

DECEMBER, 2008

**MINISTRY SITES**  
SUMMER PARK APTS.  
RANCHWOODS  
FOUNTAIN WEST  
FLORAL GARDENS  
STONEY BROOK



## BRINGING NEW LIFE TO URBAN COMMUNITIES

### NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS . . .

#### ONGOING PROGRAMS:

- After School Programs
- Teen Club
- Youth Group
- Kids' Club
- Graffiti Clean-up
- Los Comrades
- Neighborhood Watch



#### Ministry Staff:

Derek Isaksen  
Executive Director

Kathy Isaksen  
Program Director

Valorie Smith  
Youth Development  
Coordinator

Kevin Williams  
Youth Pastor

Federico Santillan  
AmeriCorp Volunteer  
After School Coordinator

Brooke Woods  
AmeriCorp Volunteer  
After School Coordinator

Breanna Lott  
After School Coordinator

#### TURKEY TROT

The Fresno Pacific Sunbird Track Team partnered with L&LUM to sponsor the 2nd Annual Turkey Trot. It happened at the FPU track and the 60+ kids who participated had an awesome time. 20 turkeys were donated, so 20 winners walked away with Thanksgiving dinner halfway done! L&L staff who participated all agreed it was one of the best events ever, and J.T., FPU track coach, said that the team will talk about sponsoring a track meet in the spring for the kids! A BIG thank you to Federico Santillan, organizer of the event, and everyone else who helped make it happen!



#### URBAN MISSION

The Mennonite Brethren Missions organization invited L&LUM to be an Urban Mission ministry site for the 3rd year. A youth group of 17 kids and adults from Lodi partnered with L&LUM—they spent Saturday morning cleaning up graffiti in the neighborhood, then went to Stoney Brook where they painted the facility in which the after school program takes place. Some of L&L teens joined in and expressed how much they enjoyed meeting youth their age from other parts of California. A BIG thank you to Pastor Mark Thompson for facilitating this and to the Lodi Youth Group for their hard work!

### GRAFFITI CLEANUP TEAMS

Every Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m., you can find Steve Gonzales and his team putting on their goggles and gloves and going out to clean up graffiti throughout 1 sq. mile surrounding Summer Park Apts. Hope Rises, a community service group from Sunnyside High School, provides 20-30 students at least once a month to help Steve. Joe Pena and Marissa Gonzales are 2 of Steve's most faithful volunteers, along with various others who donate their time and energy. L&LUM is committed to impacting

as much of the surrounding community as possible, and cleaning up graffiti is one way to enhance the beauty of the neighborhood. A BIG thank you to Steve and his clean-up teams!



**BRINGING NEW LIFE TO  
URBAN  
COMMUNITIES**

1275 S. Winery  
Fresno, CA 93727  
Phone: (559) 408-7127  
Fax: (559) 255-7056  
Email: wa-ministry@cahousing.org



[www.luministries.com](http://www.luministries.com)



**THOUGHTS.....**As 2008 nears its end, it brings cause to reflect upon what has been significant for Light & Life Urban Ministries in the past year. I could go beneath the surface and talk about the nuts, bolts, and numbers that go into running a ministry. Rather, I want to tell you what I see, as a person looking into a mirrored pool would see a reflected image shining back at them. As I look at the pool that is Light & Life Urban Ministries, the first thing I see reflecting back is the smiling faces of hundreds of children. In neighborhoods that have been notorious for crime and fear, it is a miracle to see children running, laughing and playing. They are filled with hope and happiness because of numerous dedicated volunteers like Federico, Shelley, Megan, Brooke, Breanna, Katie, Kenny (I could go on and on) who have chosen to take the time to love and work with them through our after-school programs, summer day camp, kids' club, and other events. They have also met many more caring people through new ministry partners such as Read Fresno, Hope Rises, and the Fresno Pacific University track team. Looking further across the pool, I see the reflection of a large group of teens holding their heads high. Confident and emboldened by a new Teen Club run by Val Smith, they hold up rapidly improving report cards and positive interactions with peers and adults. Positively centered from a relationship with Christ discovered at the Youth group run by Kevin Williams, their faces are full of peace and hope for a bright future. At the far edge of the pool, a reflection reveals a group of adults, purposed and at peace. Many of them are Hispanic women who have found camaraderie through a mom's group, Las Comrades, facilitated by Sarah and Rosalinda at Barrios Unidos. Other adults are gathered together, strategizing on how to deal with community issues in a newly formed Neighborhood Watch group, facilitated by Steve Gonzales. Several more are led every week by Steve out in to the community, cleaning up graffiti and trash. As I gaze at the wonders of this beautiful reflection, I'm once again reminded of God's faithfulness in fulfilling that which he has called us to do. It was not too many years ago that all I would have seen in that pool were a few searching faces and a dark abyss to crawl up from. I praise God for all he has done in 2008, and can't wait to see what 2009 will bring!  
(Rev. Derek Isaksen, Executive Director)

**WHAT'S UP WITH YOUTH GROUP...**

SERVE FRESNO

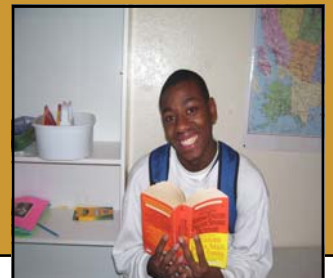
Approximately 15 teens and adults represented L&LUM in serving Fresno at Edison High School. They passed out over 200 boxes of food to families in the community. Thanks guys!



(Pictured above—Joe Pena, Victoria Bains, Darius Burdine)

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

Approximately 20 teens brought food and we all enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal together. After we ate, we shared what we were thankful for. The general consensus was that we were all thankful for God and for each other—we have become a family who cares for and loves each other, and there is no time like the holidays to acknowledge that.



Pictured above is J-J. He is "Teen of the Month"! How did he get this distinction? At the beginning of November, he had 2 failing grades, but by the end of the month he was passing all his classes.

Are you aware that Light & Life Urban Ministries (AKA Clovis Light & Life Fellowship) is entering its 10th year of ministry?

It's true.