

Seeds planted . . .



As Cynthia and I were leaving the Agape Center a few weeks ago, the doorbell rang. One of “our kids” who grew up in the neighborhood was at the door. **Lamone** and his siblings were regulars at the Center in the early 1990’s. His mom and grandmother attended our weekly Bible study. Lamone, now 45 years old, came by to see if we were still here and to say “thank you” to me and **Marc** for investing in his life. It was clear from our conversation that he has seen some rough years. Presently, he is not walking with the Lord. Yet out of gratitude for our investing in his life he came back to thank us. He talked about the Agape Center being a safe place with positive role models. “This was just a good place to be”, he said. The seed of the gospel and relational time was sown into Lamone’s life during those years. Sadly, he’s now

following a gospel contrary to the one he heard here. The cares of the world and the deceitfulness of false teaching has choked out the Word of life. **Please pray that Lamone will turn forsake false teaching and turn to Jesus.**

. . . seeds being planted



Earlier this month, the Agape Center opened as an **E-Learning** site for several of our S.A.Y. Yes! families. Ten children come on Mondays and Wednesday to do their virtual learning. Seated in pods (mostly with their siblings), they are able to be in their virtual class room and get help with their assignments when needed.



Wade (SY Director) said recently that “Kids are not made for this” (to learn from a computer screen 7 hours a day). When they get breaks from the screen, they are hearing about Jesus, memorizing the books of the Bible, and taking walks in the neighborhood. **Pray for safety for the kids and our staff. Pray too, for their hearts to be tender and receptive to the gospel.**

Meet more of our Inner-City Chicago Staff Circle



Marc & Sandy Henkel have been married for over 27 years and live in the Roseland community. Marc currently serves as Co-Director for the Cru Inner City - Chicago team, and has been a part of the ministry since 1989. He has a passion for resourcing and training Chicago’s urban leaders and unifying the city in prayer. Sandy helps lead the Cru Inner City National Intern Team and is the Allied Funding Director for Cru nationally. She has a passion for empowering young leaders, developing equitable funding opportunities for missionaries, and advocating for racial justice.

In 2013, **Brian Gardner** left corporate America and answered a call into ministry. He earned a Master’s degree in Urban Ministry from Trinity International University and became the children’s pastor at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in the nearby Morgan Park community. Brian coordinates his church’s partnership with Cru, leading outreach events and mobilizing volunteers. Brian has served with Cru for one year, focusing on relationships with our church partners and equipping them for outreach. Brian also supports our 14 S.A.Y. Yes! Centers throughout the city. Brian and his wife Latoya have 7 children; Christopher (20), Jason (19), Brain (13), Amaree (10), Asa (9), Ayden (6) and Khole (3).



Milton & Cynthia