

# Metro Ministries of Mobile

Casting a life line to the inner city

August 2011

## Fun in the Son



**Teams and volunteers present gospel message through black light, drama and music**



**Competitive water balloon games, the waterslide, snow cones and a water balloon toss in the sweltering heat helped cool everyone involved.**



Pastor Randy and Betty Adams, Clio, brought their youth ministry and outreach team. Pastor Ramsey, Irvington, underwrote the food for the day.

Fun in the Son was a team effort of Crosswalk Adventures led by Paul and Michelle Stokley, a local children's outreach ministry and a host of volunteers. They led the ministry and fun four weeks. The last week a mission team conducted a similar children's service. At the end every child was individually prayed for and presented a New Testament.

A huge thank you to all volunteers who served this summer. May God richly bless you as you are answered prayer.

## Words from the director...

Our summer has literally flown by. We were honored to have Crosswalk Adventures Team bless our kids. Michelle did an outstanding job of leading children's ministry through music, drama, games, and stories from their huge black light stage setting. Their team brought a giant-size water slide and had the kids participating in crazy water games. They were an answer to prayer in many ways as they are local and can minister week after week.

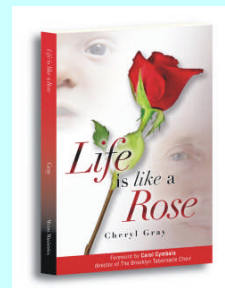
Another mission team led by Betty Adams, went out to the Roger Williams community on a Friday evening and met some of our kids. Saturday morning they ministered in music, drama, games, and storytelling with black lights and puppetry. Our kids seemed spellbound by this team because many of the kids leading were their own age. (Pictured at right)

While we were so blessed to have outreach teams this summer, our hearts are heavy as we witnessed our close friend and world missionary to the Dominican Republic, Freddy L. Cooper, transfer to his heavenly home. A tribute in his honor is enclosed in this mailing.

On the back page is an article that will encourage many of you who faithfully support our Adopt-a-Plane Ministry. We will be incorporating some of the concepts the Tuskegee Airmen stood for during World War II in our fall classes. Pray with us that through their stories we can challenge our young people to strive for excellence in the career choices where the Lord leads them. Our city has experienced a rise in murders, thefts and home invasions in the first six months of 2011. Mayor Sam Jones has asked many of the pastors, outreach ministries and agencies in our city to network our efforts working with children and youth. Our children need guidance to stay in school and graduate. Your prayers and monthly support helps us influence them.

## Women's Enrichment

Cheryl has a passion to encourage women to rise above life's challenges in the power of Christ. She shares principles from her book, *Life is like a Rose*, to help women see themselves as Christ sees them. Give us a call to schedule a ladies breakfast or brunch on a Saturday and a mission's window on a Sunday Morning for your monthly missions emphasis. It will help stimulate your people to see America as a mission field...her neighbors, her community and her country.



[www.lifeislikearose.com](http://www.lifeislikearose.com)

### Praise:

1. Thanking God for children who have made a commitment to Jesus
2. Thanking God for volunteers who have been involved weekly
3. Thanking God for ministry teams and your faithful financial provision

### Prayer:

1. Our students as they head back to school this month.
  2. Discipleship classes resuming
  3. We need committed volunteers from August to December
  4. For protection of our families in the escalating violence in our city
- Thank you for your continued prayer and support,

Bill and Cheryl Gray,  
U.S. Missionaries to Mobile's inner city

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**Bill and Cheryl Gray**  
U.S. Missionaries to inner city children and youth Assemblies of God Church Planting and Development



# In honor and loving memory of Freddy Cooper October 11, 1947 - July 15, 2011

**Freddy Cooper, Assembly of God World Missionary to the Dominican Republic**, exchanged his earthly address for his heavenly home July 15, 2011.

Freddy and Paula were married forty seven years. He served six years in the United States Navy and was employed as an electrician until his retirement. All his life he served his Lord at home, in church, in his community and around the world. More recently, he was a missionary associate serving in Costa Rica three years and received full mission's appointment to the Dominican Republic in 2009.

One of the mission fields he loved was right here in Mobile's inner city. Freddy and Bill met in a hotel lobby in Tegucigalpa, Honduras on a mission trip in the late '90's. They have been like brothers ever since. Freddy and Paula began making mission trips to Metro Ministries that summer. They accompanied us to Waterville as adult sponsors with our kids.

