

*Jesus went through all the towns and villages...preaching the good news of the kingdom
and healing every disease and sickness. Matthew 9:35*

2008 Health Ministry Annual Report

*“Sharing God’s love in word and deed
among the urban poor”*

Flowing out of intimacy with Jesus, our commitment to the urban poor compels us to share God’s love with the unchurched in Los Angeles by providing holistic, excellent health services that empower and serve community-based urban churches.



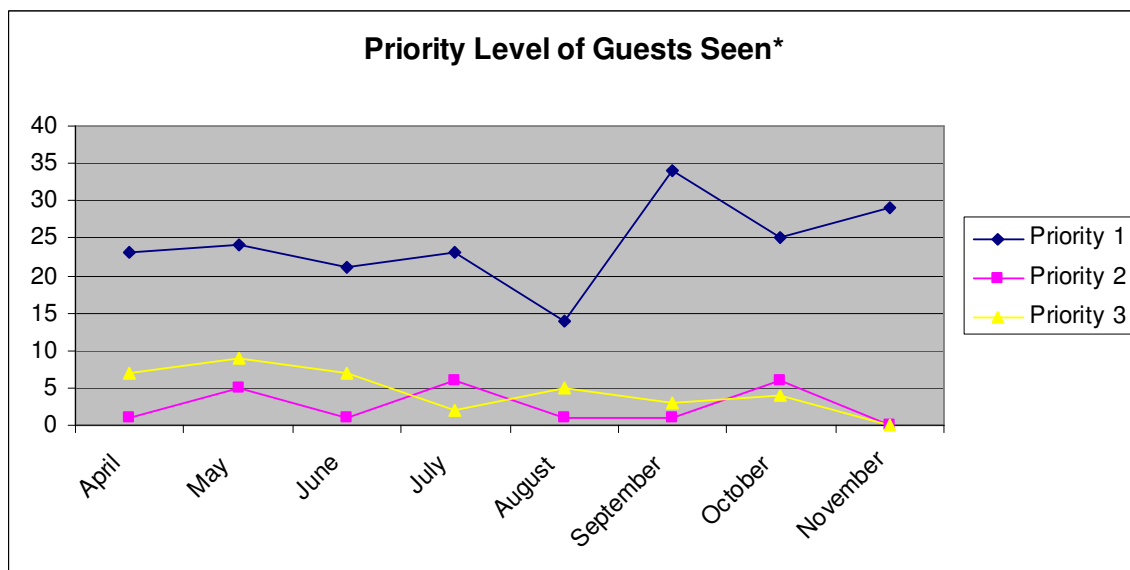
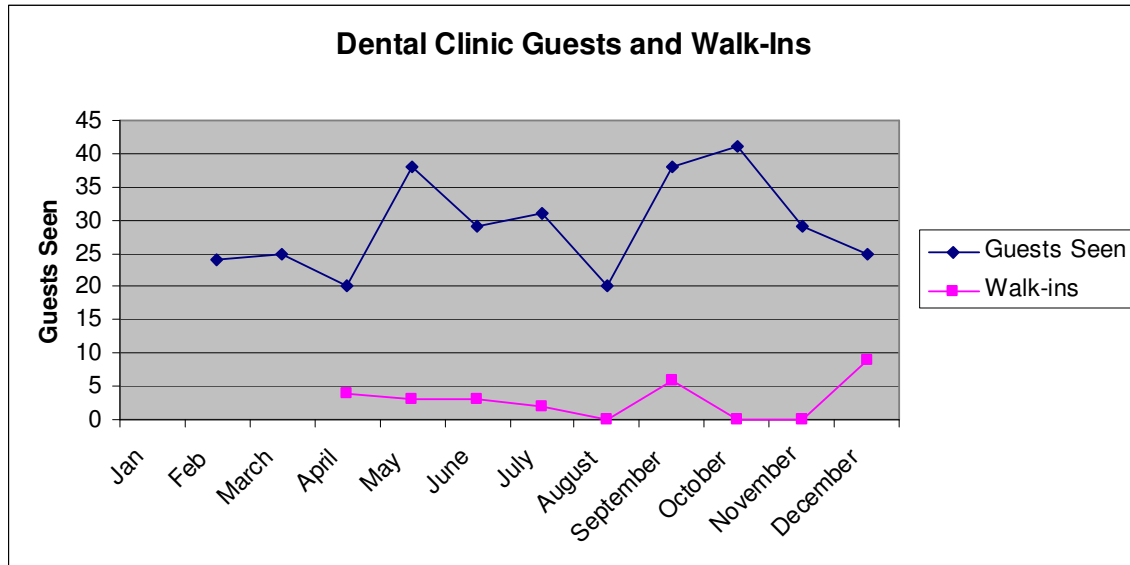
"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Watts Christian Health Center (WCHC)



