



CCDA eNews June, 2009



Dear CCDA Family:

I have great respect and appreciation for your commitment to minister in under-resourced neighborhoods all over the world in the name of Jesus. Without a doubt, my greatest privilege as CEO of our association is to travel around the nation and visit many of your ministries.

I am more and more convinced that God is stirring up a movement of Christians committed to the poor—from EVERY sector of the Christian family. We are thrilled to be partnering with a variety of organizations to see our vision accomplished - Christians fully engaged in the work of restoring communities lacking the Shalom of God. Like any great movement, it will take a diverse and broad buy-in from all of us to meet the challenges we face in our nation today. Let me highlight a few of these exciting collaboration efforts:

- In April, many CCDA leaders went to Washington DC to join Sojourners at the Mobilization to end Poverty to focus on advocacy and public policy.
- Also in Washington DC, CCDA held a Mini-Conference in partnership with Nyack College with over 230 leaders in attendance.
- In the Fall of 2009 and Spring of 2010, CCDA will partner with Urban Youth Workers Institute to offer a CCDA 101 workshop at each of their RELOAD events (20 events around the country).
- John Perkins, Wayne Gordon and I gave a plenary address at this year's Moody Bible Institute Pastor's Conference in Chicago that also served as the launching of a new book I have co-edited with Dr. John Fuder entitled, *A Heart for the Community*. This book tells the stories of many CCDA ministries in Chicago.
- I just returned from Nashville where I attended the Christian Community Health Fellowship (CCHF) conference with close to 400 Christians gathered who all have a heart to use health care as a way to minister to the poor. John Perkins, Barbara Williams-Skinner and I spoke and we are building a wonderful partnership with CCHF.
- We are having important conversations with Leadership Foundations of America to explore how we might partner to more effectively serve our CCDA members in select cities.
- DeVos Urban Leadership is sending a group of alumni to spend a week in Jackson, MS with John Perkins this summer, which continues to build our partnership with this great training initiative.
- Our board members recently participated in a conference call with Joshua DeBois, director the White House office for Faith and Neighborhood Partners. CCDA leaders are being looked to for input regarding improving ways that government can partner with faith-based groups.

There are many good connections being made that I believe serve to advance the work of the Kingdom throughout our nation and CCDA is playing a key role in making this happen. Please pray for John and Vera Mae Perkins as they continue to serve and provide us with great leadership. Have a very blessed summer of ministry!

With Much Love and Appreciation,

Noel Castellanos

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2nd Annual National Student Leadership Intensive

**October 22-25, 2009
Cincinnati, OH**

CCDA and World Vision are partnering together to offer this year's Intensive – and event during the National Conference for Student Leaders (ages 16-21) who are committed followers of Christ demonstrating passion, creativity, and proven leadership ability. The goal of the Intensive is to create and position new leaders who will continue living and teaching Christian Community Development.

More details will be coming this month. Start planning now to bring your student leaders!

Senior Center Looking for an Executive Director

The LaSalle Senior Center, a ministry associated with LaSalle Street Church in Chicago, is accepting applications for their Executive Director position. Please send a cover letter and resume to lasalleseniorcenter@gmail.com.

In 1969 LaSalle Street Church began a volunteer effort to improve the nutrition of low-income seniors. In 1981 the LaSalle Senior Center was established to serve the diverse needs of low and moderate income individuals 55 years and older who live on the Near North Side. This effort has evolved into a volunteer-driven program that strives to meet the physical, emotional, psychological, relational and spiritual needs of an often forgotten community, which is often characterized by loss, loneliness and isolation. Currently, over 200 older adults, some homeless and most living in subsidized housing close by, are served each month. Typical clients live on fixed incomes, have few, if any, family members nearby and struggle with maintaining their health. Most participants live on a minimal fixed income in a neighborhood where prices for food and goods are significantly higher than in surrounding areas. While many are mobile, some are frail, homebound and in poor health.

CCDA National Conference

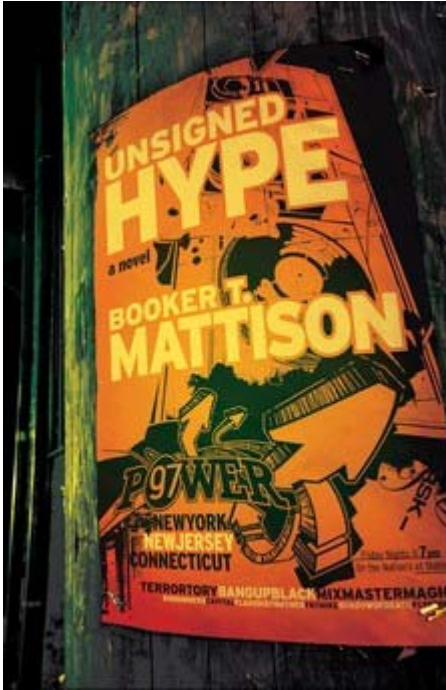


Over 1,000 have already registered for this year's conference. If you haven't registered yet, start making your plans now.

Go to www.cdda.org/conference for all the details.

If you would like to share information about the conference with a friend or another ministry, please contact the National Office to request brochures. (773.762.0994 or info@cdda.org)

A GOOD SUMMER READ FOR YOUR BEST YOU



Filmmaker Booker T. Mattison hits a home run with his new young adult novel [Unsigned Hype](#) (Baker/Revell). It chronicles the life of a young rapper, Tory Tyson, who longs for the hip-hop stardom he sees on TV. But if his born-again Mama, father-like mentor and would-be girlfriend can help it, Tory's microphone will still rock holy.

Mattison, a married father of four, drew deeply from his own experiences when writing the book—he heard the beats and rhymes of rap himself the same year he was baptized. “Hip-hop is more than a negative image,” he notes. “It’s a culture that has inspired an entire generation, and at its root encourages ambition, resourcefulness and creative expression.”

Today, Mattison promotes Christian hip hop artists who offer an often overlooked alternative to the rough lyrics of secular rap. “We can use the language and culture of hip-hop to communicate the truth of the Bible to this generation, similar to what Paul did at Mars Hill when he quoted philosophers and poets of the day. That’s what I hope to achieve in *Unsigned Hype*—an anthem for this often misunderstood generation.”

Available in stores and on Amazon.com in June 2009, Mattison is offering free copies of *Unsigned Hype* to the first 3 CCDA youth leaders who request it; e-mail Sonya White, developingdreams@aol.com.