

# God With Us

*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him 'Immanuel' – which means, "God with us."*  
 Matthew 1:23



The excitement grew in the room as twenty-plus neighborhood parents and grandparents gathered to plan their first neighborhood Christmas party. It was a unique mix of young and old, including two young moms about to give birth, single parents, married couples, several of whom spoke only Spanish, and a dozen kids playing in the background.

"It's important that we have a theme of 'giving back' to teach our children that it's not just about getting," said one mom.

"Why don't we go caroling at people's homes?" suggested a dad.

"We need to make sure we tell the Christmas story – **the real Christmas story** – with the shepherds and Jesus," said another mom. To this comment, there was a chorus of affirmation from those in the living room.

My heart leapt as the conversation progressed. **It reminded me of all the different ways Christ is already here.** Our neighborhood isn't absent of the Light, as can sometimes be assumed. Yes - we do have a number of social and spiritual challenges often compounded by the fact that so many people live within such a small area. But *Immanuel* is here.

Christmas energizes us around one of the foundational principles of the Christian Community Development (CCDA): **Relocation.** Jesus chose to relocate from heaven to earth and to live amongst us as fully human and fully God. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory." (John 1:14) It is in this spirit that we try our best to follow Jesus' example by living out the hope we have in Him with our neighbors daily.



Our newest mom, Anays, with son Daviel. We thank God for a safe and healthy delivery.

At the 2011 CCDA national conference, we were pushed by Pastor John Teter to remember that relocation is about more than just living in a neighborhood. If it's only about being present, he shocked us by saying, "the Devil can be a relocater too!" Rather, true relocation must embrace Jesus' lifestyle and mission to share the good news of salvation through word and deed.

**Pray for us and our neighbors as we share the Good News;** through the neighborhood Christmas party, during our youth Bible studies (Real Life and Pretty Tween Girls), or as we spend time with neighbors in our homes and along the sidewalk. *We'll pray for you too!*



13 Days of a  
 Boston Project Christmas

only on facebook and email

In the 13 days leading up to Christmas, we are sending out an email a day to share reflections on 2011 from a Boston Project perspective! As the song goes, "on the \_\_ day of Christmas, my true love gave to me..." Our true love is Jesus Christ, and we want to share with you all of the great gifts He has given our ministry and neighborhood this year. *If you do not receive BP emails and would like to, including volunteer opportunities and staff prayer updates, send us your email at [info@tbpm.org](mailto:info@tbpm.org).*

2011 Christmas Banquet for the Homeless with Starlight Ministries



Updates from...

# The Boston Project Staff Team



December 2011

As a ministry team, we thoroughly enjoy the Christmas Season. It is a great time to reach out to neighbors in special ways. We're thankful for the many ways you bless us so that we can in turn bless others. One church's childrens ministry collected \$900 in supermarket gift cards to help hungry families. Our neighbors recently gathered gently used coats to help others keep warm. Above all, we appreciate the opportunity to share about Jesus' birth and life in meaningful ways. **We hope that you have a blessed Christmas Season!**



## Recent Photos

More from the life of our staff



### The Malkemes Family - Executive Director & Curriculum Director

When we ask our daughters what they are thankful for, they often say "our family." This month, we have served as a family in preparing food for a Christmas dinner for the homeless, and we also enjoyed our first-ever neighborhood family Christmas party. The sit-down dinner, making ornaments, a solo sung by a neighbor, and the reading of the Christmas story all set an atmosphere that was honoring to baby Jesus. Thank you for being part of our family!



### Mayonne Thomas - Youth Outreach Worker

My first two months at BP have been full. I have led youth programs, connecting with children, parents, Boston Project staff, and have even become involved in a local church. Starting in January, co-worker Dana and I be leading a "tween" girls mentoring/empowerment group, and a Bible study with our teenagers based on the Alpha curriculum. Together we will explore Christianity as we study the person of Jesus and his relevance to our lives. I look forward to connecting with our teenagers as they learn about Jesus Christ.



### Liz & Ben Cressy - Executive Assistant & Community Development

In our first Christmas as a married couple, we're establishing new traditions, like cutting down our own tree (a first for Liz!). However, we have come to realize that Ben's job with Ten Thousand Villages hasn't been the greatest fit for our family. Because of our differing hours, we haven't been able to put time into our own relationship or loving our neighbors. Please pray with us as we seek a healthier rhythm of life where we can pursue our passions together.



### Dana Chepulis - Youth Outreach Worker & Greenspace

I love the Christmas season, not just for the nostalgic feelings, time with family, or many reasons to eat fattening food. I love the Christmas season most of all because of Advent - a period of reflection and anticipation of Christ's birth. It's a time when I can count all the blessings that God has given me the past year - and I sure do have a lot from 2011! I praise God for everyone that has supported me this year through prayer, financial support, and encouragement. Thank you all for your faithfulness!



### The Riddle Family - Service-Learning Director & Hospitality

These last few weeks have been full of holiday festivities and precious family time. Keith and I have had a chance to be still and just marvel at the amazing gift we have in our boys. God has given us many opportunities to enjoy them and the amazing and complicated treasures that they are. We have enjoyed reading chapter books together (like *The Hobbit*), going to Christmas concerts, and of course, hearing everything Aaron (20 months) has to say (and it's a lot!).



(top-to-bottom) 1. Neighbors surprise Paul by selecting him as TNT's "Neighbor of the Year." 2. BP women at the Boston Christmas tree lighting. 3. Dana helps lead homework center. 4. Volunteers sort potatoes to put in Thanksgiving Baskets for local families.

## Year-End General Fund Update

Our General Fund supports staff and program costs (it's important). All gifts postmarked or made online by December 31, 2011 are considered income tax deductible this year.

**\$11,500 to go by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>**

**2011 General Fund Need = \$33,500 (revised)**

**65% Raised to Date. Thanks!**



**Thank You!** Our ministry is possible in part because of you - your prayers, service, and financial support. We depend on individual and church donations for over half of our operating budget.

Please consider a gift this Christmas season. Our 2011 unmet need is \$18,630 (which includes missionaries and our operating fund).

**Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!**



TheBostonProject  
ministries

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