



# ASLAN Youth Ministries

P.O. Box 270 \* Red Bank, NJ 07701 [www.aslanyouth.org](http://www.aslanyouth.org)



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Dear Friends,

I am so excited spring has finally arrived! No matter what our struggles are in the winter of our lives, spring always reminds us that there is hope! At Aslan, we take comfort in knowing that our hope is placed in a God who loves us and will not forsake us! It is this Truth that compels us to remain committed to serving the broken-hearted children in Red Bank, Long Branch, and Asbury Park, New Jersey and Ouanaminthe, Haiti.



I have been teaching one of Aslan's Right Choice Bible Classes in Long Branch for the past several weeks. It is an amazing honor to share my life with these kids, but more importantly, it's an awesome opportunity to communicate how much these kids are loved and cherished.

One girl in my class, Trisha\*, really needs to know that she is loved. I've gotten to know Trisha fairly well over the past several

years. She is bright, driven and profoundly insecure. She endures constant humiliation and putdowns for making the right choices. For example, every week she dresses in her Sunday best and heads out to a local church, all by herself. When I was a kid, my parents had to drag me to church. Trisha, on the other hand, craves the attention and love she receives at church so much that she is willing to endure wisecracks and mocking from her family as she walks out the door. What tremendous determination!



What drives a girl like Trisha to make good choices that bring

about the hostility of others? I believe hope is the operative word. Trisha hopes that if she continues to make the right choices she'll rise above the mountainous obstacles threatening to crush her dreams and relegate her to the wastelands of the physical, spiritual, and emotional ghetto she so desperately seeks to overcome. She hopes that the world she knows, the world that discourages educational excellence and rewards moral ambiguity is not the only world out there. She hopes that there is someone out there who is willing to take the time to love and nurture her as she confronts the obstacles in her life.



Hope isn't only found in the kids we work with. I recently met the mom of one of our Long Branch kids. She explained how happy she was that her son Johnny\* was able to attend Aslan's programs. "You see," she explained to me, "his father is a drunk and he doesn't have any positive role models to look up to." She looked at me, her eyes filled with hope for her son, and thanked me for all that Aslan is doing to help her son.

At Aslan we make every effort to surround Trisha, Johnny, and all the other Aslan kids with love, encouragement, and a nurturing environment so that their hopes can turn into reality!

This spring, I too have many hopes. I hope that more people are moved to volunteer at Aslan so that kids like Trisha and Johnny continue to find the support and encouragement they desperately need. I hope that God blesses each and every one of you so that you are able to continue to financially support our work. Most of all, I hope that God continues to use Aslan to reach more and more kids here in New Jersey, in Ouanaminthe, Haiti and, Lord willing, around the world!

In His Service,

*Doug*

Doug

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OUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL  
PLEASE FILL OUT THE  
RESPONSE CARD AND MAIL  
IT BACK!



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

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