

Ministry Report 2011



Ministry Report 2011



DRIVEN YOUTH MINISTRIES

Dear New Life Covenant,

The year of 2011 has been challenging but a victorious year. In youth ministry every 4-6 years there is a new wave of young people and it's exciting to see them step up and use their gifts to honor God.

Here are some highlights of our ministry and events:

- We are happy to announce that we have officially launched our new website. www.driven1000.org
- We currently are blessed with 33 versatile ministries and 45 amazing servant leaders. We have one new ministry this year by the name of L.O.T (Love Over Temptation), *a ministry for those that struggle with their identity.*
- We started the year with our very own Senior Pastor Wilfredo "Choco" De Jesus delivering the word to our Youth.
- We then launched our theme for the year "Reach" and the action plan through Project 4:19. Project 4:19 was inspired by the Scripture found in Matthew 4:19. It was an evangelistic tool used to spread the love and gospel of Christ to 400 additional 1st timers that attended our youth services. Almost reaching our 1000+ goal having our numbers come to 924 youth from January to May 2011.
- Another big highlight for us as a ministry was when we experience the Holy Spirit move at our Annual Youth Retreat "G300". 275 Youth in attendance and special guest artist Coffey Anderson.
- We had our annual "Block party" and "Back to School Picnic" during the summer. That was very successful and amazing to see so much food and fellowship between the youth and leaders.
- In the fall season we had our annual Lock-In with guest artist Jor'dan Armstrong, along with our daughter church youth ministry Identity. We were able to have 330 youth come out that night for some fun, fellowship, and the Word of God.
- Currently we find our ministry focused in the new theme that God has imparted on our ministry for the year of 2012 "Discipline". We anticipate the great things God has for our ministry and the challenges that will come with it.

We just want to say "thank you" to the families that have entrusted us with their children, and allowed us to continue to deposit into their life. We also want to say "thank you" to New Life Covenant for continuing to support Driven and this generation. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to build the kingdom of God through Driven Youth Ministries.

Youth Pastor's

David and Marisol Marrero

Driven Youth Ministry

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Dear New Life Covenant,

Chicago Master's Commission in 2010-2011 was appointed the theme: "Risk". Our team consisted of three 3rd years, eleven 2nd years and eleven 1st years, an accumulation of 25 students. The team was able to encounter God through prayer, service, discipleship, devotion, and scripture memorization.

Here are some of the highlights that the team had an opportunity to experience during their year of Chicago Mater's Commission.

Our year starts in the month of September with an orientation for the students and parents, which leads to the "Risk Retreat" where our students begin the 9 month process of discipleship.

In October the Master's participated in a live illustrated drama titled "Chain Reaction".

In November the Master's began their domestic mission to Camden New Jersey. We sent out a total of 5 teams throughout the 9 months. We serve the Camden community through Adopt the block, After School program, Bible study and evangelism in Tent City. Also, through their time in Camden they assisted and organized the Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach events, where many Camden neighbors attended and were impacted, to God be all the Glory!

The CMC team had the privilege of ministering in the states of Minnesota and Nebraska. Both mission trips were to help serve and minister community churches. In Minnesota they serve three local churches in different parts of the state. By organizing a complete service for their Youth Ministry, with greeting, preaching, and human video. Our team then joined our Senior Pastor in Nebraska for a 3 day conference and assisted him with illustrated sermons.

Other highlight of the year have consisted of "Daily Life", "MC Conference", "CMC Conference", "Driven Youth Retreat" and "Jumpstart". Each of these events gave the students an opportunity to serve, be refreshed and display the gifts God has blessed them with.

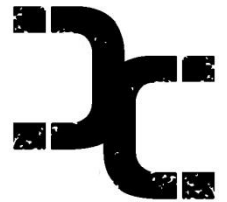
On May 14, 2011 25 students graduated from our program. It was an honor and privilege to see each individual grow and be equipped for what God has in stored for them in the future. Please keep us in your prayers, as we continue to disciple and advance the kingdom of God.

