

# LIGHT OF THE VILLAGE

SHARING CHRIST'S MESSAGE OF FAITH, HOPE & LOVE  
WITH THE INNER CITY ONE PERSON AT A TIME

The LIGHT of the Village  
JOHN 8:12

## Growing up in Christ

"Last week I heard the gunshots; I forget how many, but there were a lot. My homeboy was lying in the field rolling around, and I ran over to him and tried to help him best I could till the ambulance got there." The teenager continued, "Growing up in Alabama Village can be an adventure: sometimes fun, sometimes tragic. That day it was tragic." One of the visiting college students asked, "What gives you joy?" The teenager paused, "Listen, you hear those children playing outside? They growing up at the church, God's house and our home- for real this place is home."

"LISTEN, YOU HEAR THOSE CHILDREN PLAYING OUTSIDE? THEY GROWING UP AT THE CHURCH, GOD'S HOUSE AND OUR HOME - FOR REAL THIS PLACE IS HOME."

Growing up in Alabama Village is unique, wrought with dreams, tragedy and challenges. In contrast, growing up in Christ provides the faith, hope and love needed to sustain oneself as they survive the statistics.

"BUT TAKE HEART, BECAUSE I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD."

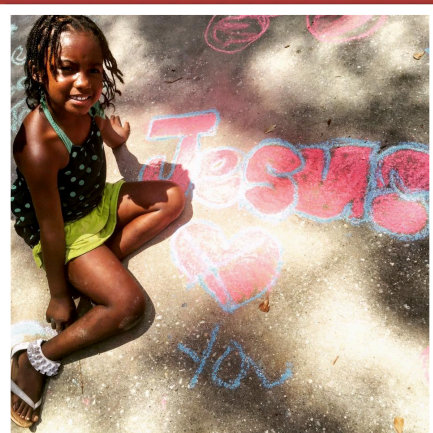
"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

In Christ,

John, Dolores,  
& the LOV Team



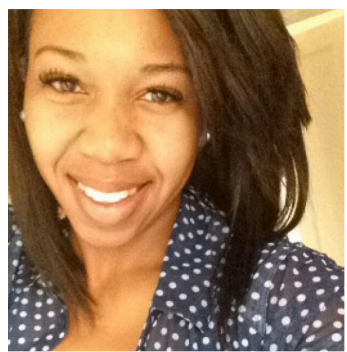
Despite numerous challenges, we are encouraged to see young people clinging to the cross and growing closer to Christ.



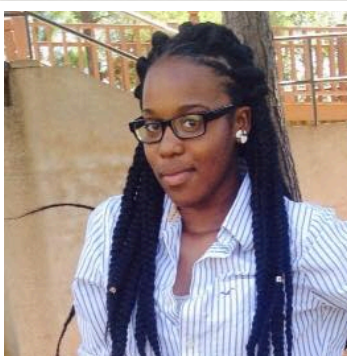
Many things have taken place on our basketball court. Memories have been made, friendships have been forged, and children have grown up here. But there are things that go on here that remind us how much our community needs the faith, hope, and love of Christ. Our kids didn't choose this neighborhood to call home, nevertheless, they are here. We are reminded on days like the ones pictured on the left and right that Christ is present in the worst of circumstances, and His light will not be extinguished even by the fiercest darkness.



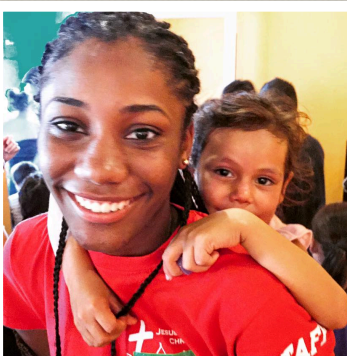
## BRAG BOARD



SASIONA IS STUDYING TO  
BECOME A NURSE



KANISHA IS STUDYING  
ATHLETIC TRAINING



PHILANESHA IS STUDYING TO  
BECOME A CHILD THERAPIST



FRENICKA IS PLAYING  
BASKETBALL AT WALLACE

## Introducing Campamento de Cristo!

Each summer LOV hires between 30 and 40 teenagers from our community to serve alongside us in our Summer Bible Camps. They are trained and disciplined along the way as we serve Christ and over 350 of His children side-by-side. We are privileged to watch our teens grow in their relationship with Christ and in their love for others, while simply enjoying being kids themselves.

This summer a hand-picked team of our TeenLeaders had the opportunity to travel abroad to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. After working seven, very tiring weeks of Summer Bible Camp in Prichard and Chickasaw, this special crew partnered with an organization out of El Paso called Siguiendo los Pasos de Jesus (SPJ) to establish a brand-new camp in the colonias (rural area) outside Juarez for 150 children.

The teens overcame many challenges on their journey and formed genuine relationships with the kids despite the language barrier.

We have been asked by SPJ to return and host the camp again next summer. The team has already begun raising funds for the journey in 2016 by making candles. If you would like to support our TeenLeader program by ordering candles, please contact Morgan Carnley at [morganc@lightofthevillage.org](mailto:morganc@lightofthevillage.org).



### By the Numbers:

- 150 children
- 16 Alabamians
- 13 rolls of duct tape
- 46 games of UNO
- 856 high fives
- 5 translators
- 4 flights
- 3 days of camp
- 2 languages
- 1 GOSPEL



If you would like contribute to or sponsor a TeenLeader's trip for \$600, please visit [www.lightofthevillage.org/#/you-can-help/give](http://www.lightofthevillage.org/#/you-can-help/give) or text LOV to 41444 to give online on your mobile device.



