

ASLAN YOUTH MINISTRIES

A Presidential Point of Light

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Merry Christmas!

Dear friends,

Every year during this blessed time of Christmas, we are reminded of how special you, our supporters, truly are. Aslan is two months shy of our 40th Anniversary! We could never have dreamed of approaching this amazing milestone without your help. Through your giving – in so many, many ways – we have been able to be God's servants and rescue thousands of children in need.

During August Dee, one of our Aslan mothers, and her two daughters found themselves homeless one night. They were literally put out on the street with nowhere to go and nothing but the clothes on their backs. Fortunately, a local church paid for them to be temporarily housed in a motel for several weeks. Due to the incredible stress Dee was under, she landed in the hospital with a heart attack.

Thankfully, Dee is doing much better now. While they're waiting to move into a new apartment, she's staying temporarily with another Aslan family and the girls, Asia and Myra, are staying with the church pastor and his wife. Were you to meet Asia and Myra, you would find them to be as delightful as any two children can be. And Dee is a gracious mother who has raised her girls to be that way. But such are the chaotic lives that so many of our children and families must live. Asia's best friend, Terri, has also been living in a motel with her mother and sister for over a year now. Even though they've bounced around living with their grandmother off and on for several years, Terri's sister is still a top student at her high school. Mom and the girls are doing very well now and thankful to God that they're together – even in a one-room motel.

Last week I was taking Terri, Asia and Jerome home from tutoring. Since we know Terri is sensitive about the other children knowing she lives in a motel, I asked her if she wanted me to take her home last. I was surprised when she giggled and said, "No way. I want to go home first!" Along the way we drove by several large hotels, and Jerome kept saying, "This must be where Terri lives." I told him each time we weren't there yet. Once we finally drove into the parking lot where Terri lives, both Asia and Jerome were silent. I could see by the looks on their faces that neither of them

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could imagine having to crowd their families into such a small place. Yet here sat Asia, whose family was out on the street homeless only three months before, and Jerome's family had also displaced from their apartment in the projects only a year ago! This is not the exception to the rule, but the rule for our children! I realize it's hard for you to keep up with all these names, but only two days ago Lynn Ann stepped back onto the bus both shocked and saddened during afternoon pickup. She had just learned one of our little 9-year-old children, Rhianna, had been whisked off to Georgia to live with a relative. The children of Aslan are our family. When we lose one like Rhianna, our hearts are broken. If one of them like Veronica dies, our hearts are shattered!

Since our last letter you have sponsored 27 children through Veronica's Dreams! This is wonderful! This Christmas our goal is to find sponsors for every child in Aslan. On the outside of this envelope we ask you not to forget our children this Christmas. As you trim the tree and buy presents for all your loved ones, please, please consider a gift that will continue giving throughout the year. This Holy Season, sponsor an Aslan child.

Merry Christmas! God bless us, everyone!

Craig Bogard

P.S. Your gift of \$600 a year (\$50 each month) will do more good than you can imagine. Remember Veronica, (pictured right, last Christmas). Honor her life, and change the world, as you help another child find hope through Aslan. Thank you for not forgetting our kids this year! Please take the time to fill out the enclosed form and begin your sponsorship of an Aslan child!



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