

I Say "Yes, Lord!"



## A Women's Weekend Service Retreat

*I say yes, Lord, yes. To your will and to your way.  
I say yes, Lord, yes. I will trust you and obey.  
When your spirit speaks to me, with my whole heart I'll agree.  
And my answer will be yes, Lord, yes.*

The words of the worship song rolled off the tongues of the ladies of First Presbyterian Church of Newport (RI) as they joined in service at Global Ministries Christian Church. It had been a full weekend already, and the worship only added to the richness of it all.

### **I say yes, Lord, yes...**

It was Friday rush hour when our partners-in-service entered the doors of The Boston Project's ministry house. Forgoing the comforts of home, this group of eight women, ages 33 – 70, chose to go outside their comfort zone and take part in our first-ever Women's Service Weekend! It was challenging for some of the ladies to come, but they said, "yes" even though it meant:

- Placing themselves in an urban context, despite fears of what it might be like.
- Coming, when their family was notified just hours before they left that they would be moving due to reassignment in the Navy.
- Returning to the inner city much like where they grew up – even though they now live a life far removed from this upbringing.

### **I say yes, Lord, yes, to your will and to your way...**

During the weekend we reflected on Luke 4:14-21 and considered, "Have you seen the Good News?" We thought of Jesus' mission on earth, seen in acts such as bringing the good news to the poor and releasing the oppressed, and how it made the truth of the gospel real. We considered the question, "What has been the impact of the Good News on yourself or your family?" Everyone was touched and encouraged as one of the ladies, Colleen, shared her testimony. We saw what "saying yes, Lord" does!

The group emptied themselves in service all day. Some spent the morning preparing and serving brunch at a residential home for the homeless at Pine Street Inn. The rest helped a dear family from our neighborhood move to a new apartment, displaying true strength and top-rate cleaning skills! Everyone gathered back together and spent the entire afternoon making "Ugly Quilts" (homemade sleeping bags) to be given out to our homeless neighbors in downtown Boston.



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For more information about how to involve your church group in a weekend service retreat, service day, or summer missions trip, contact the Service-Learning Office at 617-797-1059.

# Springing into Action

We want to say a huge thanks to more than 200 volunteers that joined us this spring. College students from Tennessee, Michigan, Georgia, and Boston spent their entire spring break living and serving in Boston. We also thank teams from Hamilton, Rockland, Peabody, and Raynham, and Boston that joined us for service days.



Careful... Changing light bulbs in our church takes a steady hand and no fear of heights (above). College students work to renovate a new youth room (below).

## Ugly Quilting - As Seen On TV!



Over the last three weeks, a total of 71 Grace Chapel junior high students and their leaders flooded into Dorchester to put their faith in action by making homemade sleeping bags called "Ugly Quilts" for people who are currently homeless in Boston. Boston Project staff members were encouraged and challenged by hearing the things that God taught these young people in their days with us.

"Sewing can be a form of worship," one eighth grade boy discovered. Two Sundays later, a sixth grader recognized that God had given her the spiritual fruit of patience while quilting with her group. We learned together that tasks we sometimes take for granted, or don't usually think of as worshipful, can be glorifying to God.

In just four weeks, The Boston Project has been able to supply Starlight Ministries with 30+ Ugly Quilts! **Executive Director Paul Malkemes was recently interviewed for the show "Sunday with Liz Walker," which is scheduled to air this Sunday, May 4th at 11:00 a.m. on WBZ Channel 4 (CBS) New England.**



## I Say "Yes, Lord!"

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### I say yes, Lord, yes; I will trust you and obey...

Saturday evening Alice Nelson, a neighbor and leader of the Neighborhood Women's Bible Study, came and shared her personal journey with the Lord. Alice's honesty and humor ministered to everyone, reminding us that Jesus receives us where we are - even when we are not walking in obedience. The good news is that Jesus is always faithful.