From 1985, Freddy served as the missions director of his local church Vincent Revival Center, Vincent, Alabama, and led many teams to Central American countries. He led teams to Metro Ministries where they did children and youth outreaches, daycamps, construction and all kinds of repairs. During the summer of 2002, he coordinated all of our mission teams who came to serve. Freddy was an accomplished artist and taught the kids how to draw during a daycamp craft class. There was nothing Freddy wasn't able to fix. He was a master at helping out with our computers, artwork, newsletters and public relations exhibits. He worked tirelessly behind the scenes bringing several teams to help with food, water, supplies and repairs following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

We've had many missionaries, pastors and team leaders come through our ministry in the past twenty three years. There's never been a servant so willing to lay his life down for the gospel of Jesus Christ as this brother. Bill and Cheryl have truly lost a brother in the work of the Lord and heaven is rejoicing to have welcomed him home.

Freddy is probably wincing at seeing this article because he was such a humble man. He never wanted you to even mention anything he did nor did he or Paula ever want to be recognized. We only mention it today to honor him because we have learned from a true servant who walked among us and lived an exemplary life for Christ, prayed for us and financially supported us.

Our kids have been faithfully praying for Freddy for over two years since he and Paula received appointment. They know him very well and ask about him all the time. He made a huge impression on them for Christ. May we all follow his example.

If you'd like to drop a comforting card or note to Paula, here is her address:  
584 Country Church Road, Harpersville, AL 35078.

**With love and prayers to Paula, your sons David and Jeff, and their families, Freddy's mother, Reba Hamby and all your extended family. We love you from Metro Ministries in Mobile, Alabama.**



**Freddy leaves to cherish his beautiful wife, Paula**



While Freddy and Paula were itinerating, they took time to tell our teen boys class what it's like to be called by God to serve Him full time in another country. He explained the country, customs and the type of work they would be doing once they arrived.



Paula and Freddy pictured with Grandma Pearl, one of our beloved grandmas who Paula helped paint her kitchen one summer.

# Men of Honor and Integrity

Bill and Cheryl were privileged to spend a day at the 2011 Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture, Oshkosh, WI as they were celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary. We never dreamed we would personally meet two historical military leaders that helped to change American history. These are examples we will bring to our students in the Adopt a plane outreach ministry.

**Robert A. “Bob” Hoover:** (born Jan. 24, 1922) is a former air show pilot and U.S. Air Force test pilot, known for his wide-brimmed straw hat and wide smile. Bob is often referred to as “the pilot’s pilot”. In 1944, on his 59th mission, Bob’s plane was shot down off the coast of southern France, and he was taken prisoner. He spent sixteen months at the German prison camp. He managed to escape from the camp, stole an enemy plane and flew safely to the Netherlands.

Bob is best known for his civil air show career with his P-51 Mustang Fighter he named “Ole Yeller.” Bob has personally known such great aviators as Orville Wright, Eddie Rickenbacker, Charles Lindberg, Neil Armstrong and Chuck Yeager. It was definitely an honor for Cheryl and me to hear Bob share his life experiences.

**Colonel Charles E. McGee:** (born Dec. 7, 1919) a Tuskegee Airman, who fought in World War II, in Korea and in Viet Nam. He holds the record for the highest three-war total of fighter combat missions of any pilot in U.S. Air Force history. In his remarkable military career, he earned the Legion of Merit with Cluster, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star and the Air Medal an amazing twenty five times. After retiring Col. McGee devoted himself to numerous great causes, particularly those encouraging young people to achieve. On March 29, 2007, he and other surviving Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the most distinguished award bestowed by the United States Congress.

It was such an honor to meet Colonel McGee. With his tender, kind and loving smile, you see the love of Jesus in him. He took his time with us and made us feel like we knew him for a long time as we told him we were inner city missionaries in Mobile, Alabama. I said, “Col. McGee, we may never have an opportunity to see you again, but we will spend eternity together.” He smiled and agreed.

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We heard Bob Hoover, 89, (Pictured center) recount the story of his prisoner of war experience in Germany and how he escaped enemy camp. Ole Yeller pictured behind.



**Tuskegee Airman P-51 Mustang**



Bill and Cheryl with Col. Charles E. McGee, with a signed copy of his autobiography, *Tuskegee Airman*, 4th edition.