Youth Pastor's

David and Marisol Marrero

Chicago Master's Commission

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Chicago Dream Center

Dear New Life Family,

Every day, the **CDC** strives to bring hope and a dream for the future to those who are lost. The Dream Center specifically created as an arm of New Life Covenant to help individuals and families overcome poverty and its devastating effects through the love of Jesus Christ.

God did more than we thought possible this year – through an unbelievable team of men and women who dedicated themselves to the Lord’s work. Here is just a sample of what was accomplished through your support:

Highlights in Chicago-

- **New Life for Women:** 40 graduates completed more than 14,000 hours community service and 12,000 hours of discipleship classes. Several women attended food service and sanitation classes and/or regained licensure.
- **Axis Teen Center** is at capacity, with less turnaround and more stability than ever before. Several of our girls are currently attending Master’s commission and college. Pray for them as they pursue His calling and anointing.
- **Bridge to Life** led a mission team to Camden, NJ. They also received a \$3,500 grant from Chicago Shares. The team is in a season of restructuring its routes and leadership team for 2012, so it is a great time to get involved!
- **New Life Café** provided more than 5000 meals to the homeless for B2L, over 12,000 free/reduced lunches to Salem students, and contributed more than \$65,000 in savings/fundraising for various NLC ministries in 2010.
- **Rose of Sharon** held its first ever *Royal Ball*, with nearly 100 women attending. This year, Rose of Sharon reached over 1,000 women in the streets and began outreach in a local hotel to combat human trafficking.
- **Jesus Closet** formed a strong team in the Humboldt Dream Run in order to reach hundreds of families with clothing, hats, gloves, jackets, and other items during the year. **Adopt-A-Block** assisted in canvassing and outreach for Hell House and Dumpster Day at the new land.
- **Manna for Life** distributed 140,000 lbs of food to families in 2011. M4L provided over 375 turkeys for Thanksgiving alone! Out of a partnership with Chicago Public Schools and the JROTC, 8,000 lbs. from the canned food drive went to relief efforts in Alabama and over \$7000 went toward water filters for Tsunami Relief.
- **Casa de Esperanza** completed its first year as an affordable housing program for women with children. While **Sister to Sister** helped run the gala and raise an additional \$1500 for the CDC through jewelry sales at the CDC table. **Freedom Prison Ministries** was featured in the Chicago Tribune and was able to reach out to dozens of inmates with visits, letters, and cards of encouragement.
- The Dream Center hosted over 800 **short term missionaries** this past year.
- On October 14th, over 150 people attended the **Dare to Dream Gala** at *Carnivale* to raise awareness about the CDC and human trafficking. This unprecedented event was overcapacity, and raised nearly \$30k.
- The **Humboldt Dream Run** on May 14th was the largest ever! Over 300 people came to run, walk, and volunteer.

Highlights in Camden, New Jersey-

- Services are held weekly; dozens of youth are involved in **after school** programming and weekly **Real Talk**
- We hosted the 3rd annual **Hopefest** as well as a summer **Math and Reading Boot Camp**
- Local members now run **Gems of Eden** (for women in the streets) and **Hope for Life** (outreach to the homeless).
- Stephanie Arroyo was anointed as a minister and commissioned to direct the ministry and CMC teams.

Moving into 2012, we need your support in prayer and in muscle! As God brings order into His house, we need your help to reach the hurting. Thank you for your love and support in turning dreams into reality.

Develop Staying Power in 2012,

Trishia Kholodenko

Associate Pastor, New Life Covenant/CDC

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As promised, 2011 proved to be a very special year for **HopeFest**; we welcomed our 6th anniversary with many changes.

For starters, we moved the date to a whole month earlier! Our purpose remains to serve our neighborhood, and the students within the community. Most students were scheduled to start school in the beginning of August, so the festival was moved to July 30, 2011 to accommodate the earlier start to the school year.

As you know, the initial plan was to make HopeFest a street festival and welcome our community right on California Ave., however, God had a different plan. In the midst of meeting and strategizing for our street festival, Dr. Jose Sanchez and his team at Norwegian American Hospital reached out to us asking how they could partner with HopeFest. What would ensue from this initial meeting is nothing short of a God appointed partnership.

