THE MIRACLE of CHANGE
by Alisha Emery

Between Us Girls (B.U.G.s) is a safe place where girls, ages 10-18, connect and grow in their relationships with God, leaders, and other girls. One girl I specifically would like to share about is Tianna, who first connected to E.V.O at summer camp several years ago when she attended as a kindergartener. During Kids Chapel she was engaged, happy, and singing songs to Jesus. In her classroom, she would get into small disagreements with other kids and frequently be seen being angry and having strong outbursts of crying and hitting. Tianna was taught to look up to Jesus, pray for His peace in her life, and forgive others. She took this message home to her family during the age of five, six, and seven. Over the past five years, there has been a dramatic change on ALL fronts! Parents pray when they feel hopeless and want to be angry. Family members are able to ask for forgiveness and forgive others. Tianna attends B.U.G.S and says she “absolutely loves to come.” Also, she has learned to better control her frustration and has such a joyful spirit! She constantly smiles and tells jokes. More importantly though, she consistently grows in her relationship with God. One day, Tianna shared how she “can’t get enough of Jesus and wants to get to know Him more and more.”

I HAVE a HOUSE—NOW WHAT?
By Nic Denton

About a year and a half ago, Ryan and Vera approached me with the question of me possibly leading a men’s discipleship house for the arts. Four months later, I moved into that house and this is what happened: with Vera’s expert artistic help, the house opened as a gallery for Penn Avenue’s monthly “Unblurred Art Crawls” within a month. Our mission: To bring positive art! Shortly after we opened, Ryan organized volunteers to rip out two walls, two layers of drop ceilings, “great-great-grandma” carpet, and some old crumbling plaster. Problem: we still didn’t have a name. So with Pastor John Paul’s help, we came up with AIM (Artist In Mission for the Great I AM!). The community around us has really supported AIM with their time and presence (shout out to Avin and Emily and so many others). Today I rejoice that God has blessed the home with five artists who are living together and seeking God’s will for their lives. We have opened our home for over 15 shows that have featured the God given talents of at least 27 different artists and musicians. What will come next? Only God knows!

PRAY for EVO
1. Finances to start the 2nd floor renovation
2. The children who attend and their families—that Christ would be the leader in their homes.
3. Ongoing vision and direction of EVO with the many physical changes of the community
4. Summer Day Camp 2014
   • Interns and their growth
   • Leadership staff for vision and strength

PRAISES
1. Pittsburgh Gives was a great blessing! Thanks to all of you who gave in the fall. EVO received a $9,800 check from Pittsburgh Gives 2013.
2. The staff of EVO and their commitment to God
3. Summer Camp that was overflowing with children and God’s Life
4. Finances that provide for daily needs

UPCOMING EVENTS in 2014
MARTIN LUTHER KING EVENT JANUARY 20
MAD MEX BENEFIT DINNER FEBRUARY 18
HIRING SUMMER INTERNS JAN.—MAY
SUMMER CAMP JUNE 16—JULY 25

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SOWING with TEARS — A  TASTE of HARVEST — REAPING with SONGS of JOY

Savannah, at 10 yrs. old and in fifth grade, was a first-year camper during the first year of Seeds of Hope Summer Day Camp in 2002. She attended five consecutive years of camp, then served as a high school intern for 3 additional years. Throughout these years, Savannah came to Seeds of Hope Church weekly. She also attended the “Between Us Girls” group and helped with the younger children in the afterschool program. Savannah would have good days of being happy and everyone loving her; other days would be very difficult. It has now been 12 years. Savannah has now grown up to be 23 years old and has returned with her two-year-old daughter Corrine to have her baptized.

The baptism was a very powerful experience. After working with and standing alongside Savannah for 12 years of sacrificial giving and many prayers for the fullness of her well-being, Savannah, her two-year-old little girl, and the father have returned. There are three fields of harvest where the life of the Lord has come forth. All three of them are ready for more of His Life to be poured out, and to see a deeper harvest of the kingdom come forth.

As the Lord’s servants, we pour out our life that reflects the Christ in me, the hope of glory into those that God brings to us. We believe the seed (Jesus and His Life) is planted and in due time a harvest of this seed will occur. Those who sow with tears, will reap with songs of joy (Psalm 126:5).

WHY ARE THERE WHITE and BLACK PEOPLE?

One day at Kids Chapel, a young man asked, “Why are there white people and black people?”

I said, “I don’t know the answer to that question, but God knows. But I do know that every human being on the planet comes from the same mother. Scientists called anthropologists have studied the DNA of every human being and have found that we all come from the same mother. And that is what our Bible also tells us in Genesis, that we all come from Adam and Eve.”

What I did not say but thought later is that, in our DNA, God must have created a design for all the different types of people that exist in this world. What an awesome creator we have!

After I said this, another young man of mixed race said, “But Eve is white?” I asked him, “Why would you say that?” He said, “That is how she looks in all the pictures.” I said, “We really don’t know what Eve looked like. The reason she looks white is because white people did the artwork. Eve most likely looked more like you than me.”

It is at Kids Chapel that kids get a chance to ask the tough questions. It is something we do everyday for 15-20 minutes. I love the time I spend with the kids. Truly, these are times for young people to realize that we are all brothers and sisters in this way and a part of the same family, no matter what our skin color or our ethnic background is. When kids learn these things early in life, it can balance out all the hatred and bigotry they hear as they continue to grow in their life.

Pray for SoH Anglican
1. To reach the lost for Christ
2. To continue to grow as his disciples and to empower and release his disciples to do his mission.
3. Finances to grow staff and facilities needs.

Thanksgivings:
For Seeds of Hope new website: seedsofhopechurch.org created by Zackary McCoy