

Ministries In Action 2009 Report

Ministries In Action, the combination of all Cathedral Ministries, has had a great year! From the creation of new ministries to the implementation of new ideas, 2009 proved to be amazing. In a slumping economy, we were able to sustain ministry to meet the increasing needs of our congregation and community.

New Ministries

The following ministries were created: African Ministry (Zumunta Yeruwa), Cathedral Cares HIV/AIDS and Sickle Cell Anemia Resource Center, Clean Life With Christ, Encouragement Support Group and Mephibosheth Ministry. Adding these ministries expanded our reach to those of African descent, people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and Sickle Cell Anemia, individuals dealing with addictions, women living at shelters and transitional homes, as well as those with physical challenges.

Debt Elimination

All of our ministries embarked on fundraising efforts for Cathedral's Debt Elimination Campaign in 2009. Through excitement about the city we are building for God and many sustained efforts through the end of the year, thousands of dollars were raised to help the church collect approximately \$500, 000.

2009 Highlights

Evangelism and Outreach ministries did a tremendous job meeting increasing needs. Despite staff changes, the Mercy House continued to be a valuable source of help and referral to Perth Amboy and the surrounding areas by providing clothes, shoes, food, blankets, ministry to the homeless, and referral services. Straight Street Prison Ministry has maintained a successful re-entry program through the Mercy House and continued its regular support of inmates and their families. Our Bridge Builders Evangelism Ministry teamed up with the Spanish Ministry to begin *Church Without Walls* every Sunday afternoon at outdoor locations on our Perth Amboy campus. People on the streets were very receptive and began to look forward to the service each week. *Springfest '09* was a huge success. We had more participation from the Perth Amboy community than ever before, including prayer for salvation, healing, and family crises. Over 15 people gave their hearts to the Lord. Our Plainfield location began a weekly soup kitchen at its downtown location, with approximately 70 people who were fed and received clothes. One-on-one ministry and Bible Study continued as vital aspects of the ministry. "Christmas in the Park," was the most successful numerically in five years, with over 150 people in attendance. Our Asbury Park location evangelism team faithfully reached out to the community with gospel tracts and bibles, and plenty of love to the community. The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet continued to faithfully meet the needs of Asbury Park residents.

Our Missionary Ministry maintained a valuable role in meeting needs, leading the way on all giveaways throughout the year and serving at our Soup Kitchens. This year, the ministry served approximately 6500 meals at the Perth Amboy Soup Kitchen, 500 Breakfasts at the Plainfield YMCA, 500 Breakfasts at the Ozanam Family Shelter in Edison and 75 meals at the Embrace Dinner. To meet the needs, the group also delivered 100 meals to the State Street Senior Citizens Building on Thanksgiving Day, 150 Easter Outfits, 250 School Backpacks, turkeys to 500 families and 400 toys. Also, new ministry Clean Life With Christ provided a supportive environment for those seeking support as they learn to let Christ help them deal with different kinds of addictions. Seeking to raise awareness about critical health issues plaguing the African-American community, Cathedral Cares HIV/AIDS and Sickle Cell Anemia Resource Center held HIV/AIDS testing during a Sunday morning service and hosted a successful World AIDS Day Concert.

This year the Hospitality ministry took excellence to the next level by implementing Visitor Gift Bags containing a New Testament Bible, one of Bishop's latest CD's, a packet of pocket tissues, hand cream, Cathedral ink pen, candy-mints, Kingdom Citizen and Cathedral Connector brochures. Encouragement Support Group celebrates not only ministering to women in shelters, but also bringing the play "Let My People Go," an Evelyn Graves play to Cathedral.

Marriage & Family Enrichment Ministry experienced some restructuring and presented new initiatives such as: *Love Dare Movie* & 40 day challenge, "Recession Proof Your Marriage" and "Fireproofed, But Still Hot" Panel Discussions, Sunset Conversations with Bishop & Pastor Hilliard and "The Dynamic Marriage" classes designed to support and strengthen marriages.

