



CGM

common ground montgomery

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[cgmlife.org](http://cgmlife.org)



@cgmlife

2015

March - April

newsletter



# after school program



The mentoring program is now underway! Within the past two months we've had three mentoring interest meetings. Potential mentors came out to Common Ground Montgomery to hear more concerning the importance of having one-on-one long term mentoring relationships and how it may change the trajectory of a child's life.

For us, mentoring is literally life or death.

After eight years of ministry we have seen many youth come and go. Sadly there are many examples of youth who, for different reasons, decided to no longer participate in CGM programs. Those extra hours that they weren't with



Kevin King

# mentoring program

us or somewhere else being productive provided them opportunities to get exposure to certain activities that didn't benefit them.

Lives have been destroyed as a direct result of not having that extra needed support. I'm honestly tired - drained and at many times discouraged - seeing youth who have made unwise decisions that have led to jail or death.

Mentoring in no way replaces parents and guardians, but partners with them in a way that places a bigger support structure in that child's life in order to increase the chance of that child flourishing in life.

We are looking for men and women who are willing to give up only a few hours out of your month to partner with us and ensure the safety, success, and transformation of our youth. Even though they are involved in our programs there are more youth at CGM than we could ever individually disciple and invest in. Without the help of others who will decide to provide this needed support for our youth they have a higher chance of slipping through the cracks and destroying their lives.

Are you willing to help us? Will you free a few hours a month to enter into a relationship that will impact the lives of our youth? For those who would want to commit to being a part of making a Kingdom impact in a child's life through mentoring we have an upcoming Mentor training Saturday March 14 from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Please email me at [kevin@cgmlife.org](mailto:kevin@cgmlife.org) if you would like to hear more.



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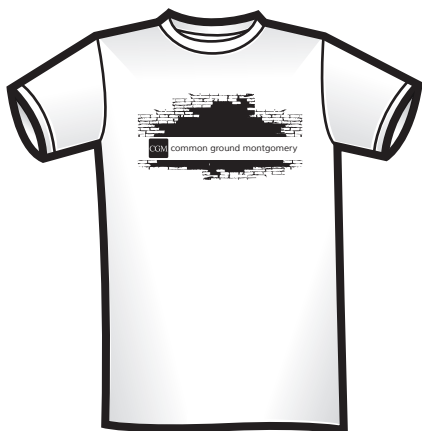
# become a monthly donor!

Monthly giving is an extremely convenient and meaningful way to support CGM. Your monthly gift offers a reliable stream of income to our organization and allows us to provide much needed programs to the Washington Park neighborhood. Plus, this is an easy way to give as well as budget your annual giving. Sign-up once and don't think about it for the rest of the year!

By March 31, 2015, become either a \$25 donor monthly donor and receive a CGM t-shirt, or a \$50 (or more) monthly donor and receive a CGM t-shirt and CGM tumbler!

Because of your generous contribution, CGM will be able to:

- Provide room in the After School Program for over 100 children at no cost to their families
- Send enrolled students to summer camp for 8 weeks
- Support their spiritual and emotional development through bible studies and the Purity Study
- Match youth with loving and positive mentors
- Offer a safe haven for youth to be removed from the destructive influences of the streets.



Proposed design. Subject to change. Colors will vary.

visit [cgmlife.org/donate](http://cgmlife.org/donate) to get started

\*When donating online, please specify your preferred size in the comments box. Ensure that the address entered can receive packages. Items will not be mailed outside of the continental US. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. For additional questions, please contact Summer Williams at: [summer@cgmlife.org](mailto:summer@cgmlife.org)



volunteers from huntingdon college's interfraternity council's greek day of service came out for an afternoon of games and crafts





Bryan Kelly

Almost nine years ago we founded Common Ground Montgomery with "restoration" in mind. We were called to locate in Washington Park/Gibbs Village as our geographical focus, but restoration in every area of the lives of all who choose to participate in this ministry is the hope and prayer of our staff. We assume much and trust God for much.

We assume that we ALL need to be restored and that this is a life-long process and that God is so powerful and big that He can do whatever He wants, when He wants, and how

## restoration is our goal

He wants. We assume that every person that chooses to get involved (staff, pastors, donors, teachers, volunteers, board members, mentors, friends, family, neighbors) have deep, broken, messed-up places in their inner lives that need restoration. We believe He has chosen to use as primary instruments broken, weak, needy, humble people and the relationships they enter into as the ground for His powerful work and transformation.

Restoration is not necessarily the same thing as good programs, busy ministry initiatives, self help, disciplined lifestyles, education, accumulation of wealth and status, and/or success; it is more.

When we talk about restoration some people act like it's something to "go back to" - like speaking of times 40 or 50 years ago when the community was not violent, when people left their doors unlocked and kids were disciplined by parents and community alike. Some talk of getting back to "what this country was founded on" and argue restoration to a Christian nation. But in every generation massive injustice, sin, and oppression was practiced to and by many, notably even those who claimed Christ.

Restoration is more than relative peace, safety, and diminished mass shootings, crime, and terrorism. God says, through Paul, that he is restoring to the rightful places love, relationships, marriage, sex, language, money; ALL things.

This is the goal. It matters that kids have access to the opportunity and healthy environment for their development into the creative and equipped Images of God that they were made to be.

Restoration is absolutely NOT a short term thing.

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It's why "door-to-door evangelism", or "drive-by evangelism", is not enough - great and needed as it is, but only a beginning at best.

Restoration into the redeemed image of God is the goal.

People experiencing restoration are the kind of people who love as they have been loved; nothing else will be enough. Those kind of people and families cross all lines and move toward others in humility who won't move towards them (because nothing else will be enough: no government reconciliation policies, no calling the "other side" out through social media, and no mainstream media rhetoric will ever be enough). I am grateful for the actions of policy makers and non-violent protests because they have accomplished great systemic change, which is needed, but it will be ineffective by itself in changing the hearts of people.

Only God's work, in the hearts of people who are able to move towards one another in deep humility will accomplish Kingdom trajectory changes. This is where restoration comes in. God chooses to do this, I earnestly believe, in real relationships.

He is after utter wholeness.

He is after deep change. He is after bringing light and His presence into the deepest, darkest, most hidden, most defended, and most broken parts that we still all have as followers and "saved" people.

These are the relationships we seek to create through living in this community, through creating space for friends, family, teachers, tutors, coaches, mentors, kids, adults, different races, different cultures, and those with all kinds of different Christian traditions, to be together and to truly connect in consistent and lasting time together; to be restored together. It is so painful at times. It is so sad and frustrating. But, my friends, it is so very worth it.

I think this is what Jesus notes as "fruit that will last," at least, as we abide in Him and abide together. We will not have heaven here, of that I am sure. But I think we can have so much more than the poverty we all have accepted. What if there are, in increasing measure, beautiful expressions and experienced glimpses of the Kingdom of God that serve as a growing foretaste of what's coming on that future glorious Day?

Thank you for helping us create space, time, and an environment where God is doing beautiful things among us. Your partnership is deeply necessary and the chosen instrument God is using. You are literally: called, sent, and the very answer of our prayer. May God continue to bless your help and sacrifice.