

Faith



URBAN WORKS

THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES OF
FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



“... faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead... As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead.”

James 2:17, 26



OUR VISION

Faith Urban Works addresses educational, recreational, physical, economic, and spiritual needs through Baltimore Christian School (BCS) and Pen Lucy Action Network (PLAN). These two ministries create a comprehensive framework that reaches out to every family in Pen Lucy and surrounding neighborhoods.

- Baltimore Christian School was founded in 1993 to address Baltimore's educational crisis. In many neighborhoods, children routinely enter high school reading several years below grade level. Baltimore's 34% graduation rate is one of the worst in the nation, and several neighborhood high schools are listed as chronically dangerous. BCS provides a Christian education for 100 students from preschool through fifth grade, and plans to expand to middle school. Because of its nurturing environment, daily spiritual encouragement, excellent curriculum, small class sizes, and dedicated staff and volunteers, BCS students excel. Many are accepted into the city's best magnet or private middle and high schools.
- PLAN began in 1998 with Pen Lucy Youth Partnership (PLYP) sports leagues to address the lack of healthy recreational opportunities in the area. Through our three-season sports leagues, children are mentored and taught discipline, teamwork, and self-control.
- PLAN's Learning Center provides free tutoring for students attending neighboring public schools. Our tutors not only help children master academic skills, but communicate by their faithful, weekly commitment and care that each child is precious in the sight of God.
- PLAN partners with Good Samaritan Network, a crisis intervention ministry, to provide and coordinate care for families facing multiple challenges.
- Care Seekers addiction-recovery ministry supports those who are struggling to remain drug free.
- Through PLAN's pre-GED program, adults have a chance to earn high school diplomas, a vital step in becoming economically self-sufficient.



"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor . . . to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed."

Luke 4:18-19



REV. DR. CRAIG GARRIOTT

Pastor of Faith Christian Fellowship

Craig Garriott was the church planter in 1980 of Faith Christian Fellowship, a multiracial, multi ethnic church where he continues to serve. The church presently has over 400 regular attendees. Pastor Craig received a bachelor's degree in architecture from Virginia Tech and also holds a master of divinity degree from Covenant Theological Seminary. He earned a doctor of ministry in urban missions from Westminster Theological Seminary, where his dissertation was *Growing Reconciled Communities*. He and his wife Maria have been married since 1980 and have five children.

"We've had the pleasure of watching Faith Christian Fellowship invest in youth for over a quarter of a century, with huge rewards. We've watched children start off in BCS in kindergarten, be nurtured academically and spiritually, participate in sports leagues, tutoring programs, and youth activities, graduate from BCS, and have dreams for their lives that would not have been available without the involvement of Baltimore Christian School and PLAN."

Rev. Dr. Craig Garriott



DR. RACHEL BALLARD

Principal of BCS

Growing up as the oldest child and the daughter of a pastor, Rachel Ballard has always recognized the importance of service to Christ and His church, and feels especially called to use her gifts in the city. She served as a teacher and dean of a Christian school before coming to BCS in 2007. A graduate of Liberty University and Regent University, she earned a B.S. in education and an M.A. in educational administration. She is currently completing Ph.D. studies in educational leadership. Rachel and her husband Kent are parents of one son.

"From my very first encounter with Baltimore Christian School, I knew this was a very special place. Recently, some new parents expressed how much turmoil their child had endured over the past couple of years at previous schools. Their child experienced tremendous teasing and physical and verbal harassment which led to seasons of depression, anxiety attacks, and a fear of school. Since the first week of school at BCS, the parents have been amazed. For the very first time, their child has been excited about school. BCS is providing students with an opportunity to learn in a Christian, safe, and nurturing environment."

Rachel Ballard, Ph.D.



MILLIE JOHNSON

Executive Director of PLAN

Millie Johnson was born on the beautiful Caribbean island of Montserrat, and came to the United States in 1983 to seek an education. After working in the nursing profession for over a decade, she returned to college and earned a B.A. from Vassar College and master's degrees in public health and organizational development/human resources from Johns Hopkins University. She has volunteered and worked for nonprofit community development organizations in the United States, Africa, Central and South America, and New Zealand. She has worshipped at Faith for several years, and was appointed executive director of PLAN in July, 2008.

