



# RCA Missionary Update

## from the Bruces

Barry and Terryl Bruce founded The Way Out Ministries in 1984 to reach the people of Hawaiian Gardens, a small urban area in Los Angeles County that has one of the highest per-capita crime rates in the United States. Many of Hawaiian Gardens' families live in poverty, and many young people turn to gangs for acceptance. Through The Way Out, Terryl and Barry coordinate weekly youth clubs, support groups, Bible studies, and a referral network of service agencies. Terryl is the principal of The Way Out Ministries Christian Academy, a private mission school for low-income junior and senior high school students. Barry is pastor of a church in the community that was planted by The Way Out Ministries in 2003. They have three children, Ryan, Rachel, and Michelle, all of whom are actively involved in ministry.

### California facts:

- Population: 35,485,000
- Size: 2,000 square miles



### MINISTRY

Urban Outreach

### LOCATION

Hawaiian Gardens, California

### PARTNER

The Way Out Ministries, Inc.

### CONTACT

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Dear Friends,

August 2009

The Way Out Ministries had a blessed and eventful summer. It began with a senior adult work group from Twin Falls Reformed Church in Twin Falls, Idaho. The group demolished our old kitchen to make way for an expansion on our church. The group also built a maintenance closet with a pull down staircase and built a huge storage attic (which has since been filled), and partially renovated our sound room before saying goodbye. Soon afterwards, another adult work group (with one high school girl) from Central Reformed Church in Sioux Center, Iowa, came and completed our church expansion, maintenance closet and sound room renovation. They also completed several other smaller jobs. Together, these groups made much needed improvements on our property that we could not have otherwise afforded. We are happy to report that our new church expansion is already filled with people each Sunday! Next year we are going to have to tear out another wall!



*Twin Falls work group*

As our second group was saying goodbye, we were literally making way for several hundred people from our community to participate in our annual open house, Si Se Puede. Free food, drinks, live music and inflatable activities kept youth busy as adults discovered many helps and free network services. Families were blessed with free haircuts, make-overs, and medical screenings. Others registered to vote, received legal advice, and registered for social services. At the end of the day, it was Jesus who was praised for all of the free gifts and services. "Because he freely gave, we also give" was the message of the event.



*Starbucks serves at Si Se Puede*

One week passed and then our youth team was off to our annual Summer Camp in the San Bernardino mountains. The sponsored campers had a wonderful time in the great outdoors and many of them came to know Jesus! None of the kids were ready to go home, but our team was,



*Kids enjoying summer camp swimming*

because the next morning our third work group arrived! A senior high and college group from Meredith Drive Reformed

Church (MDRC) in Des Moines, Iowa, immediately flew into action to ready The Way Out Ministries for our annual Summer Fun program. The ministry center was turned into the Wild West by the team, building mining troughs, gold carts, signs, a county jail and painting thousands of rocks gold. The group also passed out hundreds of flyers to excited children in the community, but they would not stay for the week of festivities that they prepared. A second group of high school youth from that same church arrived to take over that part of the plan, and what a time they had! That week children poured into the ministry center like miners to the gold rush. Spirited singing, games, crafts, skits and dinner was served up daily as both the Meredith Drive Reformed Church volunteers and our own church volunteers worked together to provide children with an experience of meeting Christ that was "finer than Gold, pure Gold."

No sooner did we say goodbye to our fourth work group when our fifth group arrived. The state of Iowa had blessed us once again with a Reformed Church group of

artistic young adults from Prairie Ridge led by professional artist and youth minister, Doug Applegate. This group artistically blessed the ministry by making nine permanent signs for the ministry that would have cost us thousands of dollars. They also redecorated the fellowship area at our church into an old mission format which included painting the entire ceiling and putting on molding and fake ceiling joists.



*Prairie Ridge dramatically teaches kids*

There remains but a few summer programs and then we are rushing full steam into the Fall. A new school year at Turner Christian High School, and our weekly youth programs returning to their regular schedules. A baptism this Sunday at The Gathering is the reward for our labors. Twenty-two will be immersed in that worship service, and many more in times to come. Our out of state friends won't be here then, but their contributions are seen and felt just the same. The body of Christ building the kingdom together; what a beautiful summer it has been and what an awesome God we have the privilege of serving!

Barry

*To access extensive information about the Bruces and The Way Out Ministries, or to make a financial gift for this ministry, simply go to [www.rca.org/bruce](http://www.rca.org/bruce).*

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