

# Restored Sight

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CHRISTIAN CHURCH



**RESTORATION INSTITUTE  
JOB READY SKILL CENTER  
RSCC RESOURCE & RELIEF CENTER**

*AN OUTREACH OF RESTORED SIGHT CHURCH & ROYAL DIVINITY CDC:*

## Spring 2016 Partner Update

### Preview of Summer Initiatives

In June of last year, Restored Sight Christian Church (RSCC) moved from the Midfield Community Center and purchased the old Wylam Baptist Church Family Life Center building from New Covenant Outreach Ministries (NCO) where Bishop Frank Kirkwood and NCO served the families and children of Wylam for over 10 years.

Before becoming Pastor of RSCC, I was privileged to work many volunteer hours at NCO doing such things as building maintenance, driving the forklift, and unloading pallets of supplies for the food co-op. Ironically, I was there repairing the gym floor in 2002 when I received the news that my father passed away. I never imagined that we would own that building and take up the mantle of service for the Wylam/Ensley community. We are doing our part to make the Wylam/Ensley community a **Kingdom Community**.

When we say Kingdom, we mean *King's Dominion*, that which He delegated to mankind first at creation and secondly through Jesus the Christ who said, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." (Luke 12:32) Genesis 1:26 says that God desires for us to have dominion over the Earth and that original assignment has not changed.

In a **Kingdom Community**, God's Government must be set up in our hearts first. Then, we must have the desire and ability to **See What the Lord is Saying**. Since we have begun to teach the Kingdom of God to His people we have received an abundance of food, clothes, and shelter without money and without price. (Matthew 6:33)

We gave away food and clothing before we ever turned the lights on. Just as God the Father gave us an earth that was overflowing with provision, it is our desire to help families have the ability to live fruitful lives. It is not about poverty but the spirit of poverty and lack that oppresses humanity.

We know that many people have made poor financial decisions, so we set our hearts to give without judging the recipient. If they meet our requirements, we give because we know that people may have a car and/or a house but no immediate ability to buy food or clothing. Also, we want to help our neighbors create margin in their lives by helping with food or clothes so that they can get the medicine they need or let little Johnny play football.

There is no good reason for lack of food in a country where 70% of people have a front or back yard. One of the greatest gifts God gave us is **reproducible seed**. Therefore, we also have grown food on our properties and teach our neighbors to do so. **Kingdom Communities** take away excuses by exercising our faith in God, taking advantage of His laws and walking in love.

Every week we feed as many as come out to our midday **Kingdom Bible Study** on Wednesday at 11:30 am. To date, it is our biggest venue for drawing members of our community. We also have been able to partner with Mission Alabama, JCCEO, the Birmingham Police Department, Family Guidance Center, Children's Village, Firehouse Mission and various other organizations and ministries. We were recently blessed to provide food and clothing for victims of major apartment fires, orphans and foster children.

Additionally, we have provided blankets, underclothes, hats and toiletries to the homeless and food to the volunteers who go out and feed them. We have conducted four job workshops to help displaced workers in our community. I am currently working with Chief Roper and the Birmingham Violence Reduction Initiative for the Wylam /Ensley area. God has graced us to do all these things and more in less than a year and we have only just begun. Please see our plans for the summer.



## Summer Enrichment

### Teach them to Fish

Our belief is that everyone has a gift or talent that was given for the purpose of serving their fellow man. In order to ensure the success of the next generation, the church must help families disciple their children. One way we can help is by providing opportunities for young people to experience different types of work and creative activity. *If you give a boy a fish he can eat for a day, if you teach him to fish he can eat for a lifetime.* This still holds true today whether it be in reference to mechanics, construction, electronics, landscaping or other endeavors.

Lowe's has recently partnered with us to provide lawn equipment for our small engine repair class. Groups of Jr. High and High school students will participate in learning to repair the equipment over the summer. We will have other groups that will learn to use the repaired equipment while maintaining overgrown green spaces in the community. We hope to partner with SYEP and other partners to provide a stipend for the youth who participate, including payment for services when possible. This project will serve as a pilot for an expanded, year- round mentoring and workforce development program.

## The Case for Church in Economic Empowerment

“The wealth gap between America’s high income group and everyone else has reached record high levels since the economic recovery from the Great Recession of 2007-09, with a clear trajectory of increasing wealth for the upper-income families and no wealth growth for the middle- and lower-income families.”

In addition, America’s upper-income families have a median net worth that is nearly 70 times that of the country’s lower-income families, also the widest wealth gap between these families in 30 years.”

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/12/17/wealth-gap-upper-middle-income/>

“The Great Recession, fueled by the crises in the housing and financial markets, was universally hard on the net worth of American families. But even as the economic recovery has begun to mend asset prices, not all households have benefited alike, and wealth inequality has widened along racial and ethnic lines.

The wealth of white households was 13 times the median wealth of black households in 2013, compared with eight times the wealth in 2010, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of data from the Federal Reserve’s *Survey of Consumer Finances*. Likewise, the wealth of white households is now more than 10 times the wealth of Hispanic households, compared with nine times the wealth in 2010.”

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/12/12/racial-wealth-gaps-great-recession/>



## The Church Must Respond!

Beyond meeting immediate needs, the church has a role in helping people to prosper long-term. We see the church, the outreach ministries and our CDC as resource centers for spiritual, educational, economic, entrepreneurial and familial needs to be addressed.

We must help build an empowered community (spiritually and economically) where there are healthy families, businesses, commerce, educational opportunities and Kingdom culture.

We have begun offering exposure to entrepreneurship and to the arts. The identification and development of God-given gift and talents at an early age paves the way to educational success and a bright economic future.

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## **Early Exposure to Economic Empowerment through Fine Arts Camps**

We have found that many families in our immediate surrounding community are single parent families. We have met many grandparents who are raising a second or third generation of children. Two-parent households typically have both parents working long hours which unfortunately may leave “latch- key” kids.

In our role as community partner, we can help families in the short- and long term. One way we can help is to provide a safe place for children to be during part of the summer break. In doing so, we have the opportunity to provide a service (exposure to fine arts) that has been shown to create positive, lasting change in children.

We have a facility with a full gym and classrooms that can facilitate a summer youth camp. We also have members who are educated and have experience in the fine arts (specifically visual art, digital design, classical and jazz piano and music production and recording. Our program would consist of daily recreation/ fitness mixed with an introduction to fine arts.

We propose a:

### **4 week summer camp**

When: July  
Time: 8 am – 1 pm  
Ages: 7-12

Breakfast, lunch and camp supplies provided.

Besides volunteers, we need art supplies, music workbooks and other appropriate supplies, literature and equipment.