Youth Ministry had a stellar year. A new youth council was appointed. The Nursery Ministry upgraded and repaired the entire Nursery, and increased monthly parent participation. Khalfani Ministry kicked off a new program called Manhood Bootcamp. This 13-week curriculum was inspired by Pastor Phyllis Hilliard's vision for a program that empowers young men to be upstanding gentlemen in our society. The ministry organized its annual Heritage Dinner with the theme "Yes We Can" and had attendance of over 200 people. The Father's Day cookout was a very successful event that served burgers and hotdogs to hundreds of people. The mentoring program for boys also went on a baseball outing to see a Newark Bears play. The youth went to see the Wiz presented at Shiloh Baptist Church. Harvest, Hallelujah, Holiday Christmas and New Years parties continued to provide safe alternatives for youth.

Dance Ministry had a great year. In addition to ministering regularly at Cathedral International for worship services and special celebrations, Imani, Kingdom Dancers and Ladies of Virtue all danced for the *NJPAC/Ministerial Alliance for Alvin Ailey Church Night Production* and *PSE&G Black History Program* in Edison, NJ. Strengthening dance ministries at other churches through facilitating workshops, members of the ministry also assisted in establishing the National Liturgical Dance Network (NLDN)-UK

in England and ministered a dance selection at the International Christian Dance Fellowship (ICDF) in St. Andrews, Scotland.

Young Adult Ministry created Young Adult Community Outreach Ministry, which began with a monthly Sunday soup kitchen for the unemployed and those in need of a solid meal. The Sunday Soup Kitchen served over 75 people during its first offering. The Young Adult Praise and Worship Team offered a fresh sound to the congregation on 3rd Sundays. Young Adult Ministry also officially expanded to our Asbury Park location, raising up young adults to lead and strengthen each other through fellowship. Educare, along with Donald Hilliard Ministries, awarded a total of \$9000 to 20 undergraduate and 2 graduate students. Of the scholarships awarded, 4 received DHM Vision Casting awards and 6 received DHM Stop the Funeral Awards.

There is a new sense of unity within the Music Ministry, and a new sound; one that is increasingly multi-cultural. The Music Ministry worked with the entire Liturgical Arts Ministry to create original scripts and productions for Holy Week and Christmas. The Christmas Production was paid for in part by a Bake Sale and "Cup Cakes for Christmas" promotion which raised over \$1,500. In addition, the ministry hosted the *Bowl for Life Fundraiser* in May and netted \$2,131. During the year, 12 members joined or re-joined the ministry.

We also cannot forget the Men's Ministry, which hosted its annual Men's Weekend and Men's Breakfast, strengthening and encouraging men in the Lord. Seniors Ministry continued to support senior saints through Bible study, trips and weekly fellowship. Our Pastoral Care Ministry grew from 11 to 15 members and continued to be the first people to assist pastors and special guests for all worship services, conferences and Pastoral Teaching Hours. The African Ministry (*Zumunta Yeruwa*) hosted a successfully fashion show and luncheon. This event included other churches serving people of African descent and businesses from Sierra-Leone.

Spanish ministry provided relevant support to our Spanish-speaking population. The ministry conducted community Basic English Classes for 26 students, Intermediate English Classes for 19 students and Conversational English Classes for 15 students. Two *English As A Second Language* (ESL) Certificate Celebrations were held in the honor of the graduates. Spanish ministry also sponsored a *Dental Teeth Whitening Study* with Oral Health Clinical Services. Over 40 people participated and received \$150. As a result of the ministry's participation, Dr. Salim Nathoo donated \$2,000 for the purchase of the Translation Equipment with 20 receivers, which are now being used.

These 2009 highlights cannot tell the full story of what every ministry continues to contribute daily to help Cathedral International fulfill its God-given mandate to Evangelize, Educate, Emancipate, Empower and Expand. Ministries In Action celebrates its past successes and looks forward to meeting the needs of Cathedral International congregants and community as we go out the box in 2010!