

# URBAN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

## FALL 2022

## NEWS LETTER

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### YARD-SALE- GIVE AWAY 2022 SO MUCH HURT, YET SO MUCH HOPE

Saturday, May 14th was a beautiful, warm, sunny, and peaceful afternoon in Buffalo. In one of the poorest parts of the city, a lone gunman came into our community and entered into the Tops supermarket on Jefferson Ave (our only market in the community), and shattered our peace. Shooting and killing ten people, he thought he was destroying, but he actually brought our community together. Where he thought he

would kill the weak, the weak became stronger. More importantly, he helped us to see that God was with us. In the midst of all the hurt and pain, **God** is continuing to see us through.

It warmed our hearts to see the thousands of people from all over western New York and further, coming into our community to help. It was equally heartwarming to see residents who didn't have much in common with each other, coming to the aid of their neighbors. We, at Urban Christian Ministries, are so, so proud to be a part of this community! Not only have we been located on Jefferson Ave for over 30 years, many of our staff live here, or have grown up in this community. For us, **THIS IS HOME!** Though we have done yard sale give aways for over 20 years on Jefferson, this incident made this year's give away much more personal. Yard sale give away is simply a yard sale where everything is free. We collected a **record** amount of what we call "**good junk**".

Over the years, we normally served 150 families, but due to the overwhelming amount of donations this year, we served over 350 families. Everyone not only left with good junk, they left with "**GREAT STUFF**". We had washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, table & chairs, tons of small appliances, flat screen televisions, beds, dressers, clothing for men, women and children, and so much more. It was truly a pleasure to serve God by serving His people.

To everyone who stopped what they were doing to raise money, collect food, and all the labors of love that was poured out into our community, **JESUS SAID**, "IN AS MUCH AS YOU HAVE DONE THIS TO THE LEAST OF THESE MY BROTHERS, YOU HAVE DONE IT UNTO ME". Matthew 25:40

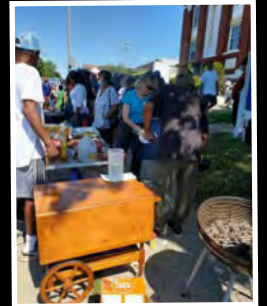
All the individuals who donated or volunteered at the yard sale give away by picking up truck loads of furniture and moving stuff (the day of) from the garage, the basement, the front room, and our conference room. We don't have the room in this newsletter to thank every person, but God has it all logged in for you as "work well done good and faithful servants".

### THANK YOU TO:

#### **YARD SALE SUPPORTING CHURCHES**

BETHESDA WORD HARVEST INTERNATIONAL  
NEW MT. ARARAT CHURCH  
RANDALL BAPTIST CHURCH  
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN  
LANCASTER COMMUNITY CHURCH

EDISON ST. COMMUNITY CHURCH  
FIRST CHURCH OF EVANS  
LANCASTER PRESBYTERIAN  
SPIRIT OF TRUTH URBAN MINISTRIES  
8 DAYS OF HOPE



## **U.C.M. SUMMER CAMP 2022**

### **THEME:** **"HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD"**

When you're at CAMP BLISS in Bliss NY, it's so beautiful, serene and quiet. With its rolling hills, farm animals, and amazing stars in the sky at night, learning to hear God's voice becomes so much simpler and real. When we take children away from the chaos of the city, and bring them into this peaceful setting WOW!, God and His Word, comes alive. This year He blessed us with the opportunity to minister to 41 children with over 30 staff. The Holy Spirit was truly with us at camp. In addition, there were special speakers throughout the week, including a pediatric dentist, Dr. Wells DDS and an assistant who taught oral hygiene. Along with all the regular fun things kids do at camp, we were able to add archery lessons. Again, Wow!, God has 70 more followers who are closely listening to what He has to say to them. Praise God for another successful summer camp!

A personal testimony from one of our families:

The following is a testimony from the LaMar family that went to Camp Bliss for the first time,  
" I want to start off by just saying thank you for the experience you guys allowed me and my family to share with you all. We were welcomed and accepted with open arms and the staff are uniquely gifted working with all the children. My children still sing the songs and the cheers they learned during their time in Chapel. My children were actively involved in the day to day activities and enjoyed them more than I thought they would. We will definitely be back next and you can count us in every year after that for sure"

**Mr. Desmond LaMar & Family**  
**U.C.M. Camp Bliss 2022**

**Upcoming Event for 2023**  
**URBAN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES**  
**ANNUAL BANQUET**  
**To be announced soon**

Urban Christian Ministries  
Mission trip to  
St. Vincent, Virgin Island  
Easter Break 2023  
***Cost & training will be announced soon***

**JESUS, THE CENTER, THE SOUL AND THE HOPE OF**  
**URBAN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES.**  
**1970 TILL HIS RETURN**

**URBAN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES**  
**[info@ucmbuffalo.org](mailto:info@ucmbuffalo.org): email**  
**[ucmbuffalo.org](http://ucmbuffalo.org) :website**  
**Check us out on Facebook**

**716 campaign**  
**Thank you to everyone who donated to the**  
**recent 716 online fundraiser that was**  
**sponsored by the Buffalo Bills and Buffalo**  
**Sabres Foundation. A total of \$1,322.00 was**  
**donated during this one day online**  
**campaign.**

**URBAN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES**  
**967 JEFFERSON AVE.**  
**BUFFALO NEW YORK 14204**  
**716.882.9472**

This year B.C.B. recruited seven teams from five different communities, **Fruitbelt** - (Coach Toya & Nick) **Amherst** (Coach Chip) **18th** (Coach Damein,) **Northampton** (Coach Justin) **G.Y.C Gladiators** Coach Pastor Newkirk). Unfortunately, Covid 19 was still a concern in the hearts of people, so we were unable to attract any neighborhood block clubs for 2022 season. Therefore, all of our games were played at Masten Park, located right around the corner from our office. We will continue working and praying hard to attract neighborhoods for our 2023 season because, **"BLOCK CLUBS" are the heart and soul of "BLOCK CLUB BASKETBALL"**! Nonetheless, we still had a good 2022 season. Through our 9 minute devotions we reached over 80 teens, a good number of spectators, and our summer youth workers with the gospel of Christ.

