

January 2009

# Urban Harvest Ministries

*Dr. Tom and Lidia Grassano, urban missionaries*



## ***Being a Part of the Miracle***

Saturday was a special day. My son Tommy wanted to go to Toys-R-Us in Times Square. He had a gift card and a list. As we entered the train, a tall, kind-looking young man got in behind me. I began a conversation with him. Armando has three children, including one step son he has raised since he was five months old. Armando really wants to be a good father. Tragically, this is far too often a rarity in the inner city.

I saw very quickly that Armando was hungry for God and that God's providence had landed me beside him on the train that day. We spoke about fatherhood, children, and injustice in our community. I then turned the conversation to the importance of raising children to honor God. He recognized how important it is. I invited him to *The Harvest Center*. Armando said he would be there. But many have said the same and never showed up.

*The Harvest Center* began filling with people that Sunday. Then Armando walked in with his wife Tabitha and their 3 children. They had walked more than two dozen NYC blocks in the ice and snow. I ran to greet him with a hug.

Armando sat attentively, soaking up the children's Christmas presentation and the word about wise men following the light, bowing in worship, and bringing their treasures to Jesus. He was one of the first of 9 adults and 6 children who came to the altar to receive Christ Jesus as their personal Savior.

This is why we do what we do. We conduct outreaches, equip churches, empower leaders and serve the body of Christ to become a force of change in the inner city. ***We do all of these things because of one soul.*** One person who needs Christ. One person whose heart is open and ready to hear the Truth. One Armando who wants to find peace, hope, and the Truth for himself and his family.



We pray that Armando's 5-year-old son, Christian, (top) will join the many boys at *The Harvest Center* who are learning the ways of Christ (bottom).



Thank you to the Miller family who sent gifts to the youth and children.

Armando and his family live in a shelter. He is searching for a job. I do not know his "former" life, but chances are he has either little preparation or other reasons employers might not want to hire him. But he has a good heart, and we shall do all that we can to propel him and his family forward.

So many of you have been faithful partners for a very long time. You have been a part of every victory, of every advance in a desperate community, of every Armando and Tabitha. Some of you gave in abundance in December; we are so grateful. *Thank you for reaching souls like these in the inner city.*

I don't like to mention financial needs in our newsletters, but like many others, our situation has become desperate. We need breakthrough in the next month. We have reduced our staff from six to only two. We are praying for a financial miracle in 2009.

You can be a part of that miracle. Pray with us. Continue your faithful support. Share with others about this ministry. If you are not a part of lives and families being changed, become a part now of investing in lives such as these.

By God's grace and provision, we shall continue to bring hope one person and one family at a time. ***With you being a part of the miracle, we know it will happen!***

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