



New Song News

The Monthly Newsletter for the Staff of New Song Urban Ministries

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May/June 2005

The True Not-Trumped Lady Conquerers

By Antoine Bennett



Team Roster:

Kelsey Carolina
Kanisha Dailey
Brittany Green
Cherrell Harlee
Tinaya Holland
Brontray Hollie
Destiny Hope
Nyiesha Kosh
Lakiesha Mclean
Sharonda Mobuary
Yalanda Mobuary
Jasmine Parker
Jade Randolph
Oshaye Roberson
Chantay Sutton
Cierra White
Coach Sean Stevenson
Coach Antoine Bennett
Mgr Cheyanne Jernigan

In early April 2005 the New Song girls basketball team won the championship in the first annual “Beyond the Rim” Tournament and the Baltimore City/Baltimore County Basketball contest!

The girls stepped up in fashionable style to meet the challenge of competition as they battled their way to the top. Teams issued the Lady Conquerors their hardest level of game rivalry during the two-weekend sports excursion.

The initial weekend started with the Lady Conquerors striving to maintain their bragging rights as division champions of the regular season, with the semi-final game showing a comeback from a 15-point deficit at halftime and without two key players, Nyiesha Kosh and Cherrell Harlee. For the final match-up, the Lady Conquerors took on the Dunbar Poets, an undefeated team. Both teams were well coached throughout the game, but in the end New Song prevailed as the champs, although every second of the game allowed each player from both sides to show skills and determination.

This victory over Dunbar propelled New Song into the following challenge, the Baltimore City/Baltimore County basketball play-offs, which consisted of three rounds with single game elimination for the losing team. The winning spirit of the previous success carried through the remainder of the tournament, leading to a rematch with the Dunbar Poets. The game began with a very close score and no team taking a big lead in the first half. Nevertheless, our squad turned things up in the second half to push their rivals to the brink of loss. Yet the Dunbar team held strong enough to provide the crowd with a great well-matched game. The win belonged to the New Song Lady Conquerors as they sealed their second championship title against the Poets. Congratulations New Song!!!

HEALTH ALERT

Dr. Belinda Chen

NEW SONG HEALTH CO-OP

The New Song Health Co-op is up and running at the former health center facility at 1300 N. Fulton Avenue! This spring we have organized a number of seminars on health-related topics of interest to the community (Wed evenings from 6-7:30 p.m.):

May 4 – Understanding Your Medicare Benefits

Are you 65 years or older? Need help with your medical co-pay? We offer applications and assistance to fill out QMB (Qualified Medical Benefits) applications. Learn about how to handle co-pays, deductibles, etc...

May 11 – Know Your Meds!

Learn ways to cut your pharmacy bills. Bring your medications. We will help you learn what each medication is for. If you qualify, fill out a Pharmacy Assistance Application. (Must be 19 yrs or older.)

May 18 – Help for the Uninsured

Come let us match you with Baltimore City Health resources for people who are uninsured. If you have a child under 18 and no insurance, we offer CHIP, an application for children to get medical assistance. You may also fill out a CHIP application if you are pregnant and uninsured.

May 25 – Hearing and Vision Screening

Glaucoma screening. All ages welcome.

June 1 – Nutrition Facts

Learn how to read nutrition labels, manage weight, Body Mass Index (BMI), and other helpful tips!

June 8 – Blood Sugar Screening

Need your blood sugar tested?

All the seminars are free of charge. If you are interested in a topic, but the date/time of the seminar is inconvenient for you, please call us at 410-728-5600 and leave a message and we'll arrange an individual consultation just for you.

As always, we stand ready to help you in any way we can to maintain or improve your health. Just walk in Wednesday evenings or give us a call.

DID YOU KNOW. . .

- ★ On April 27th Tony Deering and the Board of the Rouse Company Foundation visited New Song Academy where they were able to see the results of their investment in the renovation of the new preschool space at 1385 Gilmore Street. Mr. Deering was delighted with the progress the school's been making and is committed to continuing the Foundation's support. He was particularly happy to meet up with Ms. Paula Huggins, of whom he has fond memories: when during the move to New Song Center she found him with nothing to do, she put a broom in his hand and told him to "Get to work!"
- ★ Eight Habitat staff attended Habitat's Urban Affiliates Conference in Washington DC in March to network with others building in U.S. cities.
- ★ In April, Allan and Susan Tibbels gave 10 presentations in 4 days about the ministry of New Song in Indianapolis (thanks to our friend Scott Truex) to help prepare for the annual CCDA conference which will be held in Indy this Nov.

Condolences

to Orlando Mobyary on the passing of his mom, Virginia Mobyary.

In Fond Memory of Le'Von Kevin Russell Jr.

Le'Von Russell, a member of the first graduating class from New Song Academy, was killed in a car accident on March 29, 2005. He was nominated as the kindest person in his class, the first group of eighth graders to receive their diplomas in 1995. Le'Von was able to attend Piney Woods Country Life School in Jackson, Mississippi with the support of the Abell Foundation to New Song's High School Scholarship Fund. He received a scholarship to Tuskegee University, where he was majoring in Sociology and Computer Technology. Upon his projected upcoming graduation, Le'Von would have been the first New Song Academy college graduate! Le'Von loved the Lord and touched the hearts of everyone who knew him. Please continue to pray for his family and friends. He will be missed dearly.



