

Spring 2017

Interceptor

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Lives Changed

Your partnership changed lives at Spring Camp Nikos!

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Communities Impacted

Your investment is an investment in real life.

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Generations Transformed

Big Fish Club is growing to another apartment complex that has more than 150 Big Fish Club-aged kiddos!

Through Christ all things are possible. Over the years of serving in our city we have learned many things that could not have been understood had we not faced the impossible from a human perspective.

Fourteen years ago, when we were thinking of purchasing an abandoned old church at 12th and Chicon many loving friends wanted to protect me from making a “big mistake”. From a human perspective, it seemed impossible to establish a Mission in such a dangerous neighborhood with crime, drug dealers, and prostitutes.

One night as I was praying about this, God allowed me to come under intense spiritual attack. I was left deeply shaken; my whole body was gripped with fear. Mistakenly, I thought God had spoken to me. After this there was no way I was going to pursue the purchase of this property. In fact, I planned on never returning. Driving home very upset, I called my wife Cindy and told her, “I think I just heard from God about purchasing the old church.” She quickly said, “Are you sure it was God you heard from; God does not communicate fear!” What a confirmation!

Today, Mission: Possible! Austin is located in one of the most sought after real-estate zip codes in the city. Some have encouraged us to move, investors are offering unbelievable amounts for the property, but we believe God provided this real-estate to make a transformational difference in this community.

- There are seven major government housing developments within one mile of our location. God has opened the doors enabling us to have children programs that reach into these neighborhood developments with the hope and transforming love of Christ.
- God has enabled us to partner with the Eastside Community Church on our campus that serves as a discipling Body of Christ in the once abandoned 12th & Chicon chapel.
- God has led others ministries like the Heart of Texas Pregnancy Resource Center and Nineveh Ministries to serve young moms and incarcerated youth in the community.
- At this location, God has provided a place for Substance Abuse Recovery Programs for those struggling with dependency issues.
- Through God’s provision at 12th and Chicon, a new Hesed Housing Development will serve as interventional housing for families that find themselves in crisis situations and in need of a short-term plan to get help they need.

In Christ, what appeared impossible is possible, loving and serving our neighbors!

A few months ago, Mission: Possible! Austin received a letter from the Austin police department notifying us that Church Under the Bridge attenders would soon be subject to arrest for criminal trespass. It looked like this ministry that has served the least and last of our society for 23 years was coming to an end. Fear again began to move us to consider closing the CUB services; but fear is not from God!

After months of investigating, meeting with the police and city council members the city began to understand and recognize the value that Mission: Possible! Austin brings to the city. Despite this, the threat of arrest remained.

We called the Mission: Possible! Austin support community to prayer!

A few weeks later, the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) contacted us for a mandatory meeting. By this time, we were emboldened and were prepared for a “righteous fight”; but God went before us. As we walked into the TXDOT offices we immediately noted a peaceful spirit. I truly believe that everyone in the room was a believer! Shortly after the meeting began, the decision maker said, “I am under a higher mandate than this situation. My wife told me that if I close down the Church Under the Bridge I am not to come home!”. He and his wife were believers that served at Church Under the Bridge for years.

TXDOT is now in the process of defining a perpetual, no cost, permit with the blessing of our city to assemble, worship God, and preach the Gospel serving the street people at Church Under the Bridge! God is so good! In Him, our Mission is truly possible!

As always, His peace and our deepest appreciation,

Tim Pinson, Sr.
Executive Director

**Fear is
not from
God.**

Everyone loves a vacation - a chance to escape the cares of daily life and to have fun. This is especially true for the children we serve at Mission: Possible! Austin, who for many of them, Nikos Camps are the only vacation they go on. Your partnership allows us to provide these camps, and during Spring Break, we host Spring Nikos Camps where the kids in our community get to take a break, have fun, and hear about Jesus when they have the week off of school.

Because of you, girls like Monica get to come to camp. Monica is a fun, happy girl who enjoys swimming and games.

