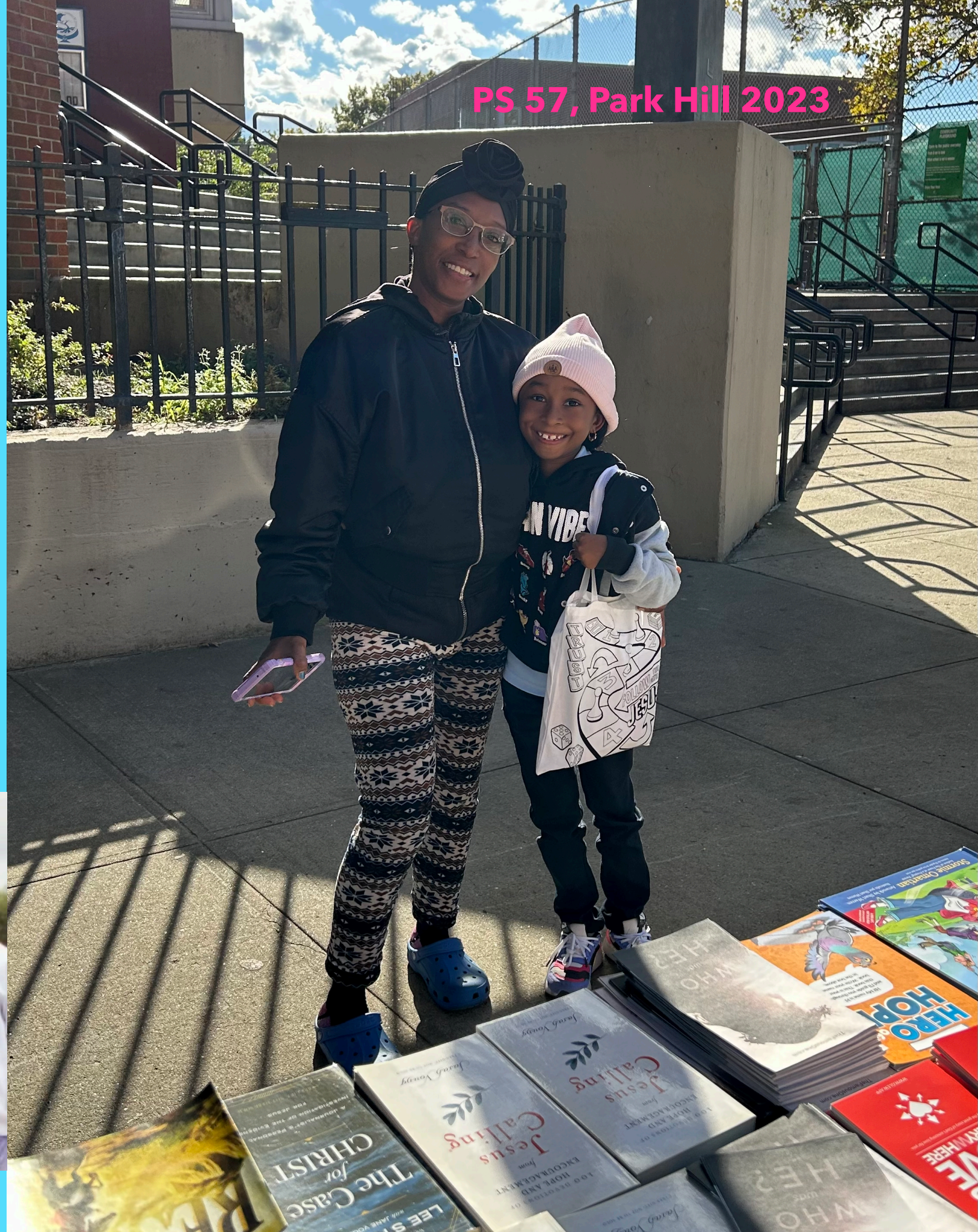


URBAN HOPE 2023

THEY WILL
REBUILD
THE RUINED
CITIES



West Brighton Houses 1999



PS 57, Park Hill 2023



Urban Hope in 90 seconds!!!

Dear Friends of Urban Hope,

It has been a glorious and heart wrenching year for us.

Glorious because we have seen the Good News in word and deed, with joy and passion impact tens of thousands all over the Northeast! We have ministered to over 12,000 students in assembly programs this year. 48 Principals on Staten Island are welcoming John Maxwell Leadership Development training for their student bodies. We have blessed thousands throughout 2023 in summer camps, Hope Kids Clubs, Easter egg hunts, Christmas parties, Literacy Initiatives, Basketball leagues and community healing vigils.

Heart wrenching because there are still so many neighborhoods that have been traumatized by poverty, drug abuse and violence. Seven teenagers were murdered in our beloved Park Hill/Stapleton Community this year.

Recently, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety asked us to set up our stage truck outside of PS 57 for two weeks, to bring comfort and prayer to Park Hill families (see pictures above and left).

We see a clear path for the healing of our devastated communities and cities, but it is the difficult path that Jesus took of entering into our suffering and sorrow to save us. Throughout this past year we have experienced the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings.

Thank you for bearing the burden of our devastated cities with us through your love, prayer and partnership in the many ways and the many years you have walked with us.

**In Christ Alone,
David Beidel**

SONGS IN SAMARIA

LOCAL NEWS

SUBSCRIBER ONLY

Teen boy, 13, fatally stabbed on Staten Island MTA bus; cops suspect slay was gang-related



Syles Ular, 13, who was stabbed to death on the S78 bus on his way home from school on Staten Island.

