

Impact Houston Church of Christ
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Impact News April 2021

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Our Passion is Jesus Christ...
He compels us to push beyond barriers.

Summer 2021 by Caroline Morales, Impact Children's Minister

I was recently at an Impact high school girls devotional studying Romans 12:2 and how God calls us to be transformed. The girls opened up and some shared really hard, unimaginable things that had happened in their lives, including abuse, homelessness, and mental illness. They also shared, however, how God had transformed them - how He had used their family members, people at Impact, and the Bible to provide them peace and comfort in difficult times.

Lluvia and I (the Children's Ministers at Impact) later realized that we have known 10 of those 12 high school girls since they were in first grade or younger. That means that they, and in many cases their families, have been involved at Impact for at least 10 years. We have seen these girls transform in front of our own eyes! Memories flooded our minds of these little girls running around the halls of Impact, and we marveled at the fact that now as young women they were studying and sharing about how God has worked in their lives in a lasting way. What a wonderful gift God gave to Lluvia and I that day!

This summer our plan is to have summer programs for elementary, middle, and high school age children and teens. We don't know exactly what it will look like as we continue to adjust and follow the changing safety protocols for COVID-19. But we are excited to continue to watch God transform the lives of teens and children in front of our eyes. We are asking you to join us in this journey to share God's word and provide a safe place for our children to be in the summer. We believe that God is working in a meaningful and lasting way at Impact and He will continue to transform lives of not only our children, but also their families this summer. \$175 allows one child to be a part of our summer long program, but every gift makes a lasting impact on the transformative work that God is doing.



Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will. - Romans 12:2

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Campus Changes by Patrick Lemmons

It's an exciting time at Impact! We're slowly but surely returning to normal in our long-time ministries, with the summer youth and children's ministries being planned, bible studies at assisted living facilities being restarted, outreach at Lindale renewing, homeless ministry expanding, and more. We also want to update you on another exciting development.

We recently had the opportunity to reconfigure a few of our buildings on our main campus. Small Steps Nurturing Center, a Christian pre-K serving at-risk children which began out of Impact in the early nineties, has three locations. One of those is their original building, which is on the same block as our main building, and then they have other locations in NE and SE Houston. They decided to sell their original building in order to expand on the northeast campus, and we jumped at the opportunity to acquire a well-maintained building that is in the heart of our existing campus, has a playground, much-needed parking, and is well-designed to house much of our large children's ministry.

Small Steps generously agreed to sell it to us for a friendly price, but we had to sell two of our properties to be able to afford it. One was the small house that has held our Life House recovery program. Fortunately another and larger house on our campus has become available, so that ministry will simply be able to move into it. The other property that we sold is the small lot that had a trailer on it that most recently housed our clothing ministry, and we feel confident that we will be able to continue that ministry using other existing space.

As supporters and partners of everything God is doing at Impact, we felt it was important that you be informed, even about mundane things like buildings being bought and sold! We continue to be so grateful for your support and prayers, and may God bless and use our efforts in new and exciting ways!



Spring break at Impact is always an amazing time of year, and we are so very grateful for our Lubbock Christian and Winnsboro Church of Christ groups who helped us put on a VBS last month, even if it was smaller and outdoors!

A Hero Without a Cape by Carlos Inglés

For those who do not know, our dear sister Margarita, who is 83 years old, was recently assaulted at gunpoint. The person threw her to the ground, she hit her face hard and she is still very sore. Last week when we visited her, her right eye was practically closed due to swelling, and her facial bones were fractured. The heartless man stole her wallet and her cell phone, and although he shot into the air, thank God she wasn't hurt any further.

Our dear sister Margarita is a great example for all of us because of her fidelity to the Lord. In fact she was helping in the garage sale a few weeks ago. And she's been filling food bags for several years and helping out at Impact's Resource Center. For me she is a true role model. For example, when my wife Cindy underwent surgery after having our little daughter, she volunteered to come to the house to visit us. She not only came to visit, though, but also to clean the home. Because of her advanced age, I didn't want to accept her offer, but she told me: "I don't have money to bring you something, so let me do it. It's my way of serving the Lord." For several years she has been my personal friend. I see her as my grandmother in our church. She is a great evangelist, always thinking about how to bring more souls for Christ. In fact, since getting her own car she has brought several visitors to the church.

Our sister Margarita is also a hero to me because this week when we were visiting her and talking with her, she never referred to her assailant in derogatory terms, nor did she want revenge from God. Given the level of violence and her age, anyone would think the most logical thing would be for her to be indignant and ask God to rebuke that man. However, it was the opposite. She told us to pray for him, which we did at that very moment. Heroes are not preachers who speak beautifully or who attract the most attention. True heroes are like her who, having every reason to ask God for vengeance, instead ask for mercy. This sister is a great reminder to all of us that when one desires to serve the Lord there are no limits, despite pandemics, illness and violence.

Last Thursday, the church went out to the street in front of the apartments where Margarita lives and where she was assaulted and peacefully demonstrated against the violence she suffered. This gave the neighborhood an example of solidarity and prayer and even in answer to violence. Last Sunday morning she wanted to be with us and I gladly went to pick her up. What an honor to have Sister Margarita among us. Praise God!

