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Prayer Needs from your missionaries at New City Church - April 25, 2007

Praises!

- 1. College Tour.** JR, our teen employment director, was able to take 8 teen employees on a 22 college East Coast tour during Spring break. By hooking up with a ministry that does this year round, we were able to not only get our 8 teens exposed to colleges up and down the east coast, we were able to get them to think like college students. The trip was amazing. The leader gave them homework every day. Their daily schedule was as follows: get on the bus at 4am. Arrive at a university at 9am. Have a 2 hour tour. Get back in the bus for another college in the area and another tour. Lunch. Drive for a couple hours. One more tour in the afternoon. Homework turned in at 5pm sharp. If homework was in they got to go to a fun event for the evening. In terms of their evening schedule, they were treated like college kids - no curfew - no one holding their hand. But they had to be ready to get up at 4am and they had to turn in their homework at 5pm. If they didn't, they missed out on the evening events. At the end they had a "graduation" for which they each had to write a speech. The process was grueling, but also transformative. They each had to face something inside themselves and every one of them graduated. It was a blessing. They came back ready, eager and excited to face what a college life will be like. Now that they are back, they will be continuing in their SAT prep class that they attended in order to qualify for the trip.
- 2. Position Filled!** - We are happy to announce that we've hired Josh Doornbos to be our Teen Employment director! He will be starting in August as our Teen Director (the person who is running it now - JR - is here for a one year appointment and is going to grad school). Josh has a Masters in social work and is very gifted. I have had you praying about this for over a year so I want to let you know how it happened. In July, Josh & his wife Andrea came to the East coast from Michigan to check out urban ministries. My friend Danny Iverson was looking out for me and he sent them here, hoping that maybe we could cultivate a relationship. At this point they still had a year of school and we were in a position where we couldn't wait a year. But, we the day they visited, we felt a connection. I continued to call them through the next year and of all the ministries they visited, this one stuck out for them as the best fit. A couple weeks ago we hired them! Praise God for prayer answered and for a great family coming to join us (They're expecting and the due date is Dday - June 6.)
- 3. 29/11.** Our big Spring production is this weekend. We are excited about it. We've been working as a team of 15 teenagers and 3 adults for 3 months at creating an hour of drama, video, spoken word, poetry, and music to bring before 500-600 people this weekend. It should be really amazing. For the last several months I've been asking you to pray for increased relationship time with teens. This event has certainly helped with that. We are together A LOT. Watch what you pray for. But the it feels different. We are making deposits in their lives through the process that have become very valuable.

4. **After School continues to grow.** We've had steady attendance at the ASC and we are continuing to see growth and ownership from children and parents. Praise God for the learning this year has brought in how to tutor children and what their needs are.

Prayer Requests:

5. **29/11.** When we commit to these productions, we do it for 3 reasons: 1) it raises \$45,000 for scholarships for our ASC for kids who desperately need the help. 2) it galvanizes the whole place into mission-focused action. 3) it blesses the community in as we work really hard to present a message of God's redemption in the city. Pray that these three purposes will be met this weekend. And please come if you can.
6. **Job Fair** In June, we will be hosting our 3rd annual job fair. This is an opportunity for the kids who already work here to sharpen their skills and for us to hire new kids to replace those who are graduating and going off to college (the big goal). Our program has become very successful and we would like to continue to hire more kids this year. By the end of 2007 I would like to have 25 teens on the payroll. Right now we are at 18 currently employed and 5 more who have been working but are no longer because of other commitments or because they were here for only a seasonal job. This means we will only be able to hire about 7 new children unless we find and tap new sources of funding. Pray that we'll sense how ambitious to be and we'll get the resources to hire all the kids we are supposed to. About 100 teens will come looking for jobs.
7. **On a personal level** - Our family has been through much transition lately and it's not over. We have moved from 213 Virginia Ave to 106 Manhattan in Jersey City. Tonight we're moving from the first floor to the second floor, as it's not been renovated (which is a bit of closure right there!). We, however, have not yet sold our original home. This is because the deal fell through at the 11th hour. Pray we'll find a buyer and soon!