

Continued Relationship

by Cathy Alexander

When Urban Connections began, Kathy & Brian were living in a rented house on Stoddart - which happened to be where UC was having Vacation Bible School. All 7 of their kids came. Some of you may know them as "The B family" because all 7 kids have names beginning with B. Since then we have written about them many times in our stories and in our prayer requests. They have moved in and out of this neighborhood more times than I can count, living as close as across the street and as far as Pickerington. They lived 4 houses down from me when their house burned down and we sat on my steps watching. That day will be forever seared in my brain as a time when I had to trust that God would take care of them even if they couldn't see that it was Him.

The kids have been coming to UC regularly any time they live close enough, and God has been at work in them. Attitudes and behavior that could only graciously be described as "disrespectful" have changed for the better. They have grown into helpful young adults who are beginning to grasp who Christ is. The teenagers are participating in Bible study, asking good questions and hearing out the answers. The younger kids are growing and understanding that we love them and so does God. But we have also seen God at work in Kathy & Brian, with both of them being more open to us and with Kathy's good questions about God.

One persistent problem for Kathy & Brian has been the near-constant instability of their living arrangements. Now there is hope for the situation. With the help of family, they are working towards buying a house. I am happy to say that a large group from Urban Connections was there to help them paint their new home. They are excited to move in (hopefully soon, but there is lots of work still left to be done). They look forward to having their own space, and we are happy for them. Their new home is not too far from us, and we're looking forward to the opportunity to grow deeper in relationship with them.

For us this is a two way relationship. We've tutored and disciplined their kids, jumped their car battery, prayed for them and invited them to church. Our kids have played together, they've helped me in my garden and some of the boys have helped my husband Jason work on the yard and the cars. Some of the kids came over to help me clean up when I had family coming to visit and Kathy and I have vented to each other about struggles (big and small). Jason and I count ourselves lucky to call them friends and blessed to be able to be part of what God is doing in their lives.

Please pray for them to make wise financial choices; pray for our relationship with them to continue to be authentic. Pray that they would know the love and strength and wisdom of God; pray that they would come to church and know that they are part of our family; pray that God would continue to surround them with people who know and love Him and pray that His love and grace would be irresistible to them.

Urban Connections presents...

Urban Connections Music Festival

benefiting the UC Scholarship Fund

August 16, 2008 at Franklin Park

Music

Family Fun

Food

Let us Pray...

We have several big things happening this spring and summer and we covet your prayers for all of them

- The UC Music Festival - that the sponsorship money would flow, that the community near us and also people all over Columbus would be drawn to it, and that all details would be handled well.
- Mountview Baptist Church is bringing their youth group and some adults to serve with us for a week. Pray that this missions trip would be a time of blessing to those coming and to those being served. Pray too that the kingdom would be furthered because of their presence here.
- Vegetable Connections - our community garden - that it would be a place that truly brings people together.
- Fairwood School Partnership - Pray that our partnership with Fairwood would continue to grow into the new school year with a continued and expanded presence there.

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