



ASLAN YOUTH MINISTRIES

A Presidential Point of Light

65 West Front Street ❖ Post Office Box 270 ❖ Red Bank, New Jersey 07701-0270
Telephone: 732-741-7824 ❖ Fax: 732-741-3284 ❖ E-Mail: aslanyouth@verizon.net
Web Address: <http://www.aslanyouth.org>

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Warm Christmas greetings from Aslan!

I want to begin by extending our most heartfelt thanks from all of us at Aslan for your prayers and support of this work that God has given us to do. I recently had lunch with Richard, one of Aslan's graduates who is now in his mid-forties. That seems impossible, doesn't it? But we are about to enter our 34th year of ministry in January! With Aslan's help, Richard got a scholarship to Southwest Texas State University. After a year, Richard opted to join the army where he became a medical technician. He also won numerous international championships for excellence in martial arts during his career in the Army. Now 33 years later, all Richard could talk about was how Aslan was responsible for changing the course of his life forever. He continues to work as a medical technician at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, but he hasn't stopped there. Richard has also earned his Masters Degree in theology from Liberty University, and he's currently working on his Doctoral Degree as well.

The scope of Aslan's work, however, does not begin and end with all the young people like Richard who we've helped over the past three decades. I also want to tell you about Daniest and Annise, two students from our program in Haiti (pictured left with me). This brother and sister team started helping with Aslan's summer day seven years ago. Three years ago, they entered medical school in Santo Domingo, but they quickly found they didn't have enough money to live and go to school in the Dominican Republic. Through the generosity of Sanibel Community Church, we've been able to provide support for Daniest and Annise to work toward their degrees in medicine. When they graduate in 4 years, they will return to Ouanaminthe to work with us in our medical clinic!

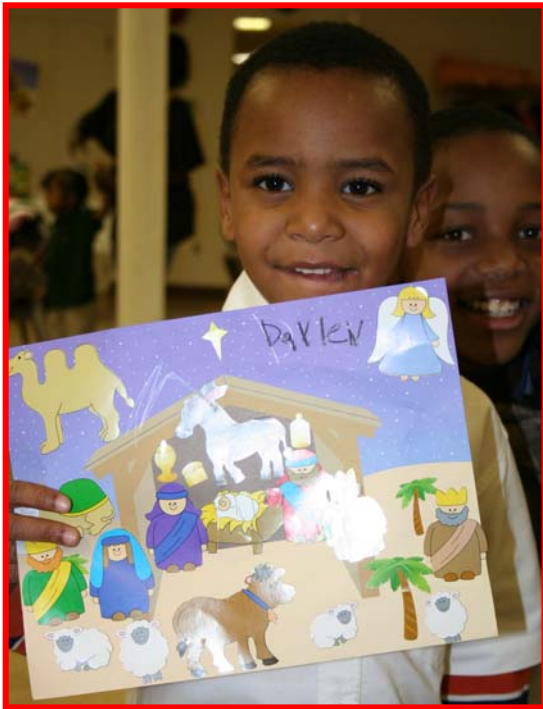


Can you see how incredibly important your support of Aslan is to Richard, Daniest, Annise and hundreds of other children? When we say that Aslan is changing the

(Over)

world, these are not empty words. Your gifts are helping children who have no hope – both in New Jersey and in Haiti. However, it doesn't stop there. The number of changed lives is beyond what we can even know, as all these young people (and hundreds more) go on to change their world around them!

I could go on with example upon example of how your gifts are making such a difference, but space simply won't allow me to do so in this short letter. What I do



want to express to you in these closing thoughts is how much we need your sacrificial giving right now – for children like Darien (pictured left) who are the next generation of Aslan success stories. Throughout the years, our ministry has overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to survive. As of the end of October, we are running an \$85,000 deficit. Those of you who know me well, realize that I will never “sound the alarm” unless there is a real and credible threat to our work. We are currently facing such a threat. In order to deal with this in the long-term, we have just expanded our Board of Directors to 9 members and are looking to add two additional members in 2009. We have also hired a professional grant writer and public relations consultant, and we are implementing a

ministry-wide strategic plan to encourage future growth. It is the short-term that is of immediate concern to us. With the current economy and the uncertainty facing us over the coming months, we desperately need your help at this moment in order to finish the year and enter 2009 in a strong position.

Ultimately we realize, as we have for 33 years, that God is in control of our ability to continue on with the wonderful work of Aslan. We are, however, quite aware that God uses people like each and every one of you who receive this letter to make our ministry possible. Thank you, again, for all your prayers and help. Merry Christmas. May God bless us . . . everyone.

Your partner in ministry,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig'.

Craig Bogard

P.S. From the depths of our heart we thank you all for standing with us these many long years. Pray for us, and please give and give generously.