### When your spirit speaks to me with my whole heart I'll agree...

During the Sunday morning worship service at Global Ministries, Pastor Bruce Wall exhorted everyone to not just serve God within the walls of the church, but to reach out to our neighbors and community. This is the heart of letting the Good News be seen. The question is: Have our neighbors and community seen it? Certainly the women's service on Saturday expressed it.

After 72 hours together we began to reflect on our learning and service as we sat together around the lunch table. How was God nudging us? For one it meant resolving to love difficult neighbors and for another it meant realizing that the workplace was filled with people in need to reach out to; for others saying "yes" would require letting go of plans or possessions in order to love God and others more. No matter what God had prompted, one thing was for certain; the heart of everyone in the room was, **"And my answer will be yes, Lord, yes."**

# CCDA Institute in Boston

The Boston Project, together with Emmanuel Gospel Center, hosted the first ever Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) Institute in Boston on March 28 and 29. During this action-packed weekend, a group of forty-five individuals from throughout the Greater Boston area gathered for trainings from dynamic guest speakers, and enjoying delicious Indian cuisine and lively conversation with others interested in community development work. Guest trainers included Mary Nelson (*right*) from Bethel New Life in Chicago and Bob Lupton (*below*) from FCS Ministries in Atlanta. The Institute provided a valuable forum for learning, exchanging ideas, and networking with a diverse group of people involved in the restoration of at-risk communities.

Since its formation, the founders of The Boston Project have had a vision for equipping and training others in the principles of urban ministry, and this spring's Institute represented one of our largest opportunities to do so. One attendee affirmed the personal value of the conference by sharing:

*The CCDA Training Institute taught me that service without strategy may hurt more than help. We must share best practices, learn from each other's mistakes, and leverage each other's expertise to achieve sustainable community development with the right results.*



We eagerly anticipate being part of further CCDA Institute trainings in Boston including one in Fall 2008, with the hope of continuing to build energy and excitement around renewing underserved communities.

For more, visit [www.ccdaboston.org](http://www.ccdaboston.org).



## What is the Christian Community Development Association?

Today, CCDA is a not-for-profit, national association made up of over 3,000 individuals and more than 500 organizations from grassroots, community based groups to some of the largest relief and development organizations in the world. Working in some of the most under-resourced neighborhoods in America, CCDA members are helping redevelop communities of need using the principles of Christian Community Development. The goal of CCDA is to empower others to rebuild their communities and turn them from places of devastation into places of hope. The Boston Project officially became a CCDA member in 2008.

**DONATIONS**  
*Please*

**We need your help to create a powerful summer ministry in Boston. Please consider small ways you might contribute to the amazing things God is doing this summer through The Boston Project:**

### Supplies & Equipment

- Large Refrigerator (*not-too-old*)
- Power Washer
- Flat Panel computer monitor
- "Billy Goat" lawn mower

### Food for Programs

- 45 Lasagnas (*frozen, uncooked*)
- 50 Boxes of Cereal (*pick a Sunday and have each family in your church donate one box.*)

### Unique Gifts

- Purchase and cook a meal for 15-20 hungry summer staff
- Dunkin Donuts gift cards



## **Please PRAY for these needs of The Boston Project**

**PRAISE GOD** for our exceptional time of learning and outreach with 4 college spring break teams, for the success of our first CCDA training institute, for new and growing church partnerships, for 5 more youth who were baptized and joined Global Ministries Christian Church in April, for a sunny spring!

**HIRING SUMMER STAFF** – We are still in need to 7 summer staff - **particularly men**. Ask God to move in the hearts of young adults to apply to our *Summer Missions Program* or *Neighborhood Youth Ministries*.

**FORECLOSURE CRISIS** – The mortgage crisis has decreased stability within our neighborhood. Pray for a team discussing ways Christians can invest in property to help stabilize family's living situations.

**PEACE ON THE STREETS** – As the weather warms, violence typically increases. Pray with us for God to raise up peace-makers who will be His instruments this summer. Pray for spiritual peace in people's lives.

**NEW CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS** – Ask God to lead us into six new church partnerships in 2008 grounded in genuine relationship, love for God, and a shared vision for urban outreach.

## **How to Contact Us:**

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