



# PROJECT URGE



*Urban Revitalization*

*Newsletter*

*God Experienced*

Issue 2



April 2005

## ***Our Mission is Unite Christians to:***

Break down walls of poverty and hopelessness.

Break down walls of racism and classism.

Break down denominational walls.

Feed and clothe those in need.

Be a light to the children.



### **Project URGE**

Garry Manuel, Director  
31 West Church Street  
Fairport, NY 14450  
(585) 223-8340  
Email: ProUrge@aol.com

### **Project URGE Affiliated Ministries:**

#### ***Kidz Kafe***

Rev. Thomasina Owens  
544-1355

#### ***Center for Christian Social Ministries***

Len Erb  
594-6032

#### ***Rochester Area Outreach Center***

464-8298

#### ***Institute for Social Entrepreneurship***

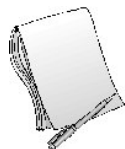
David Dey, Director  
464-8298

#### ***Rochester Family Mission***

Barbara Thomas  
436-7523

#### ***Outreach Temple***

Eva Daughtery  
328-0390



## ***Manuel's Messages...The Jonah Syndrome***

**By Garry Manuel, Founder and Director**

In this issue of the newsletter you'll find detailed information about the upcoming **Concert of Praise**, which marks a critical interval in the continuance of a God honoring, collaborative effort between many in the Christian community.

We've purposely designed this day and evening to point the City of Rochester and surrounding communities into a collaborative effort to impact neighborhoods that are wearing the signs of poverty and exhibiting all the symptoms that are attached. This is a **call** to the Christian community to come together as ONE in the "body of **Christ**," to grab hold of this message of hope and translate the words and spirit into tangible and real change.

There are three basic **obstacles** we need to address directly:

- **Loss of hope** - We often disbelieve that change **can** occur (much like the countless times God's people strayed into unbelief and disregard for the Lord in the Old Testament).
- **Christians divided** - The community is fractured due to denominational and racial divisions. These issues are easier left untouched rather than confronted. We know the difficulty in building something strong and how easily it can be destroyed.
- **Scarcity of workers** - "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." - *Luke 10:2.*

(Continued page 2)

### **New Board Members Elected To The Board of Directors**

As part of the business of this non-profit organization at its Annual Meeting on March 20, two new directors were added to the board. They are Carolyn Haygood from the House of God and Fred Stresing from Crosswinds Wesleyan Church.

They join Garry Manuel, Ann Kemper, Maggie Harris and Eva Daughtery in leading this organization. When you see these new directors, please congratulate them. Continue to pray for Project URGE's leadership as they grow and direct this group.

**Note:** Project URGE is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation.

**Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. - Proverbs 15:22**

### **Please Mark Your Calendar with These Special Dates**



- ❖ **The Concert of Praise and Workshops**  
**Saturday, April 23**  
**Workshops: 2:00 pm**  
**Concert 6:30 pm**  
**Bethel Christian Fellowship**
- ❖ **Spring Fling Fundraiser**  
**Tuesday, April 12: 6-10 pm**  
**Kaufmanns Eastview**
- ❖ **Project URGE Meeting**  
**Sunday, May 15: 4:00 pm**  
**Outreach Temple**
- ❖ **Project URGE Meeting**  
**Friday, June 17: 7:00 pm**  
**Walnut Hill Community Church**
- ❖ **Summer Picnic**  
**Sunday, July 10**  
**Ellison Park**