Pastors in vulnerable communities often get called into dark places. I was recently asked to accompany the police to visit a mother who's 13-year-old boy had been stabbed to death by a 14-year-old boy on the bus coming home from school. Syles was a beautiful, joyful child with a breathtaking smile. As we sat together to bear an unbearable burden with a mother who had experienced unimaginable loss, she shocked us all.

She looked us in the eyes and said of the murderer, "You tell that boy that I love him and I forgive him." She repeated her command to us. It was the very last thing any of us expected. The Bible says, "Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks." The next time I visited Nakia, she said, "I know God will use this one day for good." She even said to me recently, "whenever you are reaching out in the community, let me know, I want to help."

I've often shared that 95-98% of the people in the under-resourced communities that we serve are extraordinarily, loving, and caring. This moment and Nakia's beautiful extended family may be in my experience, the most powerful testimony to that.

There is a song in our struggling cities that must be heard. A song more beautiful and healing than can be imagined. A song that our nation and world needs. We must be more present to hear the song and heal the great wounds and injustices that have devastated these communities for generations.



MARINERS HARBOR EASTER EGG HUNT

So often, we have stared in wonder at the beauty of our community children as they laugh, sing and dance for joy. They are unaware of the dark social determinants that threaten them. It is abhorrent that financial instability, lead poisoning, slumlords, illiteracy, and location can swiftly turn their innocent childhood into a nightmare. The downward spiral of segregated and under-resourced neighborhoods was designed by a powerful collaboration of racist and opportunistic people (The Color of Law, Richard Rothstein). It's time for a greater collaboration of hopeful and kind people to transform these places of sorrow into Cities of Joy.

THE SCHOOL CRISIS

Much of the nation has moved on from the pandemic. Middle-class to wealthy families figured out how to make things work financially and educationally. This was not the case for families in places of **deep poverty. Their children experienced six times the educational loss as the general population.** Millions of children in fragile living situations are two to three years behind in school. If a young man from an inner-city community does not graduate High School, their chances of incarceration are 40-50%. If they graduate the likelihood is 2.7%. The Church's commission has rarely been more relevant: **Good news to the poor, recovery of sight for the blind (illiterate), freedom for prisoners.**

Much of the research I have done to understand the roots of multi-generational poverty has brought me to weeping. Unbridled greed and racism has ravaged under-resourced minorities. Since 1865, an evil game of monopoly not only made home ownership impossible for most black and brown Americans. Their communities were deliberately segregated, underfunded, destroyed, demonized and targeted for incarceration.

Only the body of Christ is capable of reversing the devastation of generations. We see healing and renewal wherever we "put the soles of our feet."



PS 57, PARK HILL



The longings of Jesus that:

"We might be one" so that the world will know His love and that there would be:

"no sheep without a shepherd in our cities," are both powerfully and beautifully being satisfied in cities throughout the Northeast!

Jesus Week 2023

204 churches adopted, 136 zip codes throughout the Northeast. 1922 persons participated in over 1000 outreaches, reaching ~170,000 people with good news of GREAT JOY!

CITIES OF JOY

ARE RISING UP IN STATEN ISLAND

FESTIVALS AND OUTREACHES: 57 community outreaches from Easter egg hunts to after-school events.

SIX WEEKS OF SUMMER CAMP in 6 Public Housing Communities reaching **438 children.**

READ TO SUCCEED LITERACY: 78 Children tutored in 5 schools in Staten Island. 90 more registered for this semester!

SPORTS WORLD ASSEMBLY PROGRAMS: 47,000 students ministered to in 17 schools

TRANSFORMATION TABLES: 3000 students trained in collaboration with John Maxwell Virtue based Leadership Development Resources

URBAN HOOPS: 100 girls, 8 teams, seven weeks, 700 adults cheering in a college gym. Commissioner Keith Howard was awed and excited about this top shelf young women's league.

HOPE KIDZ CLUBS: It has been a joy to serve in **five schools** this year as we enrich our dream of providing comprehensive care to children in under-resourced neighborhoods.

CRISIS INTERVENTION: 1800 children, family members, teachers, friends comforted and encouraged in schools, churches and community comfort events in the wake of tragic death.

CARE PROVIDED: \$48,000.00 in economic impact has been provided to Staten Island families in crisis through the Care Portal network of local churches.



CHRISTMAS SOCKS!

We closed off 2023 with our strongest Christmas outreach ever. 10,000 people were blessed by an extraordinary collaboration of churches and nonprofits who facilitated 9 parties and winter wonderlands in three boroughs. Over 25,000 gifts were distributed along with joyful worship, hot chocolate, Gospel resources, and heaps of love. **What pierced my heart however were the tears that came to mother's eyes when we provided SOCKS - we distributed thousands! (Thank you Bomba and Serve-All)**

We have several big goals for the communities we serve: No sheep with out a shepherd, No illiterate 3rd graders, No disconnected teens, No hopeless families...**this year we added one more - no sock-less children in winter.**



Thank you for your love, prayers and support that have enabled us to share the tender love of Jesus with millions throughout the Northeast.

**PLEASE CONSIDER AN
END OF THE YEAR GIFT
AND/OR MONTHLY
SUPPORT IN 2024!**

**WE ARE GROWING
RAPIDLY IN OUTREACH
BUT MUCH LESS SO IN
SUPPORT. YOUR HELP
WILL MAKE A HUGE
DIFFERENCE.**

PRAY - VOLUNTEER - SUPPORT

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