

The Lordship of Christ

by Cari Willis
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School

In a little café called Potter's House in a little part of Adam's Morgan for a couple of days a week you will find a woman named Dot. Anyone who entered this café would recognize Dot right away from her soft spoken ways and her smile that radiates warmth, acceptance, and love. In fact, one quickly notices that as people come in and out of Potter's House all are known and loved by Dot whoever they are and in whatever life circumstances they find themselves. Dot has been in this community called the Church of the Saviour for over 50 years now. And she told me with a twinkle in her eye that she has six children, nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren, with another one due this month. Life is good!

A Faithful Journey

For a little over an hour I asked Dot to tell me about her life and her time at the Church of the Saviour. Dot first told me about a five week mission trip that she went on with Ministry of Money in 1983. When she told me that she met Mother Theresa after morning prayers on this trip, I realized why this trip was the first one on her mind. Mother Theresa said to Dot "I am so glad I got to see you." Dot was amazed at these sincere and loving words from this great woman of God. But from the moment I met Dot and looked into her sweet, sweet face, I wanted to get to know her, too!

During Dot's several mission trips, she went to places like Amsterdam, Calcutta, Bombay, Hong Kong, Nairobi, Thailand, and Singapore in order to help out different missions in these various areas. Mind you this was when she was 59 years of age! She was able to minister to many handicapped children in Nairobi who had just a few toys made from scraps they had found in the trash, but who were singing with gusto, "God is so good." In the worst slum in the world she met a blind girl who



Dot

was being taught to read using sandpaper that Dot had brought from the US. She sat with and held the hand of those who were dying in a nursing home run by Mother Theresa.

In Thailand she met several families who were living in cardboard boxes for their homes. One would think they would be miserable, but instead the children were laughing and playing inside. She realized through all of these experiences how important showing up was to ministry and how living a life of gratitude as one's basic attitude could change any situation you might find yourself in. Even the simple touch of a hand allowed the other person to know that they were loved and valued.

A Rare History

As an original member and a founder of the Church of the Saviour, Dot told me that she has listened to her pastor, Gordon Cosby for 50 plus years. She said with a quick laugh, "and do you know what Cari? He is a better pastor now than he was when he first started Church of the Saviour - and he was great then!" I realized what a treasure it must be to know your pastor for so many years and to be shepherded by such a visionary thinker as Gordon Cosby.

But what struck me most was when Dot said, "I have lived a wonderful life - believe you me!" Dot literally beamed throughout our entire conversation as she talked about her life's journey. She owes it all to a simple philosophy, "If you say you will bring everything under the Lordship of

New Disciples Arriving

by Dawn Longenecker
Discipleship Year Director

In July, we are winding down and preparing for transition here at Discipleship Year. The 2007/08 group of seven volunteers has had a wild and wonderful time living here in this amazing Church of the Saviour community. You have poured out your love on them and they have been truly blessed...so blessed in fact, that the majority of them are sticking around. They still like you all. Imagine that!

Actually, I too, have fallen in love with this place and understand their enthusiasm. Where else do you have living prophets in your midst? Where else can you go and find so many people trying in such authentic ways to live out Jesus' call to radical discipleship? It's remarkable, really.

On August 24, we welcome in a new group of disciple volunteers. This group is all female! Watch out, here we come, spreading our feminine energy amidst this church community.

The volunteers in this 2008/09 group range in age from 21-59 and include a volunteer from Northern Ireland. They are multitalented as well as being multigenerational...they include **Debby Churchman**, a Quaker peace activist and writer from Arlington, VA who will be working at Jubilee Housing this year. **Jean Brown** is

Christ you will be amazed at what He will do." For Dot this has been her way of living and way of being all of these years. Her life is simply but dramatically defined by what she feels that Christ is asking her to do on a day to day basis. For all of us who know Dot and have experienced the abundant grace of Christ she extends, we know that there is no mistaking Dot's firm belief that "For me, living is Christ." (Philippians 1:21a)

(Dot, as many of our readers know, is Dorothy Cresswell, wife of Frank and a member of the Potter's House Faith Community.)

from Dublin, VA and has been a pastor at New Dublin Presbyterian Church for the past eight years. She will be serving at Joseph's House. **Jalaine Polk** is from Louisville, KY and was raised in the Episcopal Church. Jalaine's experiences include a short term mission trip to Hungary. She will be assigned to Samaritan Ministries, doing case management with low income individuals.

Jessica Wabler is a member of the Roman Catholic Church and grew up in Lancaster, PA. One of the jobs she's held is an internship with the Mayor's Office in Cincinnati, OH. Jessica will be at Academy of Hope. **Judith Currie** is from Northern Ireland. She was brought up Baptist. She studied in Scotland and has experience working in a nursing home and with disabled persons. Judith will be working with low income elderly at the Christian Community Group Homes.

Kelly East, from Charlottesville, VA has been working with an experimental dance theater company. She was raised in the Presbyterian Church and since then has worshipped at an American Baptist Church, a UCC church and a house church. She will be working at the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns. **Micalagh Beckwith** hails from Montclair, NJ, and has been working in inner city Harrisburg, PA with kids and families. She attended a non-denominational church growing up and is currently involved with a Christian Community Church. Micalagh will be serving at Jubilee Jobs.

I'm excited to begin another year with this new group of disciple volunteers. Orientation is scheduled August 24-31 and they begin work on September 2nd. Their 'commissioning service' will be held at 2025 Massachusetts Avenue on Sunday, September 7th. Everyone is welcome to attend. They will also be visiting various Church of the Saviour services during the fall months.