## “The Best Summer Bible Camp Ever!”

We have a running joke at LOV that every Summer Bible Camp is the best because at the end of each summer, Dolores emphatically declares, “This was the best Summer Bible Camp ever!” And as much as the interns like to give her grief for it, it’s true. And prayerfully, it will always continue to be true, each year continuing to be better than the last.

This summer we hired and trained 31 TeenLeaders from the community to help us with our camps. One of our favorite parts of Summer Bible Camp is watching Christ break through the tough exteriors of their hearts and teach them to love the kids, be patient, and have fun.

This summer was unique in that we really got to see our Interns and TeenLeaders being very intentional with the kids, taking every opportunity not to simply discipline, but to disciple the kids. It was tremendous to see the Gospel being shared continually in word and deed and in truth and love. Because of these efforts, we had over 25 individuals inquire about baptism and were privileged to baptize 13 young people on Sept 27.

We served over 350 children this summer at 3 locations: Camp LOV, Camp Faith, and Camp Hope. All of our locations serve children ages 4-14 for 7 weeks and include a meal, Bible study, and lots of fun each day all at no cost to the individual.



## Interns Encounter God in New Ways at Summer Bible Camp

This summer, we challenged our 20 interns to take a moment and truly reflect on why God has them in the Alabama Village, what He is teaching them, how He equipping them, and how He is changing their perspective. Their stories made us laugh and cry throughout the summer, but above all they gave readers a very real look at the ups and downs of ministry inside this unique community and how God is glorified through it all. Below are excerpts from a few of their posts. To read more, visit [lightofthevillage.me](http://lightofthevillage.me). If you know a young person who may be interested in interning with us for SBC 2016, please contact [morganc@lightofthevillage.org](mailto:morganc@lightofthevillage.org).



“I’ve learned so much from our kids this summer. They’ve taught me that I can go and do what God calls me to. That I’m loved by Him. That God is present and active in the darkest of places.....This has truly been the most rewarding summer, and I’m so grateful that I got to come alongside a ministry that I hold so near to my heart.”  
Erica; Tampa, FL



“I not only met some amazing kids and staff but, most importantly, I met God.”  
Amelia; Birmingham-Southern College Student  
“I go to the Village because I know God is in the Village, I feel him every day.” Reagan, University of Mobile Student  
“God showed me that truly loving someone goes a long way.” Tammy, University of Mobile Alumna



# The Harvest: 13 Youth Baptized

This semester at LOV has been particularly challenging. We are growing in numbers, have added additional time to each day of program, AND have expanded after school program to include Wednesdays. Of course, with this growth, we have faced much resistance from the enemy. But we've held tight to the promise that "in due season, we will reap if we do not give up" (Gal. 6:9). In God's perfect timing, we were privileged to baptize 13 young people on Sunday, Sept. 27 at Spring Hill Baptist Church. We are immensely proud of these individuals and their decision to follow Jesus. And we are encouraged by God's faithfulness to us. He never forgets a promise, and the harvest is always on time.



## Meet the Twins: Johnnie and Johnell

Though you probably wouldn't notice it on first (or second or third) glance, Johnell (aka Nell-Nell) and Johnnie (aka Bingo) are twins. They are 17 years old, and have been with us at LOV since they were 5, so we will let you do the math on that one, but we've known them for a long time. Johnell, the more outspoken of the pair, is known and loved by children in the Village and she has helped raise many of them. Her desire to serve others, especially children, has been apparent for many years now. Johnnie, though typically more reserved, occasionally has an outburst that can make a whole room roar with laughter. He is patient, kind, and loyal, and we are thankful for his sweet spirit.

When asked what the hardest part of growing up in the Village has been, Johnell says it's "seeing people get murdered and shot." Johnnie adds that it's hard seeing all the "drug dealing and seeing our mom struggle – not being able to buy our school clothes." But they recognize God at work in their lives: "He built a church in the Village for us; He just put it right here in the middle." They enjoy coming to the church for the communication; they say people at the church talk to them in a way and about things they don't hear anywhere else.

Despite their current circumstances, God has given both siblings a desire to live rich lives for Him. Johnell will go to college after graduating in May, hopefully on a basketball scholarship, to study early childhood education. She sees herself married with her own kids in the (distant) future. Johnnie plans to find employment after graduating and also hopes to have his own family some day.

Pray for Johnnie and Johnell, that God will continue strengthening them to be lights for Him in a very dark world.



*The twins served with us in Juarez and helped launch Camp Cristo.*

## SPREAD THE LIGHT!

- SPONSOR A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR: \$300 OR \$25/MO
- SEND A TEENLEADER ON MISSION: \$600 OR \$50/MO
- PROVIDE ITEMS FOR AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: COPY PAPER, TONER, NOTEBOOK PAPER
- PROVIDE ITEMS FOR THANKSGIVING MEAL
- COLLECT ITEMS FOR OUR MONTHLY FOOD GIVEAWAYS
- ORDER CANDLES
- PRAY FOR THIS MINISTRY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF LIGHT OF THE VILLAGE!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 8 EXTRA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT AFTER SCHOOL!

Oct 18 Fall Festival from 2:30-4:30pm \*Volunteers welcome!

Nov 25 Annual Thanksgiving Eve Meal

1:00-6:00 \*Volunteers welcome! FOOD ITEMS NEEDED!

Contact [morganc@lightofthevillage.org](mailto:morganc@lightofthevillage.org).

Nov 23-27 Closed for Thanksgiving

Dec 10 EXTRA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT AFTER SCHOOL!

Dec 14 Last day of GED for semester

Dec 15 After School Christmas Party 3:00-5:30 \*Volunteers welcome!

## Light of the Village Ministry