Dr. Sanchez and his team opened up the entire Norwegian campus for HopeFest to use at its disposal. They promised to provide whatever we needed that was within their reach - and they delivered! From planning, to set up, to tear down, the Norwegian team did a phenomenal job of partnering with us in an effort to reach our community.

HopeFest's collaboration with Frito Lay and its subsidiaries continues to strengthen. Frito Lay as an organization donated more than \$80,000 worth of product to HopeFest in 2011! With their help we were able to provide a complete grocery bag to every family attending!

Some of the items Frito Lay provided:

- 5,000 recyclable grocery bags
- 5,000 boxes of oatmeal, cereal, granola bars, pancake mix, rice-a-roni, orange juice and a loaf of bread for every bag
- 20,000 bottles of Gatorade/Pepsi drinks
- 20,000 bags of Cheetos

In addition, these are some of the other HopeFest accomplishments of 2011:

- 5,000 book bags full of school supplies were distributed
- Over 75 community organizations provided services to participants
- More than 1,000 health screenings, immunizations and school physicals were completed
- The 5,000+ attendees walked through the New Life Prayer tent

As in years past our amazing group of volunteers received a free concert. This year was special because New Life's own Life Worship CD was released at the volunteer rally, it was a real treat for everyone to be part of such a blessed night of worship!

On behalf of our entire team I extend our sincerest gratitude to the most faithful church any ministry could ask for and ask that you please continue to pray for wisdom as we move forward in planning HopeFest 2012!

God Bless you,

Jennifer Mendoza

HopeFest

Ministry Report 2011



Out of the chaos, and into a new year in perfect divine order. What a year. In 2011 we saw good times, and challenges, battles, and victories, but in the end God was Glorified. Let me share some of our highlights with you. Our Brothers Keeper Ministry continues to thrive. While we still meet on Monday nights, we have expanded the ministry by reaching out and taking ministry to the men. We have partnered with a local agency, and now meet with them on Tuesday evenings in our Transition House Program. If the men can't make it to ministry, we take the ministry to the men, AMEN.

Spirit and Truth Men's breakfast ministry had another successful year bringing the men of New Life together in fellowship, and serving them Spiritual and physical food. We do not charge at the door because we do not want any man to lose out on a blessing over money. By simply taking an offering, in faith, and having monthly raffles, we have been able to cover the cost of breakfast **AND** sponsor over 20 men who wanted to attend our men's retreats, but had limited financial resources due to the present economy.

Our weekly bible studies have produced new leaders for the ministry, and have plugged men into many of the over 100 ministries at New Life that needed assistance. Each ministry targets specific areas. Tribe of Asher addresses topics men face and struggle with, while coaching and mentoring them in their roles as fathers, husbands, and other vital areas of manhood. Our "Amplified" and "Journey in Righteousness" ministries, target men with leadership potential and prepare them to take on their God given role as leaders, by preparing them with a firm foundation in knowledge and understanding of the Word.

Our retreats continue to be the highlight of the men's ministry. We continue to grow, reaching and average of over 360 men in attendance. We have also done some remodeling, combining leadership and mentorship into one module, and adding the "Championship" class with a fresh curriculum at every retreat. Now you can come back and join us at EVERY retreat, no matter if you are a new comer or a seasoned veteran, and enjoy a new class every time.

We continue to strive to reach every man. Our Royal Rangers ministry has grown, and was able to take 120 boys to the annual Pow-wow. The Redeemed Riders motorcycle ministry holds fellowships and ice cream rides as they minister to the bikers who love Jesus. We were able to bless some of our other ministries in the church as well. We gave the hospitality ministry a day off on Mothers Day, and took over their weekly duties serving those who serve all of you Sunday after Sunday. We blessed the chosen vessels ministry by serving them at their annual Christmas brunch. We served the Dream Center, by cooking and providing food for their annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Last, but not least, we sponsored the Christmas dinner for the "River of Life" women's shelter Christmas Dinner.

