



Coach Johnson (Lorna) and coach Shavers front & center with a few of the sixty plus track and field athletes at University High School. Lorna coaches the hurdlers, sprinters and high jumpers for both men and women. ***Her position enables her to not only coach athletically but also spiritually.*** Her role uniquely positions her as a known Christian on a daily basis to provide counsel for those who ask. Students who struggle at home, at school or with life overall often come to coach Johnson for personal advice.

Lorna's passion is to help urban students of color navigate the storms of life, dysfunctional homes and the surrounding negative influences. She wants them to come into a lasting relationship with Jesus and to make a difference with their life, just like Ashley.

Recently Ashley shared with Lorna some of her amazing story of grief, abuse and homelessness.



Ashley was 11 when her mother died of pancreatic cancer. She not only lost a mother but her safety and spiritual stability. Her dad was abusive to her mother who found her only escape in a locked prayer closet as her father attempted to kick in the door. Ashley said, "My mom anointed us with oil for protection before we went to sleep and when we woke up she'd do it again with a kiss."

After her mother's death, her father brought home his mistress who cut off communication between Ashley and her older sister. They moved to Florida away from her sister. Nine years she was separated until she found her sister's number and called. Overjoyed, they talked for hours and her sister drove down to Florida and they moved in together away from her father.

Ashley would watch her sister's children and went to school while her sister worked. But work dried up and the family was evicted from their home. They ended up in transitional housing that Ashley said, "Felt dehumanizing and shameful. When a foster kid turns 18 they're no longer the government's responsibility so a lot of the youth get escorted to a homeless shelter."

Today, Ashley has a fierce passion to run a transitional home for aged-out foster children. To pull it off, Ashley's working two part-time jobs (one at Cru headquarters where Lorna met her) and she attends the University of South Florida earning a Master's degree in Social Work. **God's provision and presence fuels her dream.** She has seen God's hand of protection even though experiencing periods of homelessness which she believes God has used to create sensitivity to others.

"I can relate to these youth," she said. "I know what it feels like and I know they are capable of making it with God's help. God's hands have held me through life; He's continuing to care for me and I want to share this with them." (Adapted from a Cru.org article)

Ashley is an example of the backgrounds of kids that Lorna is attempting to reach with the Gospel and her preparatory work in creating an Athletic Training Academy for urban ethnic high school athletes.

Dirke has received great feedback from his blog on the ***Biblical Root of Racism***. If you haven't read it, go to this link online and let us know what you think: www.gcx.org/DirkeandLorna/?p=382
Or, you can access it through our personal ministry website: www.gcx.org/DirkeandLorna

Reaching a New Generation for Christ

Prayer & Praises

- Dirke led a successful two day workshop with a major Jesus Film Project Leadership team responsible to produce and distribute the Gospel in film around the world.
- Lorna attended the CityScape Conf. in San Antonio and was greatly ministered to by Ray Bakke, the keynote speaker.
- Pray for wisdom as Dirke leads the redesign of our global team leader training impacting 20,000 staff/volunteers.
- Pray for Dirke as he begins teaching "Interpreting the Bible" class for a new term of ministry degree students.