Watts Dental

- There were **460 dental patient visits** in 2008 for everything from cleanings to root canals, extractions and fillings.
- Veronica Villanueva from PowerHouse Church started working as the Health Center office manager.
- Dr. Arnie and Ilean Balber were recognized as World Impact 2008 Los Angeles' volunteers of the year.
- The Dental outreach entered into a partnership agreement with Los Angeles Christian Health Centers.
- Pacific Dental Services brought 300 volunteers and provided free dental care for 140 patients at the WCHC.
- Three people came to Christ through the dental clinic!
- The clinic was featured on a national cable television show called "Heroes Among Us" in association with the American Bible Society.
- Dr. Campbell, from LA Christian Health Centers, began assisting Dr. Balber in providing specialized dental work.



* Priority 1 – Guests from the Watts community; Priority 2 – Guests from World Impact churches and World Impact staff; Priority 3 – low-income guests from urban Los Angeles.

Success Stories:

- We praise God for Dave Ireland (Agoura Bible Fellowship). He brought an important spiritual component to the ministry, taking every opportunity to pray with patients. A patient brought one of his relatives with him, enabling Dave the opportunity to speak and pray with him about the incredible hope we have in Jesus Christ.
- Dave recently shared the gospel with two teenage girls from Watts who came to visit at the dental clinic. One of the girls had lost her mom, her only remaining parent, and

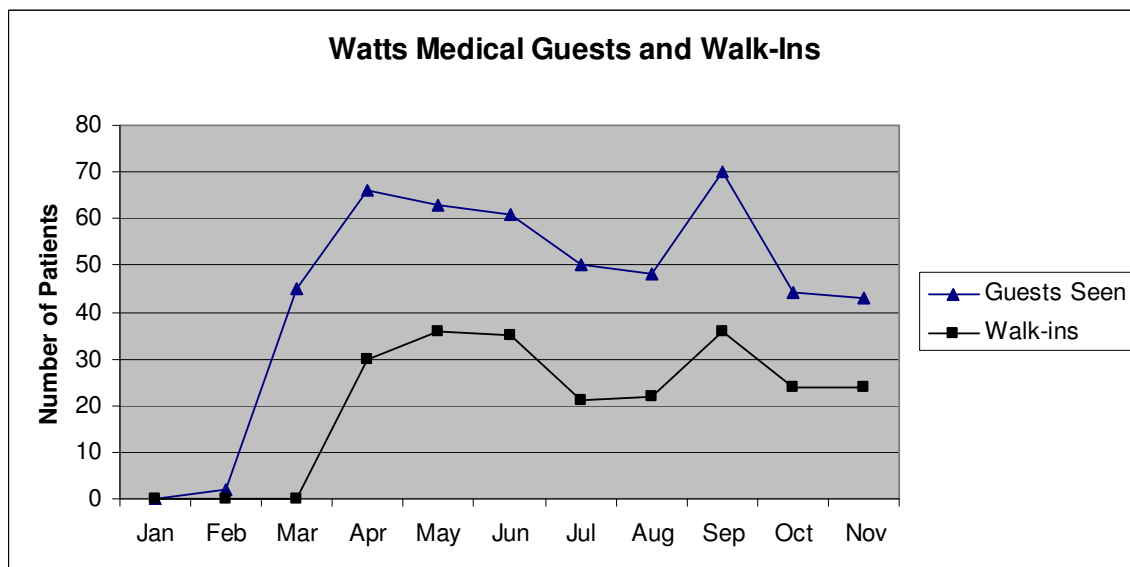
had been living at a friends house. Both girls experienced God's love in word and deed at the clinic and prayed with Dave to accept Christ.