We are looking forward to being a part of the amazing things God has in store for New Life in 2012.

**God Bless you,
Men's Ministry**

Men's Ministry

Ministry Report 2011



Dear Chosen Vessels,

Ladies I cannot believe that other year has come and gone ...to God be all the Glory, many of us are still standing! As I reflect on the year 2011 the one thing that comes to mind is "push through" or "breakthrough". Many of us had very heavy or difficult decisions to make be it bad or good we found ourselves *pushing through* to make it to the next step and others found the *breakthrough* and got to the other side. Whatever situation you found yourself in may I remind you that God is faithful to complete His work in you!

For 11 years that I lead the women's ministry here at NLC God has proven to be faithful in the team that worked with me for so long. To all the staff and leaders thank you for all your hard work and dedication. Thank you for upholding your life's with integrity and living your life's to serve our wonderful and awesome God.

2011 was a good year we started out the year with our "You're All That and a Cup of Tea" event and ended with our annual Christmas Breakfast- "Jesus, the Heart of Christmas" and in between we had our monthly events and our ongoing women's small groups. Our Growing in Grace Women's Bible Book Study ran 2 successful sessions throughout 2011 and the Won by Love Saturday morning bible studies are growing. Love In Action is relentless in reaching the clients of ROL along with their children. Fit 4 Him is determined in 2012 to make their mark in the CV Ministry! The Chosen Vessels Ministry works hard to keep you ladies from NLC busy and connected don't miss out on the monthly events or to be part of reaching hurting women for God.

In 2011 we were able to put in place a Spanish Women's Leadership Team in which we have been putting monthly events together, and have 2 amazing retreats, Encuentro y Descrucrimiento. God is surely moving within that group. Thank you Spanish Team!!!

My prayer for the CV Ministry in 2012 is that you move forward doing bigger things for the Lord reaching out to the ladies within our church. Ladies remember that ***"He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it"***

Sincerely,

Rosie Chicol

Chosen Vessels

Ministry Report 2011



Chicago Lights Children's Ministry underwent some changes this year, but what an awesome year we had. With the move under the tent this summer, Kidz Church was moved to the CC building on 2704 W. North Ave. We enjoyed ministering to the children in a "church" environment vs. a school classroom. Once the "Big Church" moved back to Clemente, we decided to stay at the CC building. The children are dropped off at Kidz Church and parents drive to Clemente for their service. The children enjoy coming and we average about 50-80 kids between the 11am and 12:45pm services.

We continue to have Early Childhood Ministries (ECM) from birth through Kindergarten, under the leadership of Cruz Berrios every Sunday from 9:30am, 11am, and 12:45pm at Clemente High School. The nursery and toddler ministry share a beautiful and colorful room. Kids enjoy music, Bible stories, arts and crafts and snack during their service time. Pre-K and Kindergarten worship with hand motions and power point presentations of the gospel are provided weekly. This team works hard to "make it happen".

For our Mpact program, Sandra Lopez is our new coordinator. She has been with this ministry for 4 years as a sponsor. She truly loves this ministry and is asking God to bring godly women into the ministry to help young girls grow in the Lord. We praise God for Sandra's heart and commitment to serve God in this capacity.

In September, Kidz Bible Study brought in a new team to teach the boys and girls on Wednesday nights. A group of 7 men and women have dedicated every Wednesday to teach boys and girls the gospel of Jesus with life applications. I am honored to work along with such fine people. They love the kids and the love is returned right back to them.

During our Kidz Fest celebration on October 31, 2011, we had approximately 650 kids come to the event called "Light the Night". Hundreds of children were able to enjoy free face painting, carnival games, candy, raffle prizes, and a wonderful presentation of the gospel. Approximately 130 kids received Christ as their personal savior or rededicated themselves to God. Our Super Sonic worship team with Melissa Garcia as the Worship Director, led the kids into worship using hand motions. What a beautiful site it is to see kids worship God with all of their hearts. At one point the music stopped but the children continued to sing. I'm sure that put a big smile on God's face.

