

## RESTORE ST. LOUIS

### Vision and Mission

Why didn't our cities die during the Great Depression? Because poverty does not destroy a city, abandonment does. During the Great Depression, our cities stayed intact because people did not abandon one another; rather, they reached out neighbor to neighbor, to help in times of need. Our success is based upon three very important ingredients: we are relational, we are integrated, and we are Gospel centered. By moving into the abandoned neighborhoods of St. Louis we are able to help through building close relationships where mutual dignity builds trust. The integration of our different ministries is a recognition that the same person will likely have a lot of different needs, and will over time benefit from diverse ministries that work together. And most important, the Gospel is a message of compassion to needy people. To be Gospel-centered merely means: to recognize our own need of God, and of one another and out of the mercy and kindness shown us to show the same to others. By moving into the rejected neighborhoods of St. Louis we are able to build close relationships where mutual dignity develops trust. The integration of our different ministries allows us to touch the same people at different times in their lives so that change over time can be dramatic.

Summer Urban Missions exists to seek the establishment of God's kingdom rule in the hearts of every ethnic group by discipling the nations in the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ through a clear proclamation of salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone and by doing Spirit-led deeds of justice and mercy.

Teams who participate in Summer Urban Missions and the folks who are served will experience the reconciling love of God in Jesus Christ...

- through a restored relationship with God and with one another across all racial, social and economic divisions, which has been achieved through Jesus Christ
- through multi-culturally redeemed worship where the delight of God in us and our delight in Him is experienced
- through Christian community relationships where fellowship, love, increased knowledge of God and a commitment to take care of all basic human need is practiced
- through an equipping of the people of God that mobilizes each member to be a part of extending God's justice and mercy to the nations and proclaims the unsearchable love of God in Christ Jesus to St. Louis and throughout the world.

## How Will Our Mission Be Accomplished?

God Will Advance His Gospel of the Kingdom Through Us this As We...

### ...Believe the Gospel Together

Primarily, we will be learning about the Gospel as we worship, work, eat, and sleep together. We will believe the Gospel together as leaders at New City Fellowship share with teams on Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon, and then on a daily basis during devotions Monday through Thursday mornings. Youth groups will have a nightly debriefing time to focus and process on what everyone is learning. We will also proclaim the Gospel with our mouths during evening Bible Clubs that are held in the community. The week is designed to show both our sins and our weaknesses and to point to the fact that we need a Savior.

### ...Take on a Kingdom Focus

We will work, sweat, cry, and laugh in the homes of widows, the elderly, the disabled, and other people who need assistance Monday through Thursday afternoons. This work could look like demolition, painting, plumbing, drywall, digging, cleaning maggots in basements, washing mold off of walls, stripping paint, removing brush, and many other things! A portion of our work time will also be spent working on New City Fellowship's building to facilitate Kingdom work that is carried on there.

### ...Pursue Reconciliation

We will worship in many languages on Sunday morning alongside New City's congregation in University City. We will work alongside and for people of many different racial, educational, economic, and social backgrounds. We will be intentional on Sunday morning: as we tutor, as we work on homes, and as we teach Bible Clubs about looking at our own prejudices, confessing them for what they are, and seeking reconciliation. One of the devotional times in the morning will be a discussion of reconciliation in the church.

### ...and Work in Teams

You will work with MANY different people when you come this summer. Andrew Stern will help coordinate many of the activities but many other team members will direct you. Our pastors will share with you about the Gospel of the Kingdom on Sunday. Team leaders of the tutoring, work project, and Bible Club ministries will orient you on Sunday afternoon. During the tutoring sessions, college interns working with InterVarsity's CityLights Urban Project will direct you. In the afternoons on work projects, you may work under a Harambee crew leader, a college intern, or you may lead a site yourself! Sound confusing? It is! It is further evidence and opportunity for God's grace to be made all the more evident! Of course, your own group needs to work and live as a team. Teamwork provides more opportunities to expose our sin and more opportunities to see that God's grace is both needed and at work!