**Project URGE Ministries  
Continued**

**Adopt-A-Class RCSD #17**

Carol Orth  
425-0976

**CFC Homeless & Housing**

Ruth Fischer  
423-9590 ext 202

**Mercy Residential Services**

Susan Aiello  
254-2175 ext 11

**Jacob's Ladder--Building  
and Renovation Team**

Fred Stresing  
229-4898

**Rochester Teen Challenge**

James West  
325-7123

**The Penfield Hope Center**

Tony & Pam Gregorio  
387-3800

**Crosswinds Downtown**

Lynne McHenry  
393-4310

**Comfort In Crisis**

Sandy Breon or Sky Ferguson  
924-9430

**Community Lutheran  
Ministry, Inc.**

Maggie Harris  
338-2420

**Youth for Christ of Greater  
Rochester**

Mary Ayala  
256-5050

**Youth for Christ Teen Moms**

Sherri Foley  
256-5050

**Youth for Christ Youth  
Guidance Program**

Mary Ayala  
256-5050

**Grace Urban Ministries**

Eric Van Dusen  
458-1310

**His Branches, Inc.**

Scott Sittig  
235-9000

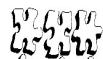
**Manuel's Messages...  
Continued**

Many of our churches are suffering from the **Jonah Syndrome**. God has given the church the **call**, but instead, many have elected not to pursue the difficult tasks at hand. **Project URGE** has taken up this **call** by combining spiritual and practical approaches to the problems. It is a collaborative effort.

On April 23rd both the spiritual and the practical approaches will be evident. Our guest speaker, **Dr. John M. Perkins**, offers God honoring, practical solutions toward turning around oppressed urban neighborhoods. He has experience, wisdom and a game plan.

In affirming this God inspired vision, we are hosting the teen choir, **Cross Culture**, which grew from a neighborhood in Baltimore (Sandtown), implementing the ideas and methods of Dr. Perkins to create real change in their community. We will have Darryl Jordan, a spokesperson from Sandtown and **Cross Culture** member, to illustrate how these changes occurred.

**It happened there - it could happen here!**



**Let's Put the Puzzle  
Pieces Together**

It is imperative that you be proactive in confronting the obstacles listed in Manuel's Message. You and your church are able to provide a missing piece to this puzzle. We have the pieces! God has given us the vision! But, we will not begin to see the pictures put together until all the pieces of this puzzle are assembled at the same table.

I'm asking you and your church to put a high priority on joining us for worship and informative workshops on Sat., April 23rd. To enable us to visualize and realize the impact of this picture, many more pieces of this puzzle will need to come together. When the obedience takes place and we become authentic in working for this common purpose then the power of God to change our challenges to triumph will be evident to those who do not currently see.

Please, don't let yourself or your church be swallowed up by complacency. Instead, work toward positive outcomes that will come when you act upon the hard tasks the Lord is leading you toward. **The challenges facing Jonah are facing the Christian church today.**

**Grant Committee Guidance**

The role of the Grant Committee is to assist Project URGE and its affiliates in the following ways:

To learn about grant opportunities.

To make grant information available to appropriate groups.

To mentor and support our members work through the grant seeking process by providing training workshops and limited consultations.

To set up policies and procedures on how to interact with the Grant Committee and review grant assistant forms.

**The grant committee does not offer grant-writing services or actively seek grants for projects outside our organization.** The committee can give guidance on how to select groups or individuals who do provide those services

For more information or to obtain a Grant Assistance Form call Project Urge at 223-8340 or email [ProUrge@aol.com](mailto:ProUrge@aol.com). Forms will be available at the March 20 meeting.

**Jacob's Ladder Looking for  
More Helping Hands**

Jacob's Ladder is an important mission of **Project URGE** that assist with repair and renovation services. We help ministries two Saturdays a month. As part of our work we have left imprints of love and care on dozens of facilities this past year.



Not only do we help make the facilities we assist safer, brighter and cleaner, but we help brighten lives as well. We help build both structures and relationships.

Join us by calling Fred Stresing at 229-4898 or 704-6415.



The antidote to the Jonah Syndrome is:

**"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth."**  
*1 John 3:18 (NIV)*

**Project URGE Ministries  
Continued**

**Grace Community Village,  
Inc.**

Lesley DeLong  
458-5927 ext. 102

**Eastern Service Workers  
Association**

Mark Horn  
654-9640

**Noah's House**

Laurie Scharles, RN  
394-6778

**We Are Called To Serve**

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter - when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

"If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

**Isaiah 58:6-10**

**Happy Birthday - Project URGE!**

Project URGE celebrates its Third Birthday! **Thank you** Garry and everyone for working so hard to see us grow and follow the Lord's call.



