



The Heart of Jesus

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." — Matthew 19:14

They deserve someone who will love them, believe in them, and point them to Jesus.

I've also been blessed to meet people who truly are the hands and feet of Christ. They love without conditions, serve without recognition, and welcome those the world often overlooks. Their lives remind me what the Church is meant to be.

My challenge to you is simple: step away from your busy schedule and your comfort zone. Take time to sit with someone who is hurting, lonely, or struggling. Listen to their story. Don't worry about having all the answers—just be present. Sometimes the greatest way we share Jesus isn't through our words, but through our willingness to love people the way He does.

May we all choose to see people through the eyes of Jesus.

*For His glory,
Andrea Jones & the NELA Youth team*

For many years, God has allowed me to serve children and families living in poverty, violence, and brokenness. Those years have forever changed my heart.

I've experienced both love and judgment from people inside and outside the church. I've watched people who profess to love Jesus sometimes respond with fear instead of compassion. If we're honest, we've all been guilty of making assumptions about someone based on their appearance, background, or circumstances.

Everything changes when you step into someone's world. When you sit with a hurting family, hear a child's story, or witness pain firsthand, you stop seeing labels and begin seeing people the way Jesus does—valuable, loved, and created in God's image.

I won't pretend this ministry has been easy. There have been days I've driven home in tears, wanting to quit after seeing how some children and families were treated. Yet every time I feel like breaking, God reminds me why He called me. I stay because of the children.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Our July Outreach was a blast as we learned how to share the simple message of the Gospel with others. The day ended with an exciting lip-sync battle where our youth had the chance to showcase their creativity and talents!
- Our boys' outing to Altitude and girls' outing to Excalibur were both incredible experiences. We're also excited to share that we've begun teaching a short Bible lesson before every outing. We believe the Church isn't confined to a building—it's God's people living out His love wherever we go.
- This month's Earned Trip took our top point earners to the Shreveport Aquarium! Congratulations to the youth who earned the most points by consistently demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit through their attitudes, choices, and actions. We are so proud of each of you!
- We are also thrilled to celebrate two of our girls who were awarded scholarships to attend a week of summer camp! What an incredible opportunity for them to grow in their faith, build lasting friendships, and experience God's love in a special way. We are excited to see all that God will continue to do in their lives.



NELA Youth is a mobile, Christ-centered nonprofit dedicated to mentoring and restoring some of the most vulnerable children in our region. We meet them right where they are, bringing hope into places marked by brokenness and guiding them toward healing and identity in Christ.

NELAYOUTH.ORG



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HOW YOU CAN HELP

- PRAYER FOR THE KIDS
- Pizza (10-12) donation for our Sat. outreach
- Gas cards
- Snack size chips & drinks
- Financial donations

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, give us the heart of Jesus. Help us to see every child through Your eyes, welcoming them with love, grace, and compassion. Guard us from allowing rules or personal preferences to become barriers that keep people from You. May our words, actions, and attitudes reflect Christ so that every child who walks through our doors feels seen, valued, and loved. Use us to point them to the hope found in Jesus. In His name, Amen.