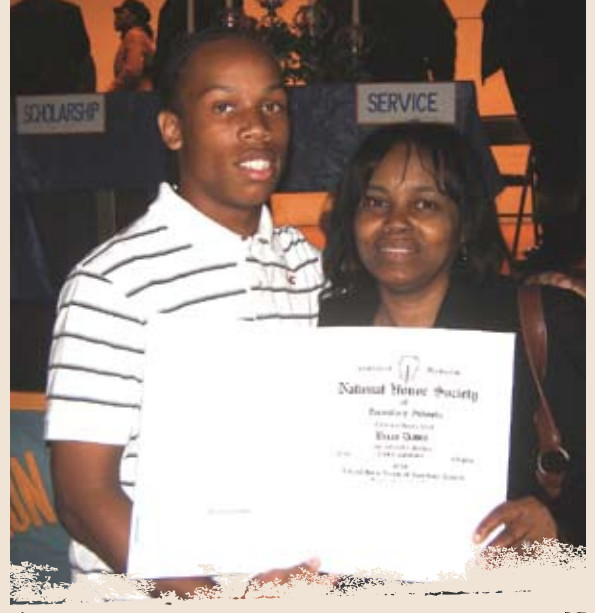
"In a sermon at Faith, the Reverend Carl Ellis (Dean of Intercultural Studies at Westminster Theological Seminary), stated that Christians have 'an international mandate to bring God's message to others. This mandate begins in our apartment buildings, across the street, across the state, and around the nation.' This clinched my desire to build a home in Baltimore and to contribute to rebuilding a vibrant city. As director of PLAN, my vision includes both the wholistic (biblical) and holistic (environmental) approach to urban revitalization. This includes the youth, families, health, housing, and all factors contributing to the well-being of the community. I commit to live my best life in service to the community, to PLAN, and to God."

Millie Johnson, M.P.H., M.S.



IMPACTS

A local grandmother became the primary guardian of her youngest grandchildren when her daughter was beaten into a coma by her boyfriend. She enrolls five grandchildren at BCS, and deeply appreciates the school's male role models, individualized attention, and affordable cost. Because she has health challenges, she cannot afford full tuition for all five children, and depends on generous scholarship funds. Her grandchildren have also participated in the PLYP sports programs and Faith's youth ministry. Because of the coordinated, wholistic spiritual involvement of believers, these young people are experiencing the redemptive presence of Christ through concrete deeds of mercy and justice.



Brian, now a junior at Carver Vocational-Technical High School, has a bright future. But his situation was not always so promising. After struggling academically in elementary and middle school, Brian was headed for a high school notorious for its disciplinary problems and lack of academic excellence.

At that same time, however, Brian became involved with the PLYP sports leagues and tutoring offered through PLAN. Brian also joined Faith Christian Fellowship's youth ministry, and church members mentored him. Brian has gradually gained a greater vision for his life. He is now in the top 15% of his class, a member of the National Honor Society, and was selected for the prestigious National Security Agency internship program. He volunteers as a coach and referee in the sports leagues, and is a member of Faith's youth leadership team. Brian hopes to have a career as an accountant.

Like Brian, Faith Urban Works is looking expectantly toward the future. Our prayer is that our neighbors would see and come to know Jesus as they experience His gracious restoration through our ministries. You are a vital part of our efforts to partner with residents of Pen Lucy and Baltimore. We trust that the Lord will be faithful to His promise that our "light will rise in the darkness" and shine "like the noonday" for His glory.



PROVIDE HOPE TO BALTIMORE CITY FAMILIES

There are many ways for you to be vitally engaged.

Faith Urban Works has seen countless volunteers make weekly commitments to teach, encourage, and mentor youth. In addition, we continue to partner with individuals, churches, and other community and city organizations to carry our vision forward.

Without the financial support of dedicated partners, these ministries could not continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus in Pen Lucy and Baltimore. We depend on the support and prayers of our many dedicated friends as we seek the gospel transformation of men, women and children.

Would you prayerfully consider investing by giving generously? With your help, Faith Urban Works can continue to show Jesus' transforming love to our neighbors.

FAITH URBAN WORKS WORKS BECAUSE:

- of the long-term sacrifices and Christian community development focus of the local urban church;
- it is grounded in bringing the whole gospel to the whole person to build the whole community through the whole church;
- its goal is to make grace-filled disciples and leaders for a greater city and world.

OUR HISTORY

Almost thirty years ago, God planted Faith Christian Fellowship (PCA) in Pen Lucy, a Baltimore community faced with many struggles common to under-served urban areas: high unemployment, drug trafficking, violence, a lack of healthy recreational opportunities for youth, low-performing schools, and a high dropout rate. Since then, Faith has presented the gospel in Word and deed to Pen Lucy and greater Baltimore through ministries of justice and mercy, including tutoring, summer camps, youth activities, and a Christian school.

In 2007, Faith Urban Works was established as Faith's umbrella entity to unite Baltimore Christian School (BCS) and Pen Lucy Action Network (PLAN) as a consolidated enterprise for wholistic Christian community development (CCD). At the heart of these ministries is the desire to be faithful to God's calling to act justly and love mercy as we seek the peace and prosperity of the city (Micah 6:8; Jer. 29:7).

The goal of Christian community development is to promote the spiritual transformation of people and families in under-resourced neighborhoods. By developing God-given potential and productivity, CCD moves people beyond unnecessary dependency and chronic relief (Ephesians 4:28). CCD is the Church being the redemptive presence of Christ through concrete deeds that affirm dignity, cultivate hope, and restore people to productive service in God's Kingdom. These ministries are a vital expression of the gospel and our call to make mature, grace-filled disciples of Christ. We join the greater body of Christ beyond our local church both through direct ministry and by providing vital connections and opportunities for service.

*"seek the peace and the prosperity of the city
to which I have sent you. . ."*
Jeremiah 29:7



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