**Christian Community  
Development Workshop –**

*Project URGE - Workshop Description -  
April 23rd*

**Leaders:** Dr. John Perkins & Darryl Jordan

**Dr. Perkins** is founder and President of the John M. Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation and Development. He is an internationally known author, speaker and lecturer who is a pioneer in areas of reconciliation, indigenous leadership and community development. A **Christianity Today** magazine writer said, in his opinion, that John Perkins is "the most influential African American church leader since Dr. King."

**Darryl Jordan** comes from the Sandtown area of Baltimore and is a leader of the teen choir **Cross Culture**. New Song Urban Ministries grew many of their ideas and plans for turning their community around from the seeds planted by Dr. Perkins in community development.

The purpose of this seminar is to gain ideas and an understanding on how to implement change in our most challenging areas of the city. You will learn how a concerted effort among the Christian churches can make an impact affecting one neighborhood at a time. This is a workshop filled with practicality and hope.



**Children's Ministry Seminar**

*Project URGE - Workshop Description -  
April 23rd*



**Leader:** Maggie Harris, Director,  
Community Lutheran Ministry

There are many considerations regarding rules and regulations for hosting after school programs, childcare and children's activities in your church. Learn the dos and don'ts on how to build a children's ministry in your facility. Topics will include proper food handling and sanitation, child safety, and how to responsibly select, train and involve volunteers in your program.

**Who Says Christians Can't  
Have Fun? –**

*Project URGE - Workshop Description -  
April 23rd*

**Sponsored by Youth for Christ**

Join the staff of Greater Rochester Youth For Christ for an hour of the craziest, messiest, and wackiest games used in their club programs. Come prepared to laugh, think and talk. Learn about other opportunities to come together with other teens, ages 11-16.



**The Facts Project:  
Abstinence Until-Marriage  
Program**

*Project URGE - Workshop Description -  
April 23rd*

**Leader:** Rev. James Heath  
HOPE Initiatives CDC, Inc.

The Facts Project is a ten-topic workshop series for teens, ages 12-18 years of age that equips them to stand against the pressures to engage in pre-marital sexual activity. Rev. Heath will cover "Why Abstinence?" - the opposition to the abstinence until-marriage message, and some of the impact this program has had in Monroe County, New York.

**Let Us Come Together in Praise**

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

*Hebrews 10:24,25*



We need help for the Concert of Praise. If you can help, volunteer by calling Project URGE at 223-8340 or emailing

ProUrge@aol.com. Leave your name; phone number and what you wish to do and someone will contact you to confirm your position on the team.

- Greeters
- Security Personnel
- Set Up Assistants
- Tear Down Assistants
- Food and Hospitality Assistants



### Cross Culture Host Houses

Is one of your gifts making travelers comfortable and welcome on their journey? Then perhaps your way of helping with the Concert of Praise is to be a host family for two or more members from the *Cross Culture* group. We will need to house about 40 teens and adults, Saturday evening.

Your responsibility will be to take your guests after the concert, feed them, provide sleeping accommodations for the night and return them to a central location Sunday morning for departure. That location will most likely be at Bethel Christian Fellowship.

Please contact Project URGE at 223-8340 or by emailing **ProUrge@aol.com**. In your message include your name, how to reach you, how many guests you are able to house and if you have gender or age preferences. Someone will get back to you to confirm a placement and tell you how to identify your guests after the Concert of Praise.

With a voice of singing, let it be heard Alleluia. Shout even on to the end of the earth.

## Homeless in Rochester

*Project URGE - Workshop Description - April 23rd*

**Leader:** Ruth Fischer, Volunteer Coordinator, Catholic Family Center, Homeless and Housing Services Department

Learn about what it means to be homeless, the underlying causes, and what services are available for individuals and families in this situation. The reasons for homelessness can be as varied as those who are homeless. We invite you to become informed and dig deeper into the causes and affects of homelessness in our community. There may be a way you can help and not even realize it!

## Clowning Glory Ministry

*Project URGE - Workshop Description - April 23rd*

**Presenters:** BoBo and JoJo the clown and Helpers.

Kids and adults can come and enjoy BoBo and JoJo the clowns. BoBo is a former Ringling Brothers' clown, who also has a very compelling story. You will see a skit, as well as learn what the spiritual meaning is behind colors and the faces of a clown. There will be some great balloon characters appearing and perhaps even some face painting!