“What Do We Do Now?”
Rev. Thurman Williams
Pastor, New Song Community Church

“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”
I Corinthians 15:58

In the midst of a very difficult time in our community, many people are asking, “What do we do now?” It’s a valid question, given the tragedies we’ve experienced recently. But thankfully, though it is a valid question, it is not a new question. The key for us is looking to the Only One who provides the adequate answers: Almighty God.

One place we may look to find answers to the question, “What do we do?” is in Paul’s 1st letter to the Corinthians. This letter was written to people a lot like us, facing difficulties both from within their community and from outside it. Paul spent a lengthy chapter talking about the doctrine of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and then ended that chapter with some very practical and helpful guidance on how to live out the reality of this doctrine.

He told them first of all to **“stand firm.”** That is what we must do right now, stand firm. But what did he mean? Stand firm on what? Stand firm on the unshakeable foundation of Jesus Christ. Jesus said Himself, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father but through me.”** One of His disciples wrote of Him, **“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven whereby we must be saved.”** Any other foundation we choose to stand on will not stand, especially in times like we are facing now. Stand firm on the sure foundation of Jesus. Secondly, Paul told them to **“let nothing move you.”** What that said to them, and says to us, is do not move off of that sure foundation. It is especially easy to be moved when we face things we do not understand or cannot explain. But let nothing move you from that foundation of Jesus

New Song Community Church Celebrates 17th Anniversary! May 8, 2005



Christ. Finally, Paul told them to **“always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord.”** In difficult times, it is easy to wonder if what we are doing is really making a difference or having an impact. But keep on giving yourself fully to the work of the Lord. Why? Paul says, **“because your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”** What a promise! Our labor, in the Lord, on behalf of our community, is not in vain! It matters. It is making an eternal investment that will reap benefits we might never see.

All of that sounds nice, but where do we find the power to do that? From the Unshakeable Jesus Christ. Jesus stood firm in living a perfect life and going to the cross to pay the debt for sinners, like me and you. Jesus let nothing move Him from the task God had called Him to, winning our salvation. And Jesus gave Himself fully to God’s work because He knew His labor in the Lord was not in vain. When you’re tired, go to Him! When you’re not tired, go to Him! This is where we will find the power to keep going. What do we do now? God’s Word provides the answer.

HOLLYWOOD IN SANDTOWN!

Okay, so it's not really Hollywood, but a real movie is being filmed right here in our neighborhood. During the week of May 20-27, be on the lookout for film crews here in Sandtown! Toobie Powers is an independent film about a boy, his friends, and the decisions they make which affect their lives. Leading roles include performances by our own Sharandall Moses, Terrell Johnson, Tuttie Paige, Allison Brown and Wardell Young. Major roles are also played by students from the Baltimore School for the Arts, and Maria Broom (The Wire). With music written by Merrell Johnson and Alvin Richardson, screenplay by Kurt Dutra and Chris West, the film is being directed by Pastor Steve Smallman. Feel free to stop by and watch, and PLEASE forgive any inconveniences to your regular parking or driving routines!! The production team thanks you for your support of the arts in Sandtown!

"Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday dear:"

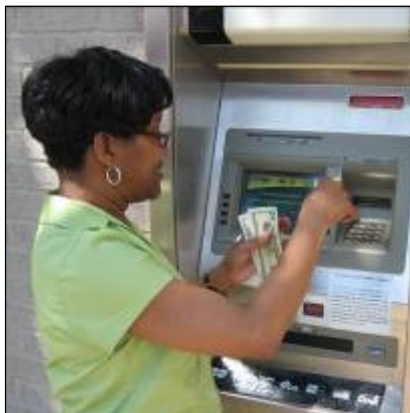
Apr 25	--Antoine Bennett, EDEN Jobs
May 3	--Delores Johnson, Learning Center
Jun 29	--Orlando Mobuary, Habitat
Jun 30	--Joy Tillery-Medley, Mart ha's Place
Jul 4	--Gerry Palmer, EDEN Jobs
Jul 13	--Daniel (Bo) Punnett, Habitat

"Happy Birthday to you!!!"

(Our sincerest apologies for tardy birthday greetings in April and early May. Hope you had very happy day!)

***Sandtown Habitat's
14th Annual
SUMMER BUILDING WEEK
June 20-24, 2005***

Get ready to celebrate the rebuilding of our community with Sandtown Habitat and hundreds of volunteers in late June! If you'd like to participate you can pick up an application at 1300 N. Fulton's lobby or go online to www.sandtownhabitat.org. Habitat Homeowners should check with Ms. LaVerne Stokes for more specific details.



PROVIDENT BANK OPENS ATM BANK MACHINE AT 1300 N. FULTON
LaVerne Stokes, Co-Executive Director of Sandtown Habitat, is the historic first user of the new machine!

Mark Your Calendars

May 21	Black & Decker/Provident Bank/Maryland Credit Union League Habitat House Sponsorship Kick-off at 1519 N. Fulton Avenue, 9 a.m.
May 23	GBC Leadership Class visiting, New Song Center, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
May 30 – Jun 10	Learning Center Spring Break, classes resume on June 13, school days end at 3:15
Jun 20-24	Habitat's Annual Summer Building Week (see box above for info on volunteering)
July 4	Independence Day Celebration and Cookout at Mr. Kelley's
July 22	Learning Center Eighth Grade Graduation and last day of classes

Upcoming Events

Please turn in staff news items and suggestions for *New Song News* to Patty Prasada-Rao, Editor (ppr@nsum.org)