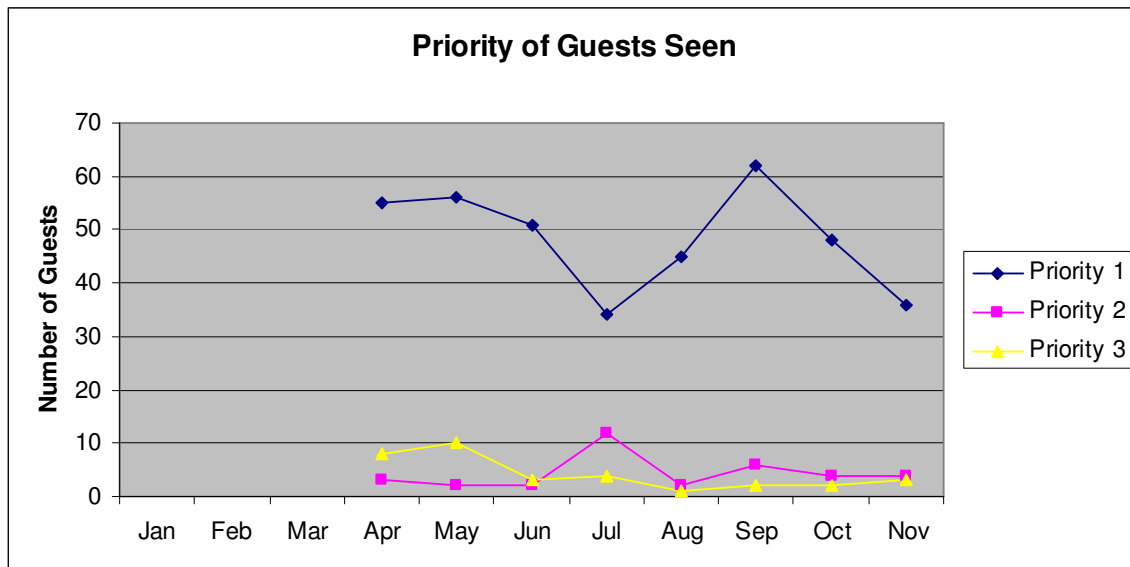
- A gentleman from South LA named Ronnie recently came to the clinic after hearing a presentation at his work by an insurance specialist. Ronnie was without dental insurance and experiencing excessive pain due to neglected dental care. We are not sure how the insurance specialist heard about the dental clinic but Ronnie showed up at our door and we treated him free of charge. All of us who talked with Ronnie were ministered to by his focus on God's faithfulness even in the midst of truly tough circumstances. Through visiting the dental clinic Ronnie ended up enrolling in World Impact's Urban Ministry Institute.
- Cindy Dickman (EV Free Canejo Valley) started as a volunteer and now prepares quarterly newsletters for the Watts Christian Health Center.

Watts Health



- Medical Clinic opened its doors in April, 2008
- There were **520 appointments** in 2008!
- Two individuals accepted Christ through attending the clinic.
- Jimmy Holmes, from PowerHouse Church, has become the medical outreach's Spiritual Care Coordinator.





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Success Stories:

- Dwight is a thin, 6'3, homeless gentleman who lives in Watts. He visited the Watts Christian Health Center because of a deep wound on his hand. The night before someone had tried to cut Dwight's throat from behind but he had grabbed the blade as it was coming towards him. Dwight fought off the assailant and came to the Health Center with his hand wrapped in rags. While he was at the Health Center being treated for his physical needs, he was also prayed for and the gospel was shared with him. Dwight was then invited to come to the PowerHouse Church that is in association with the Health Center. Dwight came to the church and brought along three friends.