### Another Way To Celebrate Our

**Growth...**Come visit Project URGE's new website. We will be able to serve both the community and our members better through our website. Come visit us at: **[www.projecturge.org](http://www.projecturge.org)**

## Drama

*Project URGE - Workshop Description - April 23rd*

**Presented by:** Neutral Zone Drama Team And friends

This drama will only be offered at Session II and will run through part of Session III, starting at 3:15. Be part of a drama that will be presented that evening during the Concert of Praise, entitled: "The Race."

You won't necessarily have a speaking part, but you can learn how a drama sketch comes to life through a script, rehearsal and finally, acted out. You'll need to be able to participate in the sketch that evening, unless you just want to observe. Wearing sneakers and having jogging attire may be good for some participants.

## Project URGE Recognized as "Faith Community of the Year" by Catholic Family Center

Each year Catholic Family Center recognizes a faith community that has provided outstanding support and service to the agency, one of its departments or a program. The 2004 "Faith Community of the Year" award was given to Project URGE for all of the support provided in many different ways to the Homeless and Housing Services Department.

Bill Keenan, Director of Fund Development and Community Relations for Catholic Family Center, made a presentation of the award at the Project URGE Annual Meeting on March 20.

Ruth Fischer, Volunteer Coordinator, CFC's Department of Homeless and Housing Services, made the nomination on behalf of the clients and staff at Women's Place, Sanctuary House and Francis Center.

Fischer says: "Homeless and Housing Services is very proud to be one of the first ministries that Project URGE supported. Our clients and our organization have benefited in so many ways through the loving support of members and affiliates of Project URGE.

As a volunteer coordinator, I know the first place for me to seek help and support in time of need is to turn to the wonderful people from Project URGE.

I believe that it is through partnerships such as those formed between Project URGE and the ministries you support that is the strongest way to make positive changes in people's lives. We are blessed to receive your gifts of love and service."

Some of the ways you've helped:

- Jacob's Ladder repair and renovation services, which has included painting at Women's Place.
- Coat drive recipients, especially through Crosswinds Wesleyan Church.
- Connection with schools and churches for youth projects, especially related to the 30 hour famine.
- Special meals and weekend meals at all three shelters
- Wrapping, sorting and organizing Christmas gifts.
- Transportation of children to the Kidz Kafe.



## Seeing and Living With Purpose in God's Kingdom

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter -when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

"If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." -

**Isaiah 58:6-10**

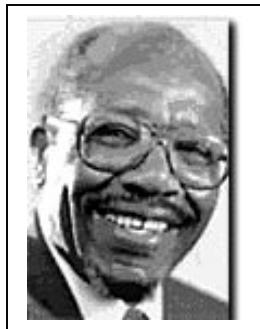
### Reading in the Summer: Community Lutheran Ministry

A structured reading program during Summer Camp that would carry on into the school year is to be developed. There is interest in setting up a **Workshop and Training Program at Community** to help us put together a children's reading program. We need six people to begin the program for our children and families.

Also, Community Lutheran Ministry plans to restart their newsletter. We would like to have the newsletter done by children involved in the After School Program to help make reading, writing, and computer skills more practical and fun. If anyone is interested in helping in any of these areas, please contact Community Lutheran Ministry at **338-2420**.

Thank you for all your support and please continue to keep Community Lutheran Ministry in your prayers.

## WHY DR. PERKINS? WHY CROSS CULTURE? WHY NOW?



### Who is Dr Perkins?

Dr. John M. Perkins is chairman of the John M. Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation and Development. He is a nationally known writer and speaker on these topics, but more importantly, is recognized for his life experiences and his ability to plant seeds and produce fruit in challenging urban areas of Baltimore, Oakland and Chicago.

### Why is Dr. Perkins so important?

A pivotal point in his faith walk was kindled nearly 35 years ago in a Mississippi jail where he was beaten, kicked, near death, and with a gun pointed at his head. He discovered his mission of reconciliation and the need for Christian Community Development. Dr. Perkins, a pastor, community leader, teacher and an engaging speaker is a true pioneer in the faith-based movement.

