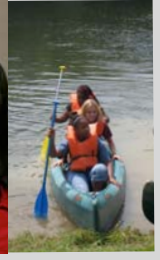




ASLAN Youth Ministries

P.O. Box 270 * Red Bank, NJ 07701 www.aslanyouth.org



September/October 2009

Greetings Friends of Aslan!

Thank you for your continued support of Aslan. It's because of faithful friends like you that Aslan is able to make a difference in the lives of children like Ayisha.*

Ayisha is a tough kid. She's always animated—one minute she flashes a big, beautiful smile and the next, she verbally lashes out and cuts down anyone unlucky enough to get caught in her line of sight. She's young and old at the same time, evidence that there is some deep brokenness lurking beneath the surface, something that forced her to grow up too quickly. In a nutshell, she's the reason Aslan exists.



I met Ayisha several months ago at the first planning meeting for our annual Haiti Servant-Leadership Training program. This program embodies all that we seek to accomplish with each of our programs: the spiritual, emotional, and physical transformation of broken urban kids as they discover the wonderful talents and abilities God has given them. Experiencing firsthand the overwhelming difficulty of life in Haiti becomes the crucible that challenges our kids to give of themselves selflessly in service to others.

It's not easy for most Aslan kids to make the trip to Haiti. They don't have passports or money to help pay for the trip. It's only through the generosity and kindness of people like yourselves that we're able to provide this life-transforming opportunity!

Two weeks prior to this past trip, Ayisha still didn't have her passport and her window of opportunity was closing fast. We planned a trip to Philadelphia where we knew we could get her a passport in short order. Unfortunately, as is often the case

with Aslan kids, the obstacles of life proved too great to overcome.

The day before the scheduled trip to Philadelphia we found out that Ayisha and her mom had a terrible argument. Ayisha called the police, who were forced to remove her from her home. Child services then placed her with her father, supposedly a struggling drug addict. Ayisha's window of opportunity closed and she was not able to go to Haiti.



This sad story is repeated time and time again with so many of the youngsters we work with. We struggle to provide each and every child with life-changing opportunities only to see those opportunities fade into the harsh realities and heartbreak of their lives. But Aslan never gives up!

Two weeks after returning from a wonderful trip to Haiti, I took Ayisha and a handful of other Aslan kids to a week-long inner city sports camp in western Pennsylvania. The camp itself gave Aslan kids a chance to be physically, emotionally, and spiritually challenged through intense competition, extreme team-building activities, and life-transforming relationships with loving camp counselors.

At the end of camp, kids have an opportunity to describe what they experienced during camp. Ayisha stood up and revealed that some time ago, she had been raped, and ever since her life had been a mess. She felt alone and alienated which explained her difficult behavior. But during that week at camp, she discovered how much God loves her and how special she is in His eyes.

Ayisha's experience at camp would not be possible without your support! As we begin planning our fall programs I know that Aslan will provide critical support to Ayisha as she makes strides to overcome the deep pain associated with being raped.

In these dire economic times your support is more critical than ever! Help us help Ayisha and the countless other children who are forced to grow up way too fast!

In His Service,

Doug



P.S. Please consider making a contribution of any size so we can continue to serve the needs needs of these amazing children!

* We've changed the names of Aslan children to protect their identity

If you'd like to receive our newsletter by email please fill out the response card and mail it back!



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*