During cabin activity, Monica fell and hurt her back. While Monica was resting at the nurse's cabin, nurse Sophia prayed with Monica for her back. As Monica rested, Nurse Sophia began to talk with her about Jesus!

A little later Mr. Jon the Camp Director came in to check on Monica. Mr. Jon and Monica talked about what it

means to accept Jesus into your heart, and what it meant to follow Jesus every day. They talked about sin, Jesus dying on the cross in our place, and that He is alive!

Monica made the decision to make Jesus her personal Lord and Savior! Mr. Jon gave her a Bible with her name in it. Monica was so excited she could not wait to tell her friends about Jesus and her new Bible.

Due to Monica's high level of pain we were waiting for her grandmother to come and take her home. By the time grandma arrived, just a couple of hours, Monica had very little pain! Monica wanted to stay at camp and rejoin her new friends. By the end of the day Monica was running and jumping with her cabin mates.

Every time Monica saw Mr. Jon she smiled and talked about Jesus. Monica is a great example of why we "do" camp! Praise the Lord with us and pray for Monica and her new walk of faith with Christ our King!



Je'Lyne (top) and Xavier (bottom) had never met before Mission: Possible! Austin Spring Nikos Camp. Both boys are fun, crazy, and sweet all at the same time. Xavier came up to me and said, "Mr. Jon, I was mad at you because you didn't put me with my friends. But, I'm not mad at you anymore because I have all these new friends!" Xavier put his arm around Je'Lyne and said, "like him! He's my new friend!"

and he pushed me. I didn't WANT to hit him! But I had to!" I explained to the boys how we don't fight. This was a perfect example to talk about grace and forgiveness! We talked about how people hurt Jesus, yet He still died for us. We don't have to retaliate no matter what the world teaches us. Before I could even tell them what to do, Xavier turned to Je'Lyne (still crying), hugged him, and asked for forgiveness! Both boys apologized and forgave each other. They were best friends again!



Later in the week I noticed Xavier was outside of his cabin with his camp counselor. He looked like he was in trouble. As I walked up he looked me in the eye and started to cry. I asked Xavier what was wrong and he said, "I pushed Je'Lyne but we were just playing around, but I hurt him. He hit me, but I didn't WANT to hurt him!" He was so sad about hurting Je'Lyne's feelings! I asked Je'Lyne to join us with his counselor. I asked Je'Lyne what happened and he started crying! He said, "We were just playing around

Je'Lyne and Xavier reminded me during camp that no matter what happens to me I am able to love others. Christ died for the people that hurt him, so can I love others even when they hurt me. Those two boys challenged and encouraged me to live obedient to Christ. I thank God for kids like Je'Lyne and Xavier!

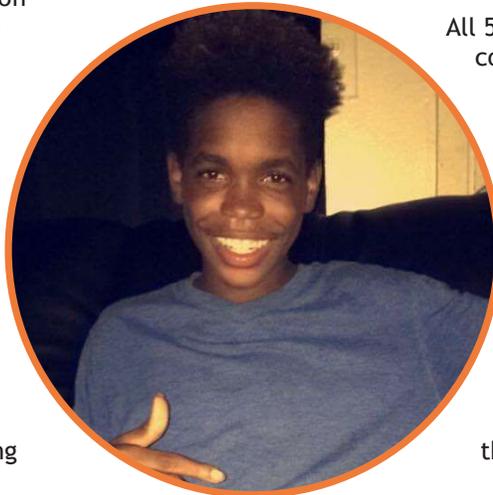
Tmori is one of **five** guys in our FUZE ministry who accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior in March 2017!

Tmori started coming to FUZE on and off in 2016 with his siblings. As he started coming more consistently he started building relationships with the leaders. Tmori and I hit it off; during our teaching sessions, he would listen intently.

We did a series on prayer and studied why Jesus taught us how to pray. The FUZE group had the opportunity to join the Eastside Community Church prayer night on our campus. The next week we wrapped up the series of prayer by breaking up in small groups and praying for each other.

