



November 2009

## It's Our Anniversary

It is hard to believe that it was ten months ago this month that Scott and Terri packed up their apartment in Chicago and returned to St. Louis. They spent the first couple weeks at a hotel and the home of a friend while closing on their house. Scott was working full-time as support was being raised and the first children's Bible studies began with a Christmas party. It's been a long and worthwhile journey that at times feels like it began yesterday, while other days feels like it's been an eternity.

These past ten years have been full of change and transition. We began with five children in our living room. That grew to over thirty kids gathering in our garage and the beginnings of a worship service in our home. With the birth of Elizabeth, we moved the programs of Baden Community Christian Church into a storefront, where we continued to reach out to the community for four years. The formation of the ministry alliance with North City Church of Christ and Lampstand Ministries ushered in a new model of ministry. It has truly been a blessing to work together as a network of ministries.

The changes continue to come. Baden Community Christian Church has for all practical purposes become a part of North City Church of Christ, while Scott and Terri continue to help with community events in the Baden neighborhood. The Urban Mission is taking on more and more of a role of support for the ongoing ministries taking place in the city. I believe this support role will make us all stronger to minister to our communities.

We appreciate everyone who has had a role in seeing The Urban Mission grow through these ten years. I am reminded of the words of John Perkins when he describes the needs for communities like the ones we've been serving (paraphrasing): We need soldiers on the front lines, engaged in the daily battles of the community, we need others who transport the necessary resources to accomplish the task, and we need mighty prayer warriors to lift up the entire project to the throne on a daily basis.

## Getting to Know Us

Keith C. Brown recently joined North City Church of Christ as an associate evangelist focused on community outreach and small group discipleship. He began this journey by attending Michigan Christian College for one year before joining the United States Marine Corps. Following a time of honorable service in which he received numerous military awards for leadership, he completed his education at Oklahoma Christian, graduating with a degree in preaching and a minor in Greek.



Keith has served as an Evangelist for the Churches of Christ in Japan (*while in the USMC*), Oklahoma, Colorado, California and Missouri. Keith's ministry has largely been to struggling congregations, at many times supplementing his ministry by doing odd jobs.

On the community level Keith has helped to foster better relationships between the church and local community. He has helped in establishing a clothes closet. He has worked with a state representative to meet the needs of the homeless and underprivileged families. He helped establish "**CARE**" (*Christians Actively Reaching the Elderly*), a ministry to a nursing home. Keith worked along with other community non-profit organizations, the business community, public school system and local government to meet the needs of forty families. He has also served in two communities as police chaplain to minister to local police officers and their families as well as the general public.

Keith has been married with Valerie for 26 years. She has served in the nursing field to help support their various ministry opportunities. Together, they have five children. The family enjoys friends, books, music, singing, playing games, going for walks and trying to learn how to play the piano, guitar, trumpet, violin, drums and clarinet.



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**Festive Fall Festival**

What a way to close out October! The Christian Campus House of Springfield, MO came to North City for the weekend. The group provided work crews, not only for North City, but also for Inner City Christian Church and the Church of God at Baden. It was wonderful to see this hardworking group of about eighty college students accomplish so much in such a short amount of time.



The evening was capped off with a fall festival at North City. The community was invited to join in for games, food, and time to simply hang out and get to know each other. Over 70 children came out to play the games and we were able to meet several parents for the first time. Praise God for these opportunities to reach out to our neighbors and thank you to the Campus house for being such a big part of it all.



**Financial Needs**

Looking forward to 2010, we are excited at the opportunities God is providing for ministry here in the city. As we celebrate 10 years of service in the city, we ask that you join in this celebration by considering sending a special gift in multiples of \$10. Please designate these contributions with the word anniversary in the memo line of your check and use the new address that North City Church has been gracious enough to share: The Urban Mission, 5036 Thekla, St. Louis, MO 63115. The contributions given to this fund will be used as a start up fund for Keith Brown's salary. Thank you for being such an important part of this ministry.

**Prayer List**

*Praises*

Keith Brown is joining the staff at North City with a vision for outreach and bolstering area churches. Reaching a large number of children through tutoring and getting to know their families through outreach events.

*Requests*

Several of us have been dealing with colds and the flu. Funding for Keith as he ministers with North City.