

Following is a brief history of some of the events that led to the forming of the Somebody cares® Houston Project:

1981

It All Began

The Somebody Cares® concept was established as