My small group consisted of one other leader and five guys. We answered questions about sin, salvation, and

what a relationship with Jesus looked like. Tmori was the oldest high school guy and he confessed and asked Jesus to come into his life!



All 5 guys decided to make the decision after confessing sin and learning about the life-change in Jesus! After sharing and celebrating as a group we matched up each guy with a discipleship mentor.

Tmori and I started began to meet once a week. I gave him a new student study Bible, and we are discussing the next steps in his faith journey! Tmori encourages me every week that all things are possible with God. I am excited and so grateful serve with committed donors and volunteers that make FUZE a reality.

This spring we have now extended our Big Fish Club (BFC) program to include Booker T. Washington Terraces! We have been blessed with a solid team of ten volunteers, which continues to grow each week. Currently there are about 40 children attending, but that is quickly expanding! There are about 150 children ages 6-11 at Booker T that we have the opportunity to build relationships with.

We are so excited for all of the sweet kiddos getting to join Big Fish Club; we cannot wait for all the opportunities the Lord will open for us at Booker T! We have already seen a great deal of love and growth in the few months we have been at this site. As always, prayer is much needed and appreciated, specifically for more volunteers and for God to be glorified through BFC in this community!



Big Fish Club: Tutoring

Jessica Brooks, Children's Ministry Coordinator

The Mission: Possible! Austin Big Fish program has provided consistent volunteers tutoring children at the Elm Ridge Apartments for the past two years. Having the opportunity to holistically care and love on these young people has strengthened and deepened the relationships that began at Big Fish Club. Through tutoring, we are able to empower them beyond Big Fish Club to include their education and bright futures.

One of our Community Captains for Big Fish Club is Kathleen Corder, who has been tutoring at Elm Ridge since the beginning. Kathleen says, "I love getting the chance to talk with our Big Fish kids outside of normal club time. Thursdays (BFC) can be beautiful chaos, but in tutoring we have a smaller group and some of the kids are definitely more in their comfort zone when things are calm and comfortable. These kids desperately need and desire individual attention; tutoring time is one of the sweetest chances to encourage them and celebrate their individual strengths. I would highly recommend



tutoring because these kids will change your outlook on life and redefine how you think about loving people. It's much more than just help with homework; it is mentorship, teaching, encouragement, and showing these kids that they matter and are capable of things much greater than they can imagine right now. As far as kids changing, I see them trusting us more and more as we spend time there each week. I love watching them light up as we celebrate learning victories, and I love seeing how God's been perfectly crafting these relationships over the years. I think it's mainly changed me in the way I go about teaching. Sometimes it's not about getting homework done as fast as possible, but instead showing them love in the moment and taking the time to walk through the simple steps with the kids so they'll fully understand and learn."

Mission: Possible! Austin Community Center (MPCC)

Mike Featherstone, Community Outreach Coordinator

The MPCC is the hub of Mission: Possible! Austin (MP Austin) activity. As our Community Outreach center, the MPCC hosts and/or provides access to several programs and ministries including: Child & Family weekly meetings, Community Circles, the Heart of Texas Pregnancy Resource Center, Nineveh Ministries, Recovery Austin, the Eastside Community Church, Birthday Night and Bible studies. The MPCC, in part, enables the Body of Christ to provide resources and answers to community needs with many parts acting as a whole.

Our heart is to draw our neighbors toward God. The MPCC is open without charge to anyone weekdays 9 a.m. to noon where, subject to availability, we serve a variety of food including eggs, tacos, pastries, coffee, juice, and tea. It is very rewarding to express the love of Christ to our neighbors by enabling volunteers who donate their time and energy to serve others. This is practical discipleship in action, a major part of the life on life approach at MP Austin.

We host two community Bible studies each week. The first is on Tuesday evenings following a community dinner at 6 p.m. The Bible study is from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The second

Bible study is on Wednesday's from 11:00 a.m. to noon. It is a blessing to host these Bible studies where the Holy Scriptures are taught and where our neighbors have the opportunity to interact. We are humbled to know that God is using MP Austin for His kingdom purposes.

