

UPDATE

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***“Our fingerprints
don’t fade from the
lives we touch.”***

Fingerprints

This quote inspired the theme of our recent Rise & Shine Breakfast fundraiser and reflects the lasting impact we can have on one another, especially the influence our StreetLeaders and staff have on the next generation.

At the event, I shared a powerful story about Justin, who began attending our programs at age 5. Life at home was not normal—his mother struggled with a drug addiction, and he experienced things no child should. But while at camp, life was normal, he found love, joy, fun, and safety. When he was 12, he moved away, and we lost contact.

At 25, after hitting rock bottom, Justin remembered his time at

UPT—especially the love and care from his camp leaders. He opened a Bible that his camp leader had given him and started reading it for the first time. God’s love leapt off the pages. Longing for that love again and experiencing what he had at UPT, he joined a church, got saved, baptized, and is now serving.

Justin’s story is a powerful reminder that God’s fingerprints, through the actions, words of others, can leave a mark that endures.

I am reminded of 1 John 4:19. *“We love because He first loved us.”* As we are impacted by Jesus’ love, we, in turn, love others out of the abundance of grace and love we received.

This summer, we are excited about raising incredible StreetLeaders to reach 150 children with the love of Jesus in simple and fun ways that will impact them beyond what we can imagine.

Thank you for your prayers, giving, and volunteering. It is leaving a lasting fingerprint across generations.

Grace & peace



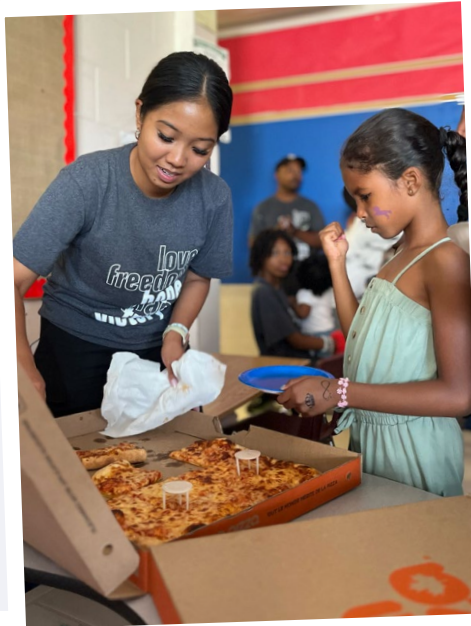
Shawn James
Executive Director

OUR COMMUNITIES

CAMP TRUTH

—Kim, Ministry Supervisor

I have been a ministry supervisor at Camp Truth for almost two years, and it has truly been a blessing to be part of the Glamorgan community! Building connections with the kids, youth, and their families through love, patience, and faith has not only deepened my understanding of God's grace but also allowed me to witness His work in their lives. Recently, one of our StreetLeaders came up to me



and shared how much camp has meant to him, especially during his final year of high school. He expressed heartfelt gratitude for the support he's felt over the years — and what touched me deeply was when he invited me to attend his graduation. It was a beautiful reminder that when we pour into others with love and faith, God allows us to witness the fruit of that investment in powerful ways—just like Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." It has been an incredible privilege to walk alongside our StreetLeaders and simply being there to listen, encourage, and celebrate their victories is incredibly meaningful. A true reflection of God's steadfast love and faithfulness in action.



CAMP HOPE

—Jessica, Ministry Supervisor

My name is Jessica, and I am the Ministry Supervisor for the Kids Program at Camp Hope. As we wrap up the academic year, I am thankful to God for all the ways He has been blessing the kids through our afterschool program. For example, one new family of four children has recently joined Camp. This family is a single-parent-led household that was referred to us by another agency. The parent is a believer, but it can

be difficult for her to meet all her children's needs on her own. God has allowed us to minister to this family by welcoming them to our community, helping the mother with food assistance through Second Harvest, and also providing academic support for the kids. Most of all, we have been able to participate in the children's spiritual development by sharing the gospel with them regularly, and also by praying with them as they learn to communicate with the Lord.

