ministry that will house and care for them. We keep telling them to get in the water, failing to understand that in their broken condition, they do not have the strength to get in the water on their own.

Children without dads are looking for men to help them get better. Single mother's struggling to survive are looking for someone to hold their hand and help them walk, or maybe crawl, or maybe even carried to their place of wholeness. Businessmen are wanting someone to stop trying to impress them and just care about them and their places of pain. Alcoholics and addicts are lying near the pool, they hear the church bells, see the church vans pass by, hear the preachers and singers telling of hope, but they cannot get to the place of stirred water on their own. They need, they all need, you and me to slow down, listen, give, and stay. Let us slow down our lives, listen to their words, give of the Father's love, and stay until they get healed.

Some will get it quickly, others take a long time--doesn't matter, long as they get it. What about it, want to give them a testimony that says, "When my waters were troubled, he/she helped me get in the pool of my healing and there I got what I needed." — Pastor Bruce

Partnership Service

Please mark your calendars for
March 7th
 at
5:30 PM

for a time of joint worship and ministry of the word with Roswell Church of God at the City of Refuge . All friends of City of Refuge are invited to join us for this Sunday night event.

School of the Word Schedule

WHETHER A NEW CHRISTIAN OR A SEASONED VETERAN PLEASE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS!

PLEASE JOIN US ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF MARCH AND APRIL FROM **7:00-9:00 PM** FOR AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- MARCH 11 **SHARING YOUR FAITH**
 *FINALIZING & SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY
 * INTENTIONAL EVANGELISM
- APRIL 8 **THE SCRIPTURAL CONCEPT OF HONOR**

THANK YOU
 ...for your support of the ministries of City of Refuge. If you have not received your contribution statement for 2003, please contact Laura at 404-874-2241 ext. 41.

Successful Students in the Tutoring Program

The Kids Club Tutoring Program has given many elementary aged kids an after-school environment to complete their homework and improve their reading and math skills. The city kids have been successful during this report card period with many students making A/B Honor Roll. A summary of the grade results are shown below. We are very proud of each kid for their dedication to the program and their hard work. If you are interested in using your time, talent or treasure in this program, contact Gretchen Abney at 404-874-2241 extension 44.

Summary of 2nd Quarter Grades

| | <u>A</u> | <u>B</u> | <u>C</u> | <u>D/F</u> |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| Language Arts | 38% | 46% | 16% | 0% |
| Math | 23% | 62% | 15% | 0% |
| Science | 46% | 46% | 8% | 0% |
| Social Studies | 54% | 23% | 23% | 0% |
| Health | 62% | 30% | 8% | 0% |

City of Refuge Contact Information

380 14th Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30318
Phone 404.874.2241 fax 404.733.6686
WEBSITE: WWW.CITYOFREFUGE.CO
EMAIL: cityofrefuge@aol.com

Summer Jam

Are you ready to encounter God in the city?

Put your love for Jesus into action as you feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give water to the thirsty and visit children in need of the Father's love.

Thursday, June 17 thru Sunday, June 20

Or

Thursday, June 24 thru Sunday, June 27

Registration: Thursday 1-4 PM

Closing: Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:30 AM

Cost: \$125 per person (All meals, housing and transportation included)

Application Deadline: May 1, 2004

Contact: 404-874-2241 ext.7

www.urbanmissionschool.comwww.cityofrefuge.cc*

2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

13-15 Jesus Jam
21 Children's Ministry Workshop 2-4 PM

March

7 Partnership Service 5:30 PM
6 & 20th Kid's Church 8 AM-12PM
12-13 Couples Retreat

Weekly Events

Sunday: Breakfast on Bankhead 9:30 AM/Service 10:30 AM

Monday through Thursday: After school Program 3:30 PM

Tuesday: Mission Mid-Week Service/ Teen Service 7 PM

Tuesday, Thursday: Safe Haven 11 AM-2 PM, Feeding Program 5 PM

Wednesday, Friday: Bridge Ministry 6 PM

Saturday: Kids Church 8 AM, Ring of Fire 12 PM