### Why haven't we heard more about his message?

An article in **Christianity Today** magazine articulates why Dr. Perkins' work has not been given a larger share of the limelight. "This happens under the radar screen of the national media. I think one of the problems with our whole faith-based debate has been that we haven't really listened carefully to what the people doing the faith-based work are actually saying about themselves. It doesn't lend itself nicely to partisan loyalties. There are things that cut against the grain of the Right, and cut against the grain of the Left."

### What will you and I do?

Dr. Perkins opens our eyes and hearts to show a "common ground" for those of us in the Christian community who desire real change in our most burdened neighborhoods. Will we listen? Will we act? Will we consider solutions that are biblically based rather than the highly charged political rhetoric of syndicated talk show programs, leaning left or right, continually dividing and raising barriers? We all know it is easier to trade barbs and blame others than to produce positive change. Positive change doesn't sell. We must change this fact!

### Learn more and be part of the plan.

To affirm positive change can and does happen in communities, we have again invited *Cross Culture*, a teen choir from Baltimore's Sandtown community. This dynamic group of youth and their leaders inspired and awed Concert of Praise attendees last year. This group is a product of the Perkins' initiative for building communities. The changes in Sandtown are real and show through the hearts and voices of the *Cross Culture* teen choir. Sandtown has an arts center, after-school programs, health care facilities and growing businesses, in an area that was labeled the "Harlem" of Baltimore.

Rochester, Syracuse, Buffalo and upstate New York could catch and implement this vision that Dr. Perkins has developed and shared with others as part of his life's work! This is the intention of Project URGE. For the last three years, Project URGE has been laying the groundwork for this to occur in our community. Now is the time!

In an article from a 1995 issue of **Urban Family Magazine**, Dr. Perkins wrote, "Did we change America? Yes. Would I do it again? Yes. But did those changes satisfy the longings that gnaw at my gut? No! As long as violence, hopelessness, moral and spiritual decay exist in our inner cities, I will feel that pain."

We as Christians need to share this burden. **The time is now!**

## Williamson School District REACH Program

Williamson School District coordinated its recent senior high service day through Project URGE. Garry Manuel started off the day by speaking to the over 50 students that signed up for this day of service. He gave students an overview of Project URGE and many of the urban ministries that are affiliated.

Students were bussed to various locations in Rochester. Teams of approximately 5 teen students and several adults spent several hours at various ministries doing a variety of service projects.

Carol Verbridge, coordinator of the Williamson REACH project said, *"What a great day! Absolutely wonderful! Such experiences and what fantastic people - each such a special individual! Thank you so much for the opportunity to take part in these people's lives - the kids loved it!"*

## Project URGE

31 W. Church Street  
Fairport, NY 14450

## The latest news from...Community Lutheran Ministry

The summer is just around the corner and Summer Camp will be from **July 5 - August 15**, with an estimated 125 eager children ready to register.

- **We Need:** Volunteers
- **How They Can Help:** Assist staff with the various activities, crafts and snacks.

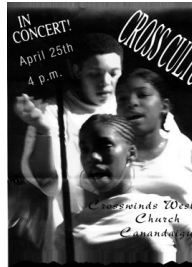
**We're looking For:** Churches who would like to host or sponsor a day of activities.

Activities may include:

- Putting quilts together to send overseas.
- A day at a museum or the science centers.
- A trip to one of the many parks in the Rochester area.
- A day of just fun and creative play.

**Share creative activities from your group.** For example, one church hosted the children for a day and gave them each chalk and asked each one to draw something. Their Church parking lot became a *masterpiece of love*.

This year Crosswinds Wesleyan Church and Church of the Transfiguration have already opened their hearts to the children. We welcome additional supporting churches.



## A Day of Workshops and Praise

Be a part of this spiritually uplifting day!

**Workshops:** 2:00 – 5:15 pm (see descriptions in this newsletter)

**Concert of Praise:** 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**April 23, 2005**

**Bethel Christian Fellowship  
321 East Avenue (near the inner loop)  
Rochester, NY**