

February 2009

NEW CONVICTIONS OUTREACH,  
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# ADULLAM HOUSE



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*They alone live  
who live for  
others. The rest  
are more dead  
than alive.*

*Amos*

## **Across this country more than 1.5 million children have a parent behind bars**

—no one is sure of the exact number because no official body—not police, or courts or prisons—is responsible for *even asking* if prisoners have children. Most of those children are younger than 10 years old. From 1989 to 1999 the number of female inmates in State and Federal Prison more than doubled. 70% of them were mothers. Most were their children's sole custodial parent. *'Without effective intervention' — the Gospel of Jesus Christ — 'as many as 70% of these children will become involved with the criminal Justice System themselves.'* \*

***How can we waste a single moment?***

### **NCO Board members:**

- Rev. Peter Spackman (President)
- Brian Paterson (Vice President)
- Angela Spackman (Sec./Treasurer)
- Rev. Johnny Jones
- Mr. Dave Bryant
- Ms Gladys Riddle
- Mr. John Blanchard
- Mr. Bob Messick

## The heart is the happiest when it beats for others



Above— Mattie and Brandon play outside with the big red wagon. They have very little understanding of what brought them to Adullam House. That knowledge will come with time and with our careful explanation of all that their mothers' have experienced.

### *Precious, precious lives.*

We count ourselves so fortunate to be able to care for these children. God has allowed us the great privilege and responsibility— of pouring His love daily into their hearts and minds. **We know without a shadow of a doubt this is His heart, His plan for these little ones.**

They know the joy of being loved, being valued and being guided. Often the questions are hard to answer; "Why did my mom not come back for me?" "Why did she not stop taking drugs?" "Why do I not have the same daddy as my brother?". It can be painful to watch the harsh reality of life dawning upon their little minds.

**Thank God, with His help, we are able to offer real answers in times like this. He makes sense of all the craziness around them. He offers His security, and His protection for all their hurt.**

**T**he children of inmates are at risk for just about everything a child can be at risk for: **truancy, teen pregnancy, drug use, gang involvement and crime.** Statistics tell us that that many of these children show symptoms of "survival guilt" and even post traumatic stress. They may lose respect for a legal system that has, in their eyes, shown their parents so little in the way of justice. One young 16 year old reported that, when his mother was sentenced to 19 years in a Federal Penitentiary he learned that "people really don't care who you are and what you did". The end result is often a scattered family, a child headed for their own troubles with the law, along with a huge bill for the taxpayers. \*



Little Nikki—My how she has grown

# Many, many thanks.



With a deadline of **March 10th** our men are working long hours to get the Church ready to open. The Children are very excited. They have been begging to go down there, to help with the painting. We did allow it one day but *the result was paint from one ear to the other!* Justin (above) took on the whole task of tiling the long hallways and the fellowship hall by himself. What an air of anticipation as we prepare to meet there. In our Chapel services, we have been so aware of *the Lord's presence*. His Hand is at work among our staff and children. *Hallelujah!*

### Kids Quote of the month!

Molly and Fredria were riding their bikes together outside and I pulled up beside them in my car. "Look Ms. Angie!" Fredria shouted with glee, " Mine and Molly's bikes are the same". "Wow!", I shouted back. "You are twins!" Fredria looked back at me in surprise. " *We can't be twins!" she retorted! " We don't have the same birthday!"*



Molly, ( center) and Fredria (right) and Taylor ( left) play together all day



*We have been trusting the Lord to complete the first of the two new houses by Christmas, and except for the paint, light fixtures and carpet we are there! The structure is complete and we are up to the most enjoyable part for the ladies—the décor! We do pray that God makes a way for us to be in soon. We still need \$10,103.20 for the flooring, and \$7,500 for the light fixtures. We are trusting the Lord to send someone to help us lay the carpet and we are looking for lots of good painters. So many lives depend on what we do.*



Many thanks to **Mr. Jerry** who has faithfully helped us to paint when ever he can. He is pictured above with **Josh** who coordinates all our construction projects.

**Special thanks to AAF of Montgomery**, who chose Adullam House as their special project this year and have done an incredible job creating new brochures, letterhead, business cards—in fact a whole new "face" for the ministry at no cost to Adullam House! They presented the new look to some of our staff and children last Saturday along with a surprise visit from **Ronald McDonald** and lots of cookies. *Many, many thanks to Marla and the wonderful staff!*

**"We covet your prayers"**

As everyone is discussing recession, we continue to trust our Mighty, Mighty God for all that we need to care for our beautiful children. Air conditioners break down, as do septic tanks, vehicles and even bunk beds that are bounced on! But God knows and though it often comes from the bottom of the barrel, it continues to come. When it seems impossible to advance He makes a way. Recently Dave and Linda Zarro of World Mission Videos spent a week filming and updating our DVD. Not only so, but they raised the money themselves to pay for the work. ***How can we thank Godly people like that*** who catch the vision and run with it?



Miss Allie's class enjoy a trip to the Aquarium



**NEEDS LIST**

**Special needs for February 2009:**

- ☺ **Large Diapers or Pull ups**
- ☺ **AA Batteries** for toys and baby items
- ☺ **Vacuum Cleaners** for the new buildings
- ☺ **Disposable cups and plates**
- ☺ **Household cleaners**
- ☺ **Household Furniture for the new house** anything from nick knacks ( lamps, pictures, drapes) to large furnishings ( especially bedroom dressers).
- ☺ **Household Appliances** Washer, Dryer, Stove, dishwasher and refrigerator.
- ☺ **Laundry detergent** and softener/dryer sheets

*Adullam House admits children of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally made available. It does not discriminate on the basis of color, race, national and ethnic origin in administration of its admission policies, educational policies, athletic and school-administered pro-*

\* Statistics used in this issue taken from the records of the Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents and The Bureau of Justice.

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