CAMP HOPE

—Michael, Ministry Supervisor

Hello! My name is Michael and I have been given the honor and privilege to serve as a Ministry Supervisor at Camp Hope for the Jr. High program. I started in January 2025, which is recent, but in this short time, I have seen God move in ways that are more abundant than all that I could ever ask or think. My heart is all for the proclamation of the Gospel, and one aspect of proclaiming something is answering questions (which I love). One of my

StreetLeaders came up to me one evening and asked me my thoughts on struggles relating to sin and how to overcome them. We had such a beautiful conversation where we spent time talking about the issues of sin and how, through the death and resurrection of Christ, sin and death have lost their power over us, and when we come to believe that wholeheartedly, our belief serves as fuel for our actions. I could see in his face that he was challenged as we left. I am forever grateful for this opportunity to serve as God's hands and feet here in this world.



SPOTLIGHT

“Painting with Purpose” – A conversation with Achim Fontinelle (Camp Name - Sketch)

From hesitant StreetLeader to artistic visionary, Achim shares how faith, creativity, and community transformed his journey at UrbanPromise.

Q1: When did you first become a StreetLeader, and how did that experience shape you? I got employed as a StreetLeader about six years ago through Chris (Then Community Director). I didn’t realize it at the time, but that was the beginning of my journey toward truly getting to know God. At first, I was quiet and introverted, and the role pushed me way outside my comfort zone — leading children, being high-energy, stepping up in ways I never imagined. But over time, I began to embrace it, and with each day, I grew in confidence, leadership, and my walk of faith.

Q2: What’s your passion, and how did that come alive during March Break? Art has always been my thing — drawing, painting, creating. I saw the March Break micro grant as a chance to bring something special to camp. Instead of just painting on paper, we painted on everything — shoes, shirts, even random objects! I wanted it to be wild, fun, and memorable. And the kids? They absolutely ran with it. They weren’t afraid to try new things — they went all in.

Q3: How did the kids respond to the painting project? It was amazing. I watched them light up as they got creative — asking questions, trying new ideas, and cheering each other on. There was no fear of “not being good enough.” Everyone’s art had value. That’s what made it powerful — it wasn’t about perfect technique; it was about expression and freedom. That’s the kind of space I always want to create.



Q4: What were some of the challenges you faced leading this initiative? One big challenge was helping the 50 plus kids understand why this mattered. I knew the impact creativity could have, but getting them to see that — to really understand it — took effort. I also had to work on time management and planning. I had great support from my peers/ fellow StreetLeaders and UPT Leaders. But once things clicked, it flowed. I saw them take ownership, and that made it all worth it. I had great support from my peers and UPT Leaders.



Q5: How has UrbanPromise shaped your faith journey? Before UrbanPromise, I knew *about* God — but not God *Himself*. Church was just routine. It wasn’t until I joined this program that I heard about having a personal relationship with God. That idea felt foreign at first, but over time — through UrbanPromise staff mentorship, Bible studies, and just being part of this community — it became real. UrbanPromise planted seeds that I still carry today. My walk with God is still growing, and it’s not easy, but now it’s personal.

**RUN FOR
PROMISE**
WALK. RUN. FUNDRAISE

RUN FOR PROMISE 2025

Join us as we walk, run and fundraise to support kids aged 5-14 with tutoring, numeracy and literacy skill development, experiential learning, opportunities for sport and other recreation and most importantly, Biblical teaching and retreats.

In-Person: October 18–19

Virtual: October 1–30 — run or walk anywhere and anytime!

You can join for free, create your own team, or support a runner. Every step makes a difference. **Learn more and sign up at:**

urbanpromise.com/run

SUMMER CAMP IS IN FULL SWING

THANKS TO OUR FRONTLINE MINISTRY TEAM



UrbanPromise Toronto's Ministry Supervisors are on the ground every day — leading camps, mentoring youth, guiding Bible studies, and building life-changing relationships with children and families in Toronto Community Housing neighborhoods.

These frontline leaders are the heart of our ministry, serving not only in the summer but year-round — faithfully walking with youth through challenges, victories, and spiritual growth.

But they can't do it alone.

You can empower them by becoming a Promise Partner.

With a monthly gift of **\$36 or more**, you'll allow our staff to spend less time raising funds and more time doing what they're called to do — ministering to the next generation. **Your support makes their mission possible.**

Become a Promise Partner today!

urbanpromise.com/promisepartner

OUR MISSION >

To reach children in Toronto Community Housing with the love of Jesus, and raise them into leaders, who restore their community.



REACH
A CHILD,

RAISE
A LEADER,

RESTORE
COMMUNITY.

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