



"I will show you my faith by what I do." James 2:18b

One of the most exciting things to me about Faith and Action is that we are such a diverse ministry. This certainly keeps things interesting on a daily basis. Our efforts range from prison ministry, post prison ministry and prison prevention through all of our children's activities.

Recently I saw on Facebook (good old Facebook!), a great quote that has stuck with me. George Santoyana says, "A child educated only at school is an uneducated child." Faith and Action tries to provide a wide range of life experiences for the kids we are ministering to. Many of "our" kids are not exposed to much outside of their own community. Through our partnership with the By The Hand Altgeld Gardens site, located on the south side of Chicago, and Galilee Baptist Church in Roseland, we have been able to impact countless underserved families. We have done this through Vacation Bible School, monthly meals, homework assistance, special events, etc. Perhaps the favorite part of Faith and Action for me is our urban garden ministry. Through our team of garden volunteers, we now have 20 raised beds located in Crete. Each week, we bring kids from Altgeld Gardens out to Crete to mentor them and teach them some basic gardening skills. We are not only planting seeds in the soil, but in the lives of kids. This year, we hope to have enough extra produce that we can let the kids sell some and learn about the marketplace.

In an effort to expand our ministry, we have started a new ministry called Faith at Work. It is a for-profit subsidiary of Faith and Action. Faith at Work's vision is that through the process of cutting, splitting, and packaging firewood we will provide an opportunity to employ and mentor some of our disadvantaged friends. We are extremely blessed to have a dedicated group of volunteers that not only come out to work each week but are willing to work alongside and mentor people that need another chance in life. If anyone would be interested in helping in our latest venture, please contact us.

As you can see, we are sharing God's love in many physical and spiritual ways. I thank each of you from the bottom of my heart for your support. We covet your prayers and financial support as we move forward.

Rich VanTil, Executive Director



For the Calendar

Check our website for event information and the most up-to-date calendar.

June 1, 8, and 15 —Garden (4-6pm)

June 19—Galilee Church Lunch Distribution

June 22—Garden (9:30-11:30am)

June 27-29—Vacation Bible School in Roseland

July 6—Garden (9:30-11:30am)

July 8—Fishing Day with Crete Youth Group

July 11-15—SERVE Project Days

July 16—Summer Fest

July 17—Galilee Church Lunch Distribution

August 2 & 3—School Supplies Distributed in Hopkins Park

August 21—Galilee Church Lunch Distribution

August 24-26—Vacation Bible School in Roseland

November 17— Annual Banquet

Latest Happenings at Faith and Action



- Check out our new website at www.faithandactiononline.org. Read testimonies, view our event calendar, make a donation, and much more!



- A group of girls celebrated Valentine's Day by enjoying an Italian lunch, devotions about Esther, creating an interpretive dance, and indulging in chocolate fondue for dessert!



- Faith and Action and our friends at Galilee Church distributed hundreds of winter coats and hats to the Roseland Community and we were highlighted on Good Morning America in January!



- Thanks to Walt's Food Centers, kids learned how a grocery store operates behind the scenes. They saw the process of coring a pineapple, slicing salami, breaking down boxes, and making cream pies. Yummy samples were the best part of the tour! Crete Garden Center then hosted us for lunch and the kids used their creativity to paint their own flower pots.



- This Spring, a music theory class began and the kids use rhythm sticks and instruments called boomwhackers to learn rhythms and notes. After this class, our plan is that they will advance to learning an instrument. Keemel, a music student says, "I like band because Mr. Carlos teaches us how to play music and teaches us how to do the right thing before we get into trouble." This program is possible thanks to a donor that has a heart for music and serving others. If you are interested in teaching an instrument this fall, please contact us.



- This is our 3rd season of the urban garden ministry! Volunteers have the opportunity to work side-by-side with kids as they teach them the process of growing vegetables and flowers.



- On our first fishing day of the year, multiple kids and adults caught their first fish ever!



- Pembroke Township Library has been open 2 years and provides a safe place to read, study, use computers, and simply hang out.

- We are excited to partner with Elim Christian Services to provide school supplies for students in Hopkins Park, Roseland, and Chicago Heights community.

- We are always looking for volunteers! Come as a family, group, or individual. We have serving opportunities for all ages.



Contact Information

Rich VanTil, Executive Director
faithandaction.rich@gmail.com
 708-363-2568

Jodi Jonkman, Event Coordinator
faithandaction.jodi@gmail.com
 708-932-8246

Board Members: John Brink, Corey Buchanan, Josh Rietveld, Rachel Ritzema, Nathan Sederstrom, Tiffany Surrel, and Lorri Witvoet



3rd Annual Summer Fest
Saturday, July 16 from 9:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Crete Church located at 24755 S. Country Lane, Crete, IL



This festival is both a celebration and an outreach event. We will celebrate what the Lord has been doing through the ministry and also bless the local community with a family-friendly event. Admission is free but all donations received will be used to benefit the programs that Faith and Action offers for disadvantaged families. Festivities include:

NEW THIS YEAR!

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|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| * Car Cruise | * Bouncy House | * Balloon Artist | * Fresh Ollie Bolen |
| * Touch-a-Truck | * Pony Rides | * Grilled Lunch Items | * Piston Toss Competition |
| * Bake Sale | * Barrel Rides | * Face Painting | |

We are excited to offer the festival, but in order to do so we need your help! Come show off your classic car, bring a piece of your equipment, donate baked items, or give a few hours of your time to assist with the event. For further information or to volunteer, please email faithandaction.jodi@gmail.com. We guarantee you and your family will have fun!