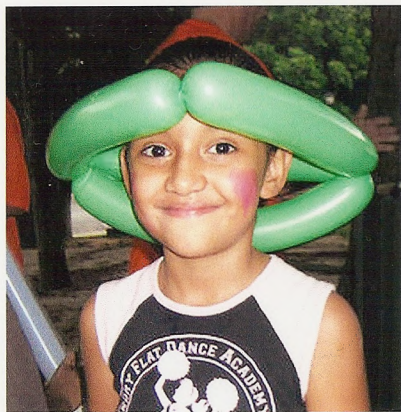


# **Whirlwind Missions**

## Outreach Update

### September 2006

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Hello, my friends!

Suddenly, I was awakened by crackling sound. FIRE!! The covers next to my bed had been ignited by a bad extension cord. Within five seconds my entire wall was engulfed by eight foot tall flames! I pulled the bed away from the wall and tried to stomp out the flames with my bare feet.

Now my ceiling started to burn! I pulled down the fabric trying to stop the flames. As I grabbed the burning material, I felt my hand sizzle with the heat.

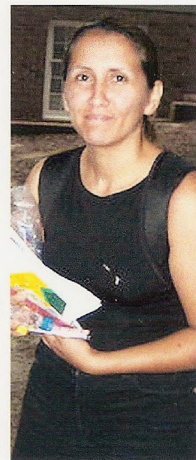
Racing outside I went to the large barrel I keep my distilled water in. I dipped the five gallon buckets I use with our aquarium deep into the water. Scrambling back into the darkness, yelling "FIRE! FIRE!" as I went, I was able to pour gallons of water directly on the flames. Jesse raced down the stairs with a fire extinguisher and began spraying the fire. Kathy called the fire department to come help.

Almost as soon as it had started, it was over. Thick, pungent smoke filled the air. The firemen arrived and after making sure we were all ok, began pulling out the burned material to my back yard. They brought in an enormous fan to suck out the smoke from the room.

I looked down at my hands. Huge blisters covered the fingers of my left hand. The first thing that went through my mind was "How am I going to play music at church?" My neighbor Terri is an ER nurse. She assessed my hand and gave me some burn medicine. "How long do you think it'll be before I can use this hand?" I asked. "Two weeks, to a month probably." In FOUR days I played with our band at church! What a miracle!!

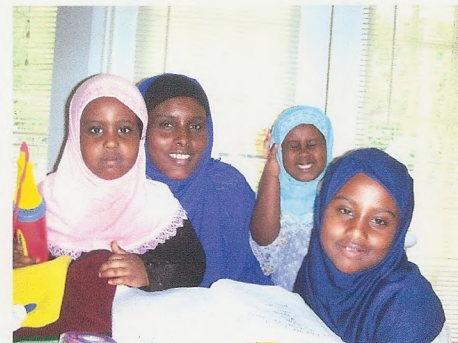
The kids got back from school and helped me clean out all the burned stuff and haul it out to the street. What a stinky mess. And that burn smell. It's not easy to get out of your nose. We scrubbed the walls that had burned and cleaned the tile that had melted in the extreme heat. As the fireman had told me, "You had a pretty good fire here." "Yep," I replied.

We cleaned, scrubbed and painted for two days. I left all the windows and door open for four days. I put my bed back in and set up my office. Finally, my life was somewhat back to normal. But was it? I had nightmares of flames in the evening. As I drove around I saw burned houses in my neighborhood. The lady at Office Depot had terrible burns on her face that she covered with heavy makeup. My thoughts were consumed with fire and hell. I looked at the people around me and wondered, would they be in that lake of fire? We must have a feeling of urgency about our mission!





# Youth Outreach United



WOW! So much has happened this month!

I'm now serving in Spring Chase an apartment community in Clarkston: the Muslim center of the whole Southeast! We've been given a beautiful room to hold the after school program! My partner Marc Laseter is starting English as a Second Language classes and an adult computer class. I absolutely love it at Spring Chase! The kids here are from different parts of Africa which is a switch from the Hispanics I used to work with at Oakbrook. But I love them! Even in these first two weeks I've already become so attached to the kids.

The very first day I arrived at Spring Chase Marc and I strolled around the community telling kids about the exciting new program. As we walked a voice called out to me saying, "HEY! You lookin' for some kids?" I turned surprised and replied, "Yes," and told her about the new activities. Then the young African-American woman said, "Yeah, I know what cha talking about. Ya not gonna get anybody though."

You can only imagine my confused face as I stood in front of her. She went on to explain to me that the Muslim mothers felt like their children were going to get tricked into becoming Christians and that none of them were allowed to come. Frustration flooded me. This was a brand new site for work and I had a powerful feeling that something great was going to happen. I wasn't going to let the devil's word stop my work now! Marc and I continued walking and found a nine year old boy named Elijah which means God is with you. Elijah became our guide through the complex showing us where ALL his friends lived!

The next day I showed up and the empty room was filled with children's questions. There were three girls Jocelyn, Emman and Shalom that I started to help. It was the most fun I've had teaching in apartments! I felt more creative and compelled to do a better job at this brand new complex! It must have shown too because it just happens that the mother who had started the rumors about the children being tricked came in and saw all the good work being done that she allowed her children to participate! What an answer to prayer!

I believe that this year will have a major impact on my life and the lives of these new children. This year I will be able to devote more of my time to creating new games and Bible lessons for the kids. This energy and commitment is what I hope to bring every day to my new kids at Spring Chase!

I'm passionate about this new ministry more than ever! Great things are going to happen, I'm positive of that! Please pray that this fragile work will soon be a sturdy model for others to follow.

I would also like to say, "Thank you so very much!" to the dedicated people who help support me and my ministry both here and at our mission at Oakbrook. We still continue to serve that community with Outreach Events!

With love , *Ashley*



**Please support our ministry in the International Village! Make support checks out to Youth Outreach United, PO Box 2561, Suwanee, GA 30024 Acct. #6137. THANKS!**



“Take the Church, to the People!”



[www.whirlwindmissions.org](http://www.whirlwindmissions.org)