

PARMA AREA - APRIL 2012



# COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

*Connection*

## **Praise the Lord!**

We are eager to get this newsletter to you and other local church leaders with the expectant hope that it comes at a time of great anticipation for what God desires to do in our community. We pray this monthly Connection will serve to inspire and inform you of service opportunities within the Parma and surrounding areas, as well as how your ministry can contribute to the cause of bringing faith, hope, and love to individuals and families around us in need.

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## **Should the Church be involved in the community?**

by **Jeremy Kiner, Co-Director**

I once was challenged by a Christian minister who didn't understand why I placed particular emphasis on church involvement in the community. He said, "Servitude should not take precedence over evangelism." I responded, "Are they not one and the same?"

Now, allow me to qualify my response – Without question, I believe there is no greater cause than striving to see a person exercise their faith and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior over their life. I also know that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." And that this verse is preceded with the question, "...How will they hear without a preacher? (Romans 10)"



Evangelism and preaching of the Word is essential to Kingdom-mindedness and harvest-reaping. But, nevertheless, the apostle Paul said in James 2:14, "What good is your faith if you don't show it by your actions?" Paul even goes on to beg the question, "Can that faith save anyone?"

The truth is, our faith, and the Gospel message, is meaningless and empty to our community if it is not coupled with action. The Church is the Body of Christ living in our world today, and as the Body, we give the gospel arms and legs – not just through humanitarian efforts – but through true acts of love that lead hopeless and hurting people to a deeper solution – Jesus Christ.

Consider for a moment how many times Jesus went beyond the "comfort zone" to reach someone in need – the woman at the well, the wild demoniac, Zacchaeus the sinner, etc. Jesus knew that not all situations would be met within the confines of a temple or a church building, or even at the outcome of an impassioned sermon. Instead, he shook off religiosity and just went to them – meeting them right at their point of need.

Today, I encourage you, every pastor and church leader in the Parma area, to be **COURAGEOUS** enough to reach beyond the four walls of your buildings. I challenge you to seek diligently and fervently for the opportunities to serve that exist all around you in this community. The needs are many and they are great. Individually, we know can each make a difference. But, only through prayer, unity, and collaboration, can we, as the Body of Christ, do **MORE** for the Greater Cause within our community!

**Have an idea for community involvement? Know of a need? Please let us know!  
Remember, collaboration gets more done!**

**Call Us: 216-200-7030**

**www.ComAmb.org**

**Email Us: [contact@comamb.org](mailto:contact@comamb.org)**

# PAY IT FORWARD CAFE

In October, 2011, Community Ambassadors assumed the program Pay It Forward Café, which was formerly hosted by the Church in the Woods. Pay It Forward Café, held every Saturday from 12:00 – 2:00 PM at Parmatown Mall (near Chase Bank), is an outreach dedicated to meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of families, individuals, and children who are facing challenging times.

Community Ambassadors collaborates with local businesses, churches, and other various organizations to provide a healthy meal every Saturday afternoon. Ultimately, our commitment is to try to meet people at their point of need; however, that commitment doesn't just stop at a plate of food. In addition to a meal, Community Ambassadors strives to enrich people's lives, through fellowship, family-fun activities, and by challenging each patron to "pay it forward" in some way for someone else.



**FACT:**  
Nearly 3,000 students in Parma City Schools are on free or reduced lunch.  
\*Ohio Dept. of Education

If you or a ministry within your church would like to learn more about Pay It Forward Café, or come to observe or volunteer one Saturday, please email us at [contact@comamb.org](mailto:contact@comamb.org) or call Dona Kiner at 216-200-7030 for more details.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Get Connected*

April 18 - Town Hall Meeting w/ Dr. Graham @ Parma Health Education Center - 7:00 PM

April 25 - Seven Hills State of the City Address @ Seven Hills Community Rec Ctr - 7:30 PM

April 26 - Parma Area Family Collaborative Meeting @ Community Ambassadors - 8:00 AM

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