In November, Kidz Church put on a full production drama called "Back to Bethlehem". The Kidz Church team worked for 3 solid months in order to present the true meaning of Christmas to the children. The children enjoyed the drama and the attendance increased to approximately 120-130 kids between 2 services. The adults that attended enjoyed the dramas as well. The kids were challenged each week to share the true meaning of Christmas.

From the beginning of 2011, the Children's Ministry team was challenged to fast for 24 hours on the 11th of every month. I pray that God drew closer to us as we drew closer to Him. May 2012 bring order to our lives and our ministry. We look forward to new and great things in 2012.

In His Service,

Alma E. Garcia
Children's Ministry Director
New Life Covenant Church

Children's Ministry

Ministry Report

2011



Hello New Life Family,

2011 was an amazing year. Even in the midst of a chaotic year with tornadoes, and tsunamis happening around the world, God showed us that he is greater and control of everything. To the glory of God we also have a great committee who puts their heart into everything that we do. This year we were able to reach so many people for the Lord domestically and internationally.

The following are the places we visited:

Dallas, Texas

Four people traveled to Texas during the Super Bowl. During this huge event many women and children get trafficked in and out of Texas. The team evangelized to several traffic victims on the streets, sharing words of love and a hope in Jesus.

Alabama

A team of 12 people drove for hours to Alabama when the horrific tornado hit. There, we partnered with Samaritans Purse to help bring aid to the victims of this disastrous event. Even in the midst of chaos, God uses us to reach the hurting and broken.

Chimbote, Peru

The church there was in need of a new fence because the one they had was falling apart. A team of 14 people traveled to Peru to help build a brick wall fence. While we were there we also painted three preschools; a lunchroom; fixed the electrical wiring; hosted a salvation soccer camp; and repaired a bathroom. All of this happened within one week. We are a hardworking team that makes things happen!

Hutto, Texas

Six wonderful women drove 22 hours on Mother's Day weekend to a detention center that housed over 500 women that were arrested because they were illegally in the United States. Our team cooked special meals for the women and spent quality time with them, all while reminding them that God loves them and has not forgotten their situation. The 500 women were in need of this fellowship especially during this hard time of being away from their children.

Dominican Republic

A team of five visited with orphans and families and took an assessment of what the need was and how we can help to meet it. We were blessed when the orphans shared their story with us. The beautiful part was that they gave God all the glory no matter what circumstance they found themselves in. We also spoke to several families regarding the water filtration systems we had installed in 2010 and found out that many of them were healthier and happier due to clean water. On Christmas day, we returned to the Dominican bringing 84 stockings with us and delivered them to orphans.

India

In 2011, we wanted to make sure that we went to the valley of dry bones. India has the highest rate of human trafficking in the world. We partnered with As Our Own, a ministry in India who helps to free girls ages 2-22 from sex trafficking. This ministry is doing a wonderful job. We met young girls in two of their orphanages and we were completely blessed by how much they love Jesus and how well they were taken care of. They have been rescued and set free from a life of hell.

Good News! NLC Missions is now known as Army of the Kind. We started a non-profit organization because we felt God calling us to take missions to a whole different level. We are dreaming big and praying fervently for God's blessings to fall upon people who are hurting and in need of Him all around the world. Visit us at www.aotk.org.

We thank you for your faithful prayers. Remember that Missions is the heart beat of God. We encourage you to at least attend one mission trip in your life. Your life will be impacted in a way you would have never imagined.

Army of Kind

Ministry Report

2011

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Worship is for God alone. As a ministry we work hard to get ourselves out of the way so that God receives the glory he deserves. In 2011 we were challenged to really look at how we operate and to make some hard changes. In the process of change and “new things” we have learned how important it is that we continue to worship as a congregation. Worship in one voice is powerful because it declares that God is Holy and worthy. It is an amazing witness to those who come seeking God, softening their hearts for the hearing of the Word. We are thankful for the lessons we have learned. Today we are even more passionate and committed to the ministry of worship than ever before.

What's New?

- New Life Covenant Worship Team adopted the name *Life Worship* as the ministry name. (A new logo was also adopted)
- Life Worship CD!
- Worship singers were restructured and now operate as four separate teams led by directors Jaime Navarro, Sarai Garza, Marisol Marrero (after six months Alicia Huddleston took on the director role), and Lizbette Rodriguez.
- We have a new Spanish Team led by Lizbette Rodriguez.
- We have added five new singers and two new musicians.

Highlights

- Cd Release Concert - Hopefest July 29th.
- Guest Worship Leader, Freddy Rodriguez- (Under the tent) Sunday July 17
- Urban Vineyard - August 7, and August 21st - We were the guest worship team for two Sunday worship services, led by Elizabeth De Jesus and Sarai Garza.
- New Covenant MBC – we were a guest worship team for a Sunday night service.
- Texas, Assemblies of God Church November, 2011 – Elizabeth was a guest worship leader and Rick Rivera a guest music director for a Sunday service.
- Ricardo Sanchez Concert Saturday December 3rd - we opened the concert with worship.

New Life Worship Choir

Choir joins in leading the congregation in worship once a month. In 2011 we welcomed 12 new choir members.

Kids Worship Choir

The children presented for two events, Mothers Day and Christmas. After three years of dedication Millie Rivera has resigned as director. Leticia Rosa has accepted the role of kids worship choir director and will begin rehearsals in February 2012.

Thank you New Life for your contagious worship. It is our joy to worship with you every Sunday and an honor to serve you in ministry. Our prayer is that you would know the width, and length, and depth, and height of Christ love for you. (Eph. 3:19)

Worship Pastor, **Elizabeth De Jesús**

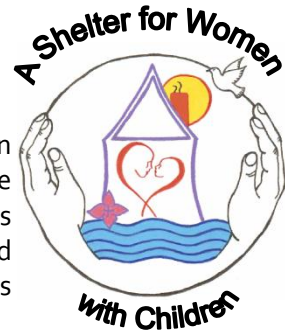
Music Director, **Rick Rivera**

Worship

Ministry Report 2011

God is So Good!!

For the past 14 years River of Life Shelter has stood as a beacon for the homeless women in our community. For most it has been a place where they can find peace and hope where they had none. A place where children are loved and have peaceful, happy dreams in a warm bed. Many have found 'the hope' that can only be found in Jesus Christ and have become part of our family in the kingdom. We thank God for his many blessings and for the opportunity that he has given us to work with his wounded flock.



River of Life Interim Housing Program goals have remained the same: to assist the client in obtaining financial income through employment or financial benefits and to assist them in seeking permanent/stable housing. Also, to show them, that, yes, they can overcome whatever circumstances that caused them to become homeless. Every client goes through job readiness classes, domestic violence counseling and/or placement in a domestic violence program, financial budgeting/counseling and job search. After an income is established all client who are eligible are assisted in applications to housing.

In this past year, we at ROL, have serviced 78 moms with 142 Children (220 clients) and have served over 11,427 meals. Currently, we have 11 families residing at the shelter. 77 women have since been discharged from the shelter: 29% are in their own apartments or sharing rental space with friends or returned to family. 49% left the shelter with an income.

Love in Action, (LIA), continues to meet twice a month the ladies. It is amazing what these ladies do to our clients. They shower them with love and prayer. They celebrate events with them and they encourage them in their daily struggles.

The children's birthdays are celebrated every month by Birthday Love headed by Enid Rivera and Sarai Garza. The birthday child is honored with cake, gifts and games with all the kids from the shelter. The moms have expressed how grateful they are that their children are remembered in such a special way.

Midway through 2011 we lost our health care provider, Heather from Circle Family Care, as well as, our after school tutoring program from CPS due to lack of funding. But God will provide.

I pray that God continues to anoint and bless each member of my staff. That we continue to seek a heart like God's, full of love, compassion, grace and mercy.

To God Be All the Glory.

River of Life