- Rachel Dunham, a volunteer nurse who frequently attends PowerHouse Church, met with a female guest at the clinic who had undergone domestic abuse. Because there was a relationship of trust through the church, Rachel was able to attend to the woman's bruises, pray with her and offer her counsel. She would not be seen by anyone else.
- Abigail Rodriguez, a volunteer nurse, met with a teenage girl who wanted to know if she was pregnant. When she was told that she was pregnant she said that she wanted to know where she could find an abortion clinic. Abigail counseled her on the long-term emotional effects of abortion and then referred her to a local crisis pregnancy center so that she could learn more. The young girl came into the Watts Christian Health Center some time later and she was still pregnant.



- Keith and Virginia nervously walked into the Watts Christian Health Center. They were homeless and were trying to find a hotel that a social service agency had directed them too. They had nothing in their pockets other than a couple tokens to cover a one-night stay at a designated Watts hotel. When the health center staff saw this disheveled, tired, frightened middle-aged couple it was clear that life had been tough! The couple were seen by the doctor, prayed with and connected with PowerHouse Church. All of this was done in the name of Jesus and at no charge. Keith and Virginia ended up coming to Christ through a conversation with Pastor Todd and joined PowerHouse Church. They have faithfully attended every event at the church from Sunday morning worship to Thursday night bible study.

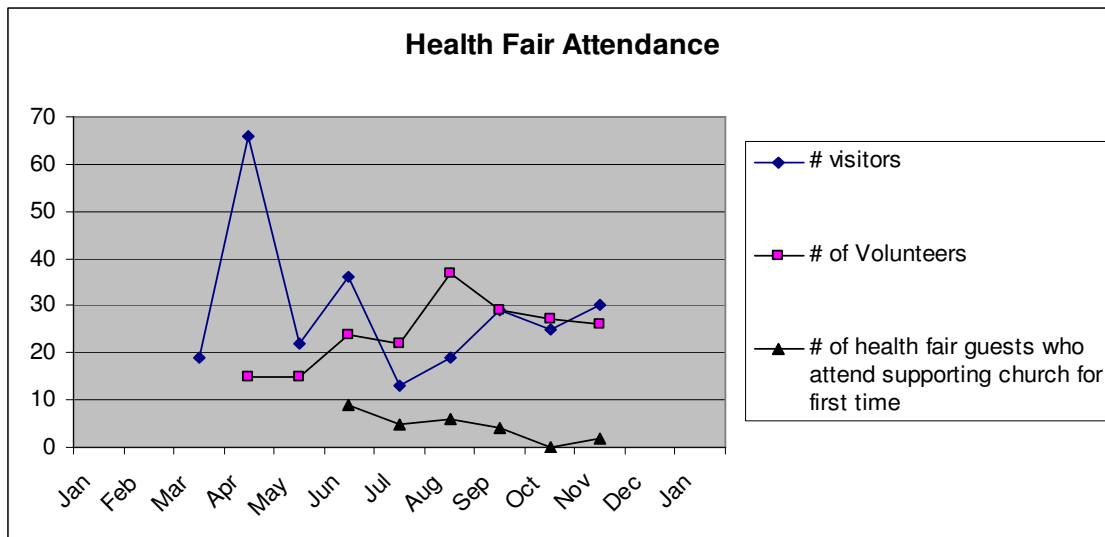
After the couple became Christians, Pastor Todd told them that one of the first steps as new believers is to be baptized. He challenged them that before they take this step of obedience they should consider getting married.