We concluded the summer with our Block Club Basketball awards dinner, which was held at Knox Presbyterian Church.

#### **B.C.B. 2022 CHAMPS**

★ ★ ★ **18th STREET WERE THE** ★ ★ ★

Under the leadership of  
Damein Banks

**A Very Special thanks go out to:**

#### **U.C.M. B.C.B. Staff**

Mrs. Block Club Basketball - Angela Lacey  
Anthony Herrera  
Stephon Boston

#### **Referees**

Theodore (**Magic**) McDuffie  
Brenda Jones

**Thanks to our summer youth workers.**

Thank you to the coaches who devoted their personal time to pour into the lives of the kids on their teams.

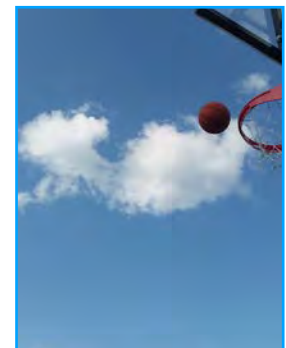
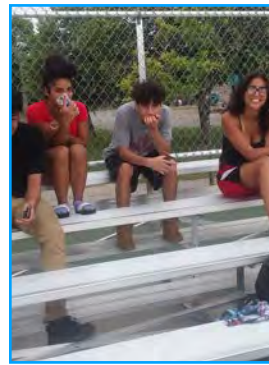
#### **THANK YOU**

Knox Church for allowing us to use your gym for rain dates, and your banquet hall for our awards dinner.

**LIVES HAVE TRULY BEEN TOUCHED AND CHANGED  
BECAUSE THIS DEDICATED TEAM CAME TOGETHER AND  
HELPED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THESE  
80+ YOUNG PEOPLE.**

**DOUG RIFENBURG VICTORY SPORTS**

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**





## FINANCIAL APPEAL (HERE'S THE ASK)

James 4:2 (KJV) "You have not because you ask not."  
(NIV) "You do not have because you do not ask"

"Do not neglect to do good and share what you have, for  
such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

Hebrews 13:16 (ESV)

As we reflect upon the summer of 2022, we give thanks to God for His generous blessings upon Urban Christian Ministries. We thank Him for the safe return of many of our programs. To name a few: Summer Camp, Block Club Basketball, and our Yard Sale Give Away. Throughout the summer many of our youth and adults were challenged and impacted by the Gospel messages. The kids had a ball at camp and the entire community was blessed with great stuff from our Yard Sale Give Away. YES WE WORKED, AND WE WORKED HARD! What a humbling blessing to proclaim that we worked hard for God. Not only did we work hard, but all this work costs money; between picking kids up for the games, taking them back home, and providing a light meal at each game. In preparation for the Yard Sale Give-Away (YSGA), we rented trucks multiple times during the week to pick up all that good junk. We also had to pay people outside of our regular staff to help pickup and unload at U.C.M. In many cases, it was money that we didn't have. Please don't think we are complaining, because WE ARE NOT! The Bible tells us in **James 4:2** "**We have not because we ask not (KJV) or (NIV) 'You do not have, because you do not ask.'**" We are so blessed at Urban Christian Ministries and God wants you to be a part of this blessing. SO, here's the ask. WE NEED YOUR HELP! What you may not realize is that more often times than not, our ministry struggles financially. Our staff frequently has to hold their paychecks until money comes in. You would not know this, because we do so much, so often. Most importantly, WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT. Walking by faith is a journey that is not always easy, but the adventure is mind-blowing. Join with us as we travel on this faith walk and experience God with us.

### FOOD PANTRY

Urban Christian Ministries has served the community since 1980 with the help of FeedMore WNY as our major food supplier. In addition to canned goods and boxed foods, FeedMore WNY enables us to serve our clients and their families with fruits, vegetables, breads, and meats.

In response to the increasing number of refugee families resettling in Buffalo, and seeking our assistance, we now offer Halal food. Halal food is an Arabic word that translates to "permissible" in English. Halal foods are blessed by a Muslim and have been cleaned and slaughtered according to Islamic laws and practices. In addition, we offer meatless burgers and organic foods to accommodate those who are health conscious. UCM services those who reside in the 14204, 14208, and 14211 zip codes. If you or someone you know, is in need of food assistance, please call Urban Christian Ministries at 716-882-9472. We are located at 967 Jefferson Ave Buffalo NY 14204.



### Employment Opportunities at UCM

Are you looking for part time work? Do you have a passion for youth? Urban Christian Ministries is looking for a Youth Coordinator for our afterschool program! Urban Christian Ministries offers an afterschool program for kids ages 6-12. We are looking for someone who has experience working with youth and is dedicated to providing a quality program. Here are a few details:

Pay: \$15.00/hr

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 2:00pm-6:00pm

Requirements:

Must have a drivers license, basic computer skills, experience working with youth, must be able to clear a background check, and fully vaccinated against COVID-19

If interested please contact Urban Christian Ministries at 716-882-9472.