A large part of our Community Outreach ministry is the B.A.G.S. program. MP Austin, an agency of the Central Texas Food Bank, once-a-month delivers healthy groceries to homes of the elderly and disabled in our neighborhood through a team of dedicated volunteers. This ministry is much more than a grocery deliver program as volunteers build relationships with recipients and pray for them regularly.

On the third Friday of each month we host a "Birthday Night" celebration for all MPCC attendees. This is very well received and a long-standing custom at MP Austin. A meal is provided followed by a cake and ice cream. Another team of volunteers makes this possible. This is one more opportunity to express our heart that all people have been created in God's image and have great value in His eyes.

Mission: Possible! Austin Church Under the Bridge (CUB) is marching forward into 2017! By the grace of God, we will be allowed to remain in our current location under the IH35 bridge at 7th Street. We are in the process of defining and obtaining a Permit to Meet with the Texas Dept. of Transportation (TXDOT). This is a direct answer to the prayers of the Body of Christ to keep the Gospel of grace in downtown Austin.

We meet every Sunday regardless of the weather. CUB is an opportunity for the Body of Christ to serve the under-served. This is made possible by our donors, a core group of sponsor churches and a dedicated group of volunteers. Most recently a new team of volunteers, Paraclete Ministries, has joined us in serving our neighbors on the fourth Sundays. They come with breakfast items and visit with CUB attenders offering relationship and prayer. What a blessing it is to witness Sunday after Sunday the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit as the Body of Christ gathers to minister to our neighbors.

Each Sunday we invite the CUB community to join us weekdays at the 12th & Chicon Community Center. At the Community

Center, we welcome everyone with the love of Christ. As friendships are formed and a community is developed we are able to share the hope of Christ.

With your on-going prayer and support, you are there with us! Thank you!



This Spring at the Pflugerville Restoration Art Center (RAC) we have had the privilege to witness God do His mighty work of making all things new. Hebrews 4:12 informs us that God's word is alive and effective, piercing to the soul and spirit, judging the heart.

During our Women's Conversational English class, while studying the Bible we sifted through the crazy family life of the Patriarch, Jacob, and we also discussed what happened to Joseph. God touched the heart of our neighbor Paulina and she wept openly as she shared her great despair over her own broken family story. After listening to her, we surrounded her with prayers and hugs. God broke through her darkness as one of our volunteers Adrianna led her and she prayed to receive Christ as her Savior. It was amazing to witness the wonderful grace of God transform Paulina before our eyes. Paulina's sorrow and tears were replaced

with overflowing joy and her burden was lifted - praise the name of the Lord! She is full of joy now and will continue to be encouraged in her new life in Christ by Adrianna.

I am so thankful for the miracle only God can do; transform hearts and lives. God also knows we all need fresh vision and encouragement to keep going in the direction He has called us. He is not content to leave us where we are in our journey with Him, but like Paulina, God intersects our timeline with mercy, grace and love.

The RAC ministry has been blossoming like the roadside bluebonnets! Ask the Father to send the workers for the field is ripe. To volunteer or find out more: check out the website, MPAustin.org. or email Shelley@mpaustin.org.



Summer Camp Nikos

June 10th-17th

Ages 6-11

Twin Oaks Ranch 100 Marks Overlook

Buda, TX 78610

Adopt a child for Camp! \$375 provides an at-risk child an opportunity to experience a week of fun! Camp includes Christ-centered curriculum, fun activities, and a chance for deeper relationship with their camp counselor! For more information visit www.mpaustin.org or contact Jon Rector at Jon@mpaustin.org

All gifts will be doubled through a matching gift provided by Capitol Chevrolet for donations up to \$5,000.00.

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You help make our mission possible!

Donate

A monthly contribution changes lives, impacts communities, and transforms generations!

Volunteer

Sign up online today for one of our volunteer opportunities!

Email

Looking for more information about MP Austin activities? Email info@mpaustin.org

Connect

Connect with MP Austin online!