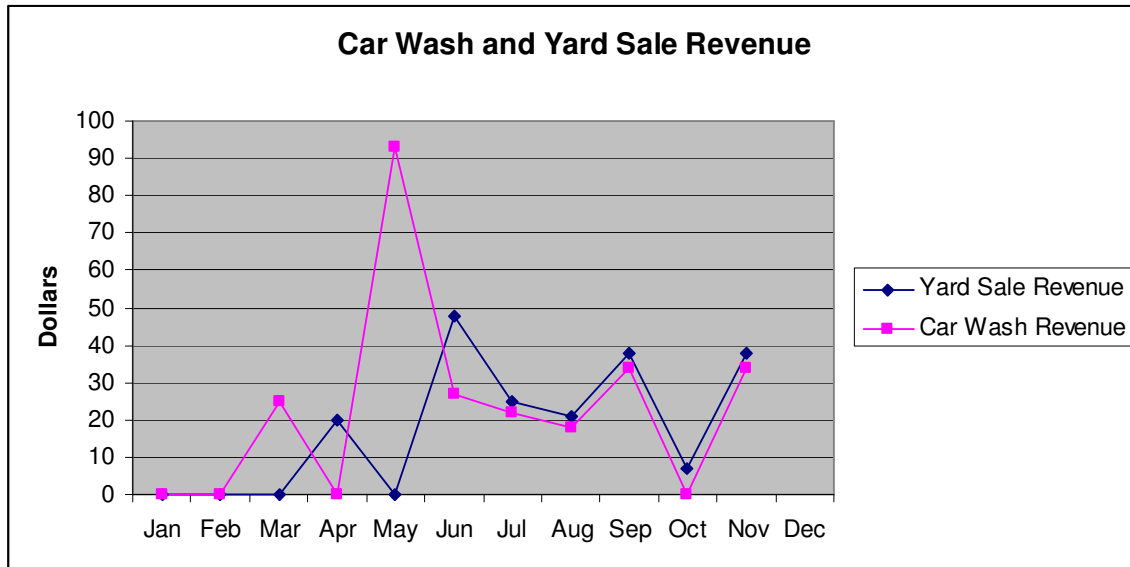
Keith and Virginia had lived together for the past seven years. Both of them wholeheartedly agreed that they wanted to do it ALL God's way! Soon after PowerHouse church had a humble yet very joyous wedding for Keith and Virginia! It is an understatement to say that their faces were glowing! This small, urban church pulled together to support this new couple. One member made invitations, another cooked the food and another generously bought the wedding rings. As I (Isaac Voss) sat watching Keith and Virginia recite their wedding vows, I reflected back on when they walked in the doors of the Health Center lost, confused and without hope. How easy it could have been to callously think, "Can anything good come from this homeless, needy couple?" Keith and Virginia are still without housing, are unemployed and without health insurance. However, they do have an unshakeable hope in Christ, and they are building their lives on Godly principles and are part of a supportive local community. Please keep them in prayer as they seek to be Jesus-followers in the midst of the challenges!

Health Fairs



- 259 community guest visits
- 195 volunteer visits
- Four people came to Christ through the health fairs.
- 26 people attended the supporting church from the health fair contact.
- Partnership with QueensCare Foundation was established to provide blood sugar/cholesterol screening and immunizations at the health fairs.
- Yard Sale Revenue - \$177, Car Wash Revenue - \$253
- WILA Health Ministry consulted with Living Way Church and assisted them in leading their first Health Fair, as a partnership with Rosewood Church (Spanish speaking, down street from Living Way).





Success Stories:

- World Impact staff member Rachel LaBarbera met with a man named Moses who walked into the health fair. He is a gifted evangelist and had been fasting and praying for the prior three days for other Christians in the community. He attended World Impact's School of Church Multiplication and is now serving on a World Impact church-plant team.
- During a Jefferson Church Health Fair, Pastor Rigo served at the spiritual care table where he prayed with one man to accept Christ and another man recommitted his life to Christ.
- Francisco has regularly attended Jefferson Church since the January health fair. He has expressed interest in learning guitar for church worship.
- One individual who came through the Watts health fair with his son was a middle-aged, African- American gentleman. When he came to the spiritual care station he was very skeptical! He asked a flood of questions (i.e. were we a New Age group, if we had an Ouija board, etc.) After we assured him that we were not providing that type of 'spiritual care', he asked, in a rather abrasive manner, what type of Christian's we were (i.e. Jehovah Witnesses). He specifically asked how we were different from Jehovah Witnesses. The volunteer explained that we were Evangelical Christians. After a time of intense dialogue, the man stated that he was a believer also and began to quote Romans 10:9, "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord...." The man was prayed with and he stated that he wanted to enroll in The Urban Ministry Institute.

