



ASLAN Youth Ministries

changing the world, one child at a time...

P.O. Box 270 * Red Bank * NJ * 07701 * (732) 741-7824 * www.aslanyouth.org



August/September 2010

A Life Changed

If you've ever had the opportunity to watch someone discover, for the first time, a new talent or ability, you'll love the story of Reggie*. Reggie was in the Aslan programs for several years before moving out of the area. Recently, he moved back and began volunteering for us as a junior counselor at our summer day camps.

See *"Change"* below

"Change"

As a youngster in our programs, Reggie was "out of control," to quote one of our volunteers who worked with Reggie over the years. Like so many of the kids in our programs, Reggie comes from a broken home. His mother struggles to provide him with the support and guidance every child needs while his dad largely stumbles from one drink to the next, never really aware of what's going on. Reggie told me how recently he went to his dad's home to wish him a happy Fathers Day but his dad was so drunk he wasn't even able to acknowledge Reggie was in the room.

The other day, after dropping off the Aslan kids from day camp, Reggie said the most amazing thing to me. He looked at me and said, "Doug, I love Aslan. Aslan changed my life. If

Debriefing Life

Every summer I am blessed with the opportunity to take a group of Aslan students to Citikidz, a Christian sports camp for urban youth located in western Pennsylvania. It's a wonderful opportunity for the students to meet new people, practice and hone their athletic skills, and see a group of young men and women model the

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it wasn't for Aslan I'd be a drug addict." He went on to explain that he wants to give back to the younger Aslan kids. He wants to make sure they have the same transformational experiences he had.

Hearing the excitement in Reggie's voice as he expressed his affection for Aslan, I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that Reggie needed to join our Linked2Christ Haiti team. The Linked2Christ program, or simply L2C, is a leadership training program designed to encourage students to discover their leadership potential through service to others and in so doing draw closer to Jesus. The program has the potential to revolutionize the lives of participants as they discover their God-given talents and abilities.

One of the greatest obstacles to getting Aslan kids

Upcoming Events

[Jack Reid Memorial Golf Outing](#)

Join us **September 14** for our annual golf outing at Old Orchard Golf Club!

[35 Year Celebration Concert](#)

Join us October 23 in celebration of Aslan's 35 years of service to urban youth!

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to Haiti is financial. The trip costs roughly \$1,400 per student. With less than a month to go before the trip there wasn't much time to raise money. Fortunately, the week after Reggie joined the L2C team I spoke at a local church about the program. I brought Reggie along and invited him to share the reasons why he wanted to go to Haiti.

Shortly after the service ended, an older gentleman came up to Reggie and told him what a wonderful job he did. He went on to say that with a little coaching, Reggie could be a powerful and effective public speaker.

I asked Reggie on the ride home what he thought about the experience. He said he'd never spoken in front of people before but that he enjoyed it. Then, with a big smile, he looked over at me and said that he liked the

idea of public speaking. Still smiling, he sat back in his seat and looked out into the distance. It was as if he were imagining himself speaking before crowds of people. A week later, we received a check for a little over \$1,400 from the church where Reggie spoke.

by Doug

“Debriefing Life”

Christian life in a fresh and culturally relevant context. The camp also provides spiritual training for group leaders like myself.

One of the things I learned this year was the necessity of debriefing life. Debriefing life is a process of critically examining the events and experiences of our lives in order to understand our present reality more clearly. It bridges the gap between the way we see things and the posture of our heart regarding specific experiences. The ultimate goal of the debriefing process is to grow from our experiences.

Throughout the week of camp, I have the opportunity to

sit down with the Aslan students and help them debrief their camp experience. At the debrief session, I asked the Aslan students how they felt about camp so far. I was amazed at the answers I heard!

As each student spoke I noticed a trend emerging. They each had a life-transforming encounter with God at some point during their camp experience and, as a result, they all wanted to stay at camp forever! This reminded me of the response the Apostle Peter had as he witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountaintop. Peter wanted to build a tent for Jesus, Elijah, and Moses. It’s almost as if he were saying that the experience was so amazing they should set up camp and stay on the mountaintop as long as possible. Jesus, on the other hand, knew that his mission wasn’t on the mountaintop but in the valleys below where all the people who needed to hear the good news were. He knew he needed to take the good news into the valleys below.

Just like Peter, the Aslan students recognized a good thing when they saw it. They wanted to hold on to their experience and figured the best way to accomplish this would be to stay at camp as long as they could.

During the debrief session, however, I was able to share with the students the importance of taking their experiences home with them to share with their family and friends. I challenged them to allow God to continue working in each of them through the circumstances of their lives. Each student, though uncertain about what lay ahead as they returned home, began to seriously contemplate the things they would have to change in their lives.

It is encouraging to watch God work in the lives of the Aslan students I took to camp that week. I hope and pray that as Aslan moves forward, we will continue to learn and grow as a ministry and that God will continue to change lives through our efforts!

by Doug



Giving thanks to God!



Our Red Bank Teen Class



Having fun at camp!

ASLAN Youth Ministries

Come visit us at our new office in Tower Hill:

255 Harding Road
Red Bank, NJ 07701

Please send any donations to:

Aslan
PO Box 270
Red Bank, NJ 07701

or donate online through our secure PayPal account at www.aslanyouth.org

* We’ve changed the names of Aslan children to protect their identities.