



# ASLAN Youth Ministries

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

December 2010



\* P.O. Box 270 \* Red Bank \* NJ \* 07701 \* (732) 741-7824 \* [aslanyouth.org](http://aslanyouth.org) \*

Dear Friends,

Warm Christmas greetings from Aslan. I wish that I had the time to write to each of you individually to thank you for your prayers and your support of Aslan. We are a relationship-based ministry to the core, and each one of you is important to us.

Several things happened to me over the past few weeks that tell the true Aslan story and reveal the heart of our work. As I was driving the bus for our Asbury Park-Neptune program, a young woman came running toward the bus waving for us to stop. We haven't seen Erica for almost 15 years, but I still recognized her beautiful smile. This day, however, she was smiling through the tears. She told us that she'd had many trials over the years, and that she would probably be dead if it weren't

for Aslan. "But God kept me alive for a purpose," Erica said as she sat on the bus floor hugging us, crying, and telling us repeatedly how much she loves Aslan.

Just as we were leaving, another car cut in front of us and stopped. Out jumped Tyasia, whom we also had not seen in years. She ran onto the bus and hugged Lynn Ann and me, telling us how much she loved and missed us. Needless to say, we were 15 minutes late picking up the rest of our students for class, but it was 15 minutes well spent!

Only a few weeks prior to this, a man riding a bike had waved the bus down in almost the identical spot. Daren played basketball with

Aslan 30 years ago, and I almost didn't recognize him. Years of hard living had taken their toll on my friend, but the smile on Daren's face told an amazing story of love. He spoke over and over again about how much he missed his time with Aslan and how much our ministry is still impacting his life. With tears in his eyes, he said he had almost been killed two



years ago when a car hit him as he was riding his bicycle. For several weeks, he was paralyzed. "God helped me get well," Daren said. "The

Thanks to our **Beauty and the Beach Run** Committee members for making this year's run the most successful ever! Because of their hard work and dedication, over 1,000 women participated in this **awesome event** to raise money for the children of Aslan!



things you taught us in Bible class are true!"

There is a common thread woven through these three stories. That is the thread of how God's great love permanently changed Erica's, Tyasia's, and Daren's lives. It didn't take away all their problems and struggles, but it changed their lives forever. You could see looks of amazement in the eyes of the little ones sitting on the bus, as they watched these three graduates of our programs shed tears of love for us. They understood that they are a part of a wonderful Aslan family.

This family is possible because God has called many of you to support the ministry of Aslan. There is a saying in Latin that reads ***opera super se***, work above self. This is, however, not the work of a vocation. It is the work of ministering to the needs of others ~ caring about others ~ before your own needs are met. You empower us to do this. Because of you, the lives of Erica, Tyasia, Daren and thousands of other children have been forever changed.

As you think about the true meaning of Christmas ~ the birth of a Savior ~ I would ask you to consider a very special gift to Aslan Youth Ministries this year. And for those of you who give regularly, this would be a gift in addition to your current giving. We are approaching the end of our 35th year ~ three and one-half decades! **If each and every one of you who receive this letter were to give a special Christmas gift of only \$35.00 ~ barely more than a night out for fast food and a movie ~ Aslan would have an extra \$71,050.00 dollars to begin**

**our 36th year!** You cannot imagine what this would mean to us. One of many needs we currently have is to replace the vehicles we use to pick up and drop off our children for each and every Aslan program. Last year we were forced to junk one of our 15-passenger vans, and our remaining van is continuously breaking down. Our big blue Aslan bus is also 15 years old and beginning to develop problems. Our vehicles are our lifeline to ministering to these kids.

Please, give an extra gift of just \$35.00 to help Aslan this Christmas. And if you can give more, please give more. Thirty-five years . . . three and one-half decades of love. **Thirty-five years . . . three and one-half decades of leaving the 99 for the one.** Remember Aslan this Christmas with \$35.00 for the One!

All for Jesus,

Craig

## ASLAN Youth Ministries

Please send your donations to:

Aslan  
PO Box 270  
Red Bank, NJ 07701

or donate online through JustGive at  
[www.aslanyouth.org](http://www.aslanyouth.org)

- Special thanks to Express Limo for donating over 1,000 bottles of water to the Beauty and the Beach Run!!

