



UNITED CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:52

Dear friends and family in Christ,

May 15, 2018

As many of you know, a main focus of our ministry is to help children growing up in a recurring cycle of poverty come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior, grow up and live a life that glorifies him.

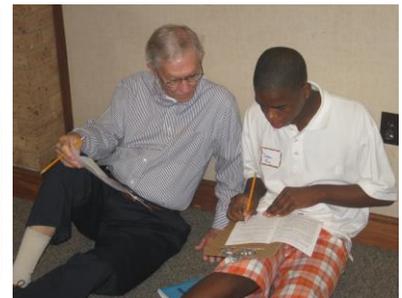
Jesus said, *“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep”.* John 10:10-11(NLT)

Through God’s eternal power, his words (as we teach them Biblical truths) and the help of so many of you we are seeing these children’s lives drastically change as they become more Christ like each day.

SOME BIG THINGS THAT GOD IS DOING

We are now, after 12 years of ministry, seeing potential future staff growing up from within the ministry. This is a **BIG THING** for a ministry such as ours that works mainly with poor inner city families.

I met Douglas Keys and his family many years ago. Douglas attended our “Connections Ministry” as we partnered with First Presbyterian Church and later joined that church. Many people poured time and effort into Douglas’ life. After spending years at Palmers Home, a junior college and a Bible and ministry college, Douglas has grown in his walk and ministry skills and has come back to Hattiesburg to minister with us. Douglas is presently living with Gayle and me and is serving as a summer intern with us. There is a good possibility that Douglas will come on our staff this fall.



We have now grown to the point where we can run summer outreach Bible Clubs using our own staff and youth. This is a **BIG THING** for our ministry.

The children that many of you helped us reach in years past have now grown to the point where they will be going back into their neighborhoods with our UCM & UCA staff to hold 5 day Bible Clubs as we reach more boys and girls in these neighborhoods for Christ. Some will also attend a week long training camp on the coast with Child Evangelism Fellowship the week of June 3-9.

The ministry has now grown to the point where we partner not only with several churches but also with hundreds of volunteers who help us disciple these precious young people. This is a **BIG THING** as we see God's Spirit move His church to serve these children that He loves so much.

Many of our volunteers are working one on one with our youth: teaching them God's wonderful words, tutoring, mentoring, helping with PE, music lessons, taking them to church, to their homes as well as helping bring and fix meals for our youth and the list goes on. At last count I had about 250 names on my list of people who help out in some major way.



Another **BIG THING** is that many of our volunteers are now inviting some of our youth to join with them just like they were one of their own children. Of course, these young people are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our volunteers are taking them to church, out to lunch, to their homes and to sports and other activities that they and their own children are involved in.

Just one example of many is when our school PE volunteer noticed how good a runner one of our students was. After checking with us and with the child's mother, Kamyia Magee joined the Hattiesburg Forerunners Track & Field team. It was not too long after that that Kamyia went with this family to the state track competition and won 2nd place in the 200 meter dash as well as other awards. Later, with this family, she attended the national track meet and again did very well. What a life changer for this young girl! Others are going with some of our volunteer families to play and referee soccer, and spend weekends with them in their home. What a life changer for our youth as they see and experience how a Christian family operates.



One more **BIG THING** that we are adding to our plate is **how to effectively raise funds** for these two ministries.

One thing about ministering to the poor is that we need to raise a significant amount of funds to support the ministry. Our school expenses, teachers' salaries, etc. are almost totally funded from your gifts as is our United Christian Ministries activities. We are also adding a part time administrator and adding Douglas Keys as an intern. This growth is a wonderful thing as we see so many lives being touched for our Lord and as we see our Lord putting his body, the church at large, to work in so many wonderful ways for his kingdom.

Last month United Christian Academy did not have sufficient funds to pay our teachers' salaries. This is the first time this has happened since our school started almost 2 years ago. We were able to pull funds from another source to pay salaries, but, of course, we can only do this for so long.

My prayer is that just as God has moved his people to help by volunteering in so many ways that some of you would also consider helping us raise funds for these ministries. So what would that look like? I think it could be as simple as asking yourself, who do I know that may want to help fund this ministry and then talk to them about our ministry. If they are interested, set up a time to bring them by the school or our other activities to see what God is doing. And then let God and our staff take it from there. Folks, this is really an easy "show and tell". I believe there are many people out there that have the gift of giving. I think there are many that God has entrusted significant funds to who are prayerfully considering how to best use those funds for our Lord's Kingdom. I think if they are not familiar with our ministry that they would appreciate your telling them about it and hopefully bringing them by to see what God is doing.

We are so thankful for all of our financial givers and if God places it on your heart to give to this ministry, feel free to send a gift to one of the names and addresses mentioned below. All gifts are tax deductible.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or ideas.

With love in Christ,



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