



February 2012

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ASLAN

YOUTH MINISTRIES

What's New At Aslan?

We're excited about this new year! As you can see, Aslan is turning over a new leaf. We hope you're inspired by the new look of our newsletter, and before long we'll be launching a totally redesigned, interactive and exciting new website. In addition to this you can now follow Aslan on Facebook at:

www.facebook/aslanyouthministries, and we'll start "Tweeting" ~ for those of you who want to keep up with all the latest goings on at Aslan!

So keep an eye out, and your iPhone out, and an ear out and your earphones out ~ because Aslan is *On The Move* and you don't want to miss it!

Running The Good Race!

On May 1, 12,000 people will be lining up to run the New Jersey Marathon (a world class marathon on the Jersey shore). It's a wonderful event directed by a great gentle-man, Joe Gigas. Joe and the folks at the NJ Marathon are generous people and would love it if every runner were running for their favorite charity. Last year Aslan raised \$18,000 for our children through this run. This year we want to triple that!

How can we do that? Along with hopefully 40 other runners, Lynn Ann and I are going to team up and run the half marathon relay (a little over 6 miles each) or die trying! If each of you pledge \$100, we will

reach our goal. Watch for the special pledge envelopes we'll be sending out soon!

See the world under this leaf? We're still changing it... one child at a time!



Aslan takes broken-hearted children and helps them find their way home to God.®

I was sitting with three friends at Starbucks today when the question was asked of me, "What is the Heart of Aslan?"

We do so many things for children that I've often struggled to articulate a short answer to this question. But today the words flowed out of my mouth like honey. *"Aslan takes broken hearted children and helps them find their way home to God."* A chill went through me, as I felt the effect of these words on my heart.

Part of how this came to me was something that happened at Long Branch on Wednesday. As over 40 children were gathered for a devotional before classes began, Jadin (not his real name) took offense at the way one of our volunteers asked him to sit up in his chair and be quiet. Queenie,

Jadin, and the volunteer went into a classroom to talk; but the situation continued to escalate, with Jadin crying so loudly that the whole group could hear him and was getting upset.

While the classes began, I was elected to take Jadin home. He was sitting in the classroom by himself with his head on the desk, crying inconsolably. Nothing I said would help, so finally I just reached down and enveloped him in my arms as he continued to sob. It was all I knew to do. My heart was so broken for him that all I wanted to do was cry.

When he was finally able to talk, I found out he was so ashamed of what the other kids would think of him that he felt he could never face coming back to Aslan. I said nobody was going to think anything bad about him and that we needed him to come

back. Then he was afraid he would be in trouble with his mom and dad. But I told him not to worry, because I would talk to them.

When we got back to his apartment and walked in the door she said, "What did he do wrong this time?!" As I explained the situation, she first said, "Maybe it's best for him to just not come back to Aslan." But then she came around to "You mean you really want him to come back to class?!" I told her that Jadin is the reason we have Aslan. And as I walked back to the car I remembered the words the Master spoke. "I have come to heal the broken-hearted." That's why Aslan exists. That's why we're so unique and different. We help these little ones find their way home.

Running To Be Loved!

Someone once asked me why a group of Aslan kids had run through a blinding rainstorm to come to tutoring one evening. Whoever it was obviously had no idea the lengths to which a child will go to be loved. Whether in Asbury Park, Long Branch, Red Bank or L'Acajou, Haiti, children will run to be loved! Thank you for your gifts that make it possible for us to love and serve these children!



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A collage of images related to Haiti. It includes a close-up of a young girl with colorful beaded braids, a group of children looking on, a woman holding a baby, a group of people outdoors, a close-up of a child's face, and a woman feeding a child. The word 'Haiti' is written in a stylized font over the top left images.

Haiti

Why It's Worth The Struggle

To some it might seem like an exercise in futility, but to anyone who has worked in Haiti (or much of the undeveloped world, for that matter) for any length of time it is *business as usual*.

It has now been almost 9 months that our three medical units have been sitting in the customs yard in Cap-Haitien waiting to be released. Meanwhile, thousands of Haitian lives could have been saved (and most definitely have been lost) because of the avarice and greed of a few Haitian officials who care more about lining their pockets than helping their own countrymen.

So what *is* the solution? I've heard a number of cynical Americans say, "Give up! Let Haiti sink back into the Atlantic! They won't help themselves, so why should we waste good time and money trying to help them?!"

Do a few corrupt officials and politicians define a whole country or a whole people? If they do, then our own country should be judged no differently than Haiti! Aslan is currently getting our nonprofit status in Haiti, which should clear the release of our units. We are also pursuing other avenues for their release through the media, in order to put pressure on the Haitian government. Most of all, we ask for your prayers on behalf of the people of Haiti for their speedy release!

Staggering

Haiti has one of the lowest protein and calorie intakes in the world!

In the Haitian earthquake barely 2 year ago, 300,000 lives were lost!

One-half million Haitians still remain homeless two years after the quake!

After the earthquake, a possible 700,000 orphans now exist in Haiti!

Unique Ways To Support Aslan

There are so many, many ways to help our work expand!

Nearly everyone these days purchases something on Amazon. But very few of you know if you go to Aslan's website, click on the amazon.com link, and **then do your shopping** that Aslan will receive between 4 and 7 percent of your total purchase!!!! That can really add up, if you do a lot of shopping on Amazon and if a lot of you do a lot of shopping on Amazon!



I know that's a lot of "lots," but I get excited when I think of all the Aslan children we can help through donations like this that are so easy for you to make. It's so simple a caveman could do it!

Way number two is by becoming an Ambassador for Aslan. What is an Ambassador you ask? We have a wonderful program for individuals who want to spread the good news about our work to their friends and colleagues in churches and organizations. We call it our "Ambassador Program." The great thing is you don't have to live in New Jersey to be an Ambassador for Aslan! We will provide you with a training booklet, plenty of brochures and some outstanding short dvds about our programs - just enough material to grab anyone's attention.

Shivering Icy Aslan Ambassador

So anyone on our mailing list from Puerto Rico to Australia to the Alaska Wilderness (where we call it the Shivering Icy Aslan Ambassador Program) can help us spread the news about our work!

Way number three is by helping Aslan with special projects. Last year, three churches and several individuals helped Aslan purchase a new van ~ and kept several of our major programs from being stopped dead cold. But we cut it close! Now our second old van [BELOW] is on it's "last leg," and it has been back in the garage being fixed one too many times. We've started a new "New Van Fund." Who will help us keep Aslan running?

