

Aslan Youth Ministries  
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www.aslanyouth.org

# ASLAN SUMMER II 2008

Dear Friends,

Aslan summer programs are in full swing!! From Creation Music Festival, summer day camps, sleepover camps, and trips to Haiti, we're busy making sure our Aslan children know that they are loved by their Creator! This summer Aslan staff and volunteers are excited to impact the body, mind, and spirit of Aslan's kids, equipping each of them with the skills necessary to transform life's obstacles into opportunities!

In June, we took a group of Aslan kids to Creation Music Festival in Mt. Union, PA. where they experienced real Christian community that stands in stark contrast to life in the projects. Over 100,000 people from all over the world gathered to worship God, camp out, listen to a broad variety of Christian music and speakers, and hang out around campfires late into the night.



This year something very special happened to several of our kids. During an intermission between bands, one of Creation's organizers announced that a group baptism was available to those interested in making a commitment to follow Jesus. Jamal, one of our older boys



whispered to me that he wanted to be baptized. I was ecstatic! Jamal has had a very difficult life. He has been jumped numerous times, stabbed, pressured to join one of the many street gangs that plague his neighborhood, and experienced the trauma of having one of his cousins gunned down. Throughout all of this, Aslan has been a place of comfort and security; a place where he comes to whether the pressures of the swirling chaos that haunts so many of our kids.

Later that night, Jamal reminded me that he wanted to be baptized the following day.

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Several other kids overheard Jamal and chimed in that they too wanted to be baptized. I could hardly contain my excitement! The next morning, flanked by the other leaders, I gathered the kids into a circle to discuss the meaning of baptism. We discussed the seriousness of making a public decision to follow Jesus. The leaders fielded a number of different questions about baptism and life as a Christian. Satisfied that each kid understood what they were committing to, our whole group marched over to the lake where Jamal and two other Aslan kids were baptized into the Kingdom of God!



The Creation Music Festival now behind us, we are now in the thick of running summer day camps in Asbury Park, Long Branch, and Red Bank. Jamal is helping out as a junior counselor so we can reach more kids like him. He's also signed on to our Servant Leadership training trip to Haiti in late August. On this trip Jamal will take the hope and encouragement he has found in Jesus through our local Aslan programs and convey that hope to the desperately poor and downcast children of Ounaminthe, Haiti. This act of service will empower Jamal, revealing to him the wonderful gifts and talents God blessed him with. Our hope and prayer for Jamal is that he sees life differently. That the obstacles in his life, from his broken family support network to the gangs and violence that threaten to steal his future can be overcome.



At Aslan we never know when God is going to show up and touch the hearts of kids like Jamal. All we know is that God has called all of us to come along side each and every one of His children and bare witness to His redemptive work in their lives. The only way Aslan can continue to create opportunities for God to transform kids like Jamal is through your continued support, both through prayer and financially. Please consider increasing your financial support to help ensure that more kids like Jamal are exposed to God's love!

In the Service of Christ,

Douglas C. Eagles

\* We've changed the names of our children to protect their identities.

P.S. Every gift, no matter how big or small, greatly benefits Aslan's kids! Please fill out the enclosed response card and consider making a financial contribution so that kids like Jamal can have the opportunity to discover their gifts and talents through service to others!