Shalom Outreach

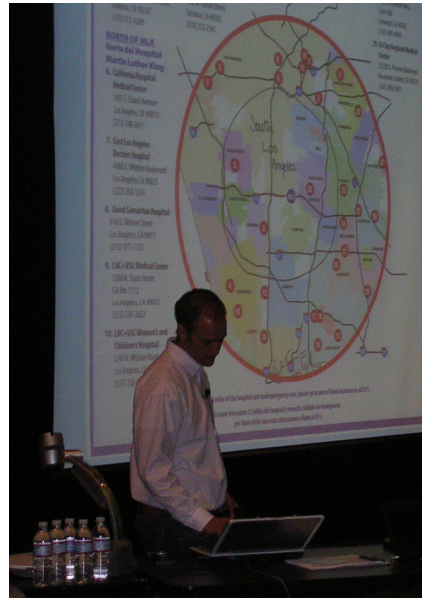


- Four Shalom Workers (Yolanda, Maria, Maria and Alba) have finished training classes
- Antippia Short, RN, joined Rachel LaBarbera in leading the classes
- Shalom workers started diabetes classes in the community
- The first home visit by a shalom worker was on October 29th, 2008
- Shalom Workers have been approved to receive \$50 a month for home-visiting activities in the area of health education and discipleship.

Success Stories

- One Shalom Worker mentioned that she gets spiritually fed more from the Shalom classes than anywhere else.
- Though the initiative had just begun, the first hit was a homerun. The first man that came for a class came with his wife. Maria led the class when she came. They professed to be catholic (a part of Latino culture) but rarely went to church. At this first Shalom Class they expressed interest in attending the church bible study on Thursday nights. Then he began coming. He accepted Christ at the Bible Study and then began coming to church! Because of the diabetes, his eyes got very bad and he couldn't come for a while but then came back when they did.

West Coast Healthcare Missions and Ministry Conference



- 260 Participants.
- \$14,140 registration revenues.
- A Pre-conference at Youth Nak Church, focused on youth at risk, the speakers included John Watson (InnerServe) and Susie Kook (World Impact).
- World Impact affiliated speakers included Tim Goddu, Hank Voss and Isaac Voss Ricardo Hong and Ray Sidney. The exhibitors from World Impact included Jenn L and Jessica F.
- Guest speakers included: Ralph Winter, Noel Castellanos (President of CCDA), Doug McConnell (Dean of Fuller SIS), Steve Noblett (CCHF), Ana Wong McDonald (LA Dept of Mental Health), Susan Fuentes (LACHC), Jude Tiersma (Fuller SIS).
- Susan Fuentes has committed to bringing all 50+ employees from LA Christian Health Centers next year.
- The West Coast Healthcare Missions and Ministry Conference will merge with the Korean American Healthcare Missions Conference for 2009. Conference will be held at Fuller Seminary September 17th-19th.

Other Significant Items:

- Weekly Health Ministry prayer sessions continued.
- Four new Watts Christian Health Center Newsletters were distributed by EV Free Canejo Valley volunteer Cindy Dickman.
- Updated Health Ministry Website was completed by Rachel LaBarbera.
- The completion of an extensive paper (80pgs) describing the philosophy and strategies of the health ministry.
- New Health Ministry Board members, Steve Flores and Pastor Paul Bradshaw, have been added.
- Isaac completed a consultant role at Beacon Medical Clinic.
- Rachel Labarbera, Rachel Dunham and Isaac Voss presented a workshop at the Christian Community Health Fellowship Conference in Memphis, TN.