

# Beau and Teagan's Mission Year



Dear Family and Friends,

December 2006

A few weeks ago I was at the store with Eddie and an employee was extremely mean to Eddie. The only possible reason for it was that the employee thought he was better than Eddie because Eddie is hard to understand and his clothes aren't nice. I was right beside him. I should have confronted the mean employee but I stood silent. I felt bad about it but later I got another opportunity. This time with CJ. He was taking us to a Thrasher's game and a black guy asked my housemates Ben and Aaron if they wanted to buy any tickets. CJ told them to just keep walking and the guy said, "Nigger, I wasn't talking to you." I told the guy not to be mean to our friend and that he was with us. I was glad to be able to stand up for him, even if it didn't make that much difference.

A housemate told me she feels like she has to prove to me she's trying to interact with neighbors. I didn't realize I was judgmental but my judgementalism is affecting the entire house. Another housemate confronted me about telling my problem with her to our city director before telling her. I should know better than that. "My grace is sufficient for you; my power is made perfect in weakness" says the Lord. I'm not quite sure how His power is being made perfect with this weakness but I guess I should trust Him. Later they told me they were grateful for how quickly I apologized and appreciated that I was sincere about changing. I guess that is Christ's power being made perfect. It was only through His power that I could sincerely apologize.

CJ's neighbors were surprised he went to church with us. He's been involved in drugs for a while but he says he's ready to stop. He thinks God sent us into his life to help. We invited CJ over for dinner. We also invited Fred, a guy we recently met playing basketball, over for dinner. I was caught off guard to find out Fred was extremely emotionally and spiritually mature, and also wise. I hadn't met any people like that in this neighborhood. Well, Fred is successfully dealing with his struggles with drugs and alcohol and was able to encourage CJ while at our house. It was cool that we could play a part in that.

I was really encouraged by one of the inmates I visited for my job at the Georgia Justice Project. He had a very positive attitude (actually, many of the inmates have relatively good attitudes) and prison was having a very good impact on him. He said that he was becoming more humble and learning to trust God more. He seemed very sincere about his desire to seek God. He went to prison for possession of cocaine but is in a rehab program in the prison and was definitely on the right track. He has also been writing encouraging letters to his son and I encouraged him to invest more into his relationship with his wife.

While at work at Buckhead Christian Ministries I saw a woman who was recently blinded, and needed help with rent. I could not help her with her rent, but I was able to give her some food that was very much needed. It was so hard to turn her away, because she didn't have an appointment for financial assistance. But God provided!! She was able to get an appointment, and was assisted with her rent. I saw her two weeks later, and even though I couldn't provide the money she needed, she was so grateful for the food, and told me what they had eaten the night before, food that BCM had given her.

Also at BCM there has been a Christmas program that gives toys to families who need them. It's been a great feeling to give parents vouchers for brand new nice toys, to take some of the burden out of the holiday season. Also, we're giving away Christmas hams to people who need them.

A family down the street just had puppies! And they are so cute. It's been a great reason for us to visit with them. We've been gathering Christmas gifts for people in our neighborhood, and it's been fun sharing the holidays with our neighbors. I wasn't expecting it, but some of the houses have elaborate light up and everything. So even though it's warm and there is no snow, I've still felt the Christmas spirit down here in Atlanta.

We have raised 27% of our support. Most of it is one-time donations. We would like to encourage you to become a monthly supporter. Any amount of money would help. Just \$20 per month would help us tremendously. You can send your tax-deductible contributions, made payable to DOOR, to 430 West 9th Ave, Denver, CO 80204. Just write our names and "Atlanta" on the memo lane of the check. We would really appreciate it.

One part of the Mission Year program is writing weekly reflections. I am going to post some of the interesting stories from the week online for your reading pleasure. Because I know that the monthly newsletter is not enough for you. You want more, I can tell. Also, soon I'm going to make a video about our experience doing Mission Year. Check out [www.beauvine.net](http://www.beauvine.net) for the updates.

Much Love,

Beau and Teagan Carnes  
759 Jones AVE, Atlanta, GA 30314

[beaucarnes@gmail.com](mailto:beaucarnes@gmail.com), [teagancarnes@gmail.com](mailto:teagancarnes@gmail.com) 231.629.2934