

# Crossroads Chronicles

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## “Treasurers New and Old”

*Pastor J. Fred Kauffman, Crossroads Board Member*

- In this issue:
- Message from a Board member
- Reflections by Pastor Juan and Miss Darlene
- New initiatives!



Executive Director Juan Marrero now, and below as a 12-year-old preaching at Second Mennonite. As a teen, he took a “detour” into the street “hustle.” Crossroads helped him reclaim his calling.



Below: Miss Darlene on the streets with the “Game and Story Hour.”



**Matthew 13:52** records Jesus’ teaching about “the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” New and old – both valuable! Listen in on reflections between Pastor Juan Marrero, Executive Director, and Miss Darlene Mumbauer, a faithful volunteer since 1968! A Registered Nurse, she worked at St Christopher’s Hospital, but her primary passion was her work at Crossroads.

With years of ministry, Miss Darlene speaks of “old treasures” in her storehouse of memories. Younger and indigenous, Pastor Juan points to “new treasures.”

Juan has been reading our Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws since we want to update them. “I was inspired as I read them,” he told me. (Really! Inspiring by-laws???) “It inspires me that we are still carrying out the original mission, though in different ways. (Treasures old and new)”

“V’ers used to come from outside of Philly to do home repairs—now ex-offenders in Kingdom Builders Construction do that. Social services for seniors and the food ministry continue with Sandra Molina using her Spanish and English. 4H Club continues its life-skills classes, and we still have sports and recreation activities. Most importantly, **Jesus is still the center of it all!**”

Miss Darlene first led the “Game and Story Hour” on the streets 48 summers ago. She leads a game, tells a Bible story and then a missions story. This year, one child that participated was the **great-granddaughter** of Darlene’s former student!

(New and old, indeed!) Darlene delights in hearing from adult “Crossroads kids” who look back on their time at Crossroads as an important part of their early lives. Some still call her for ministry ideas.

“Miss Darlene can hold the attention of kids as she tells Bible stories, using the old-fashioned flannel graph, even in this age of iPads and digital media!” says Juan. “The children that come to Good News Club get a good introduction to the Bible, and if they keep coming for five years they will understand the whole Biblical narrative.”



Game and Story Hour on a stoop

“When I studied at the Center for Urban Theological Studies, my professors thought I had been to Bible College. But I had learned it all from Miss Darlene!”

She remembers Juan as one of the brightest kids in her Sunday School class. He said once, “I know why it got dark on Good Friday. Jesus is the light of the world, and when he died, the light went out.”

Pastor Juan wasn’t the best behaved, though!

“I’ve learned to watch out for the ‘bad kids’ in class,” says Miss Darlene. “They may be God’s choice as leaders for the next generation!”



Pastor Juan on the courts touching the lives of youth who are facing the dark side of urban “street” culture which Juan left behind to follow Christ’s call.

Pastor Juan brings a wonderful gift of attracting capable indigenous leaders. **Pastor Ron Muse** leads the prison ministry. “Mr. T” has brought new ideas and energy to the youth ministry, and **Samir Best** is launching a new music recording ministry. **Ed Jackson** and most of the Kingdom Builders Construction crew are men who moved from prison to good work because Juan connected them.

The (old treasure) “mission to Philadelphia” launched by Eastern District Conference in 1965 is becoming a new treasure, an indigenous ministry in the hood!

Thanks be to God and to you, Jesus’ disciples who have supported this ministry over the past 52 years!

Pastor J. Fred Kauffman  
Co-Treasurer of the Board



Amir Elliott leads G&S hour with Miss Darlene