



Mission Year / DOOR Partnership



Dear Family and Friends,

September 2005

As many of you already know, and some of you may be hearing for the first time, we are now living in Atlanta, Georgia serving with Mission Year Married! As we write this we are beginning to settle into our new home and neighborhood. We are very excited to be in our new neighborhood, which is called Peopletown. We live in south Atlanta, only a couple of blocks from Turner Field (where the Braves play baseball) and just over a mile from downtown. The location of our home is wonderful for getting around using the public transportation system (MARTA), which we are still learning to use. We are also blessed to be attending a wonderful church called Community Bible Chapel. We have been welcomed with many hugs, a lot of encouragement, and services that have already enriched our lives. We are very glad to be part of such a sincere and faithful church community.

We are sharing a house with two other couples, Caleb & Ashlee and Diane & Drew (left to right in the picture below taken on our front porch – we are on the far left). So far, the transition into community living has been very smooth. We all get along very well and have a lot in common. We have spent a lot of time these first few weeks sharing stories and exploring our neighborhood and the city together. We will share more about our wonderful teammates in our next newsletter.



We are almost finished with our training period and we will soon begin serving full time at a volunteer service site during the weekdays and getting to know our neighbors in the evenings and on the weekends. Steve will be volunteering with a non-profit organization called the Wesley Community Center. This organization repairs homes belonging to inner city residents who are unable to afford necessary repairs. Steve's volunteer work will consist of repairing/replacing roofs, basic plumbing and electrical repairs, drywall, painting and occasionally some yard work. Steve is very excited to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Becca is still undecided in where she will choose to serve for the year. At this point she is leaning towards spending the mornings volunteering at a program serving the homeless downtown and then returning to the neighborhood to help in an after-school program. Please keep her in your prayers as she makes this decision in the next couple of weeks. Stay tuned to our next newsletter to learn where she has chosen to serve and see how Steve is enjoying his site.

When we are not volunteering at our service sites we will be spending a lot of time in our neighborhood getting to know our neighbors and participating in community activities. We are just beginning to meet people in our community and learning about the obstacles they face. The daily struggles of many here are very real and evident when walking around. Poverty and addictions are just the visible challenges; we know we will learn more of the unseen struggles as we build relationships with our neighbors. We have been welcomed warmly by many people so far and look forward to meeting others. One of the people we've met and are beginning to get to know is a man named Jerome. Jerome is very friendly however he struggles with alcoholism. He spends much of his day walking up and down our street and therefore was one of the first

Love God. Love People. Nothing else matters

people we met. Last week we had the pleasure of having a birthday party for Jerome on our front porch. We weren't sure if he would come, but he was not a minute late that evening for baked ziti and conversation. Shortly after dinner, the girls brought out a birthday cake and card they had made. Jerome was truly touched that people he'd just met would take the time to make him a cake and card. He said we were going to make him cry. Jerome turned 45 years old that evening. This little gathering on our porch was probably the first birthday celebration he has had in a long time. It was a joy to be able to share this special time with Jerome and we look forward to spending more time with him over this year. We are excited and thankful for this opportunity for God to use us to be His hands and feet in our neighborhood. We are so grateful for the support you all have provided and are so glad that we can join together to serve those in need.

We are very excited to share with you that Mission Year Married has decided to partner with another ministry here in Atlanta called DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection). It is a very similar program to Mission year and the organizations

BELOW: Our house which has been newly revitalized.

decided that it would be beneficial to partner together and combine resources. DOOR provides us with extra assistance in volunteer placement and provides better health insurance as well. Jeff Delp, the DOOR director in Atlanta has provided wonderful support for our team and has also helped Steve find a volunteer site that fit with his desires for service. Due to this partnership, our financial support should now be sent to DOOR. Please send any donations to DOOR and place it in the addressed envelope to 430 West 9th Avenue, Denver, CO 80204. Please disregard our account number we provided in our previous letter and instead put our name in the memo line of the check. Thank you for understanding this change in our financial support. We are excited to partner with the DOOR and look forward to the opportunity to be a part of two wonderful programs that are working here in Atlanta. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns (or just to say hello) about this partnership. Also we will have an update posted on the Mission Year website (www.missionyear.org).



We are so blessed to have such wonderful support from our family and friends! Thank you for joining with us to be a part of what God is doing in the Atlanta! We couldn't do this without your financial and prayer support, we are more grateful than we can express! We are excited to share this wonderful experience with you through the year and know that God has a lot more to teach us about His heart for those in need and how we can best serve and love those around us every day. We look forward to sharing this amazing opportunity with you.

We appreciate your ongoing prayers as we continue to adjust to life in the inner city, choose our service sites and meet our neighbors. Thank you again and may God bless each of you!

In His service,

Steve & Rebecca Niederfringer

911 Hank Aaron Drive SW, Atlanta, GA 30315 ~ 404-521-9723 ~ stevebecca2001@yahoo.com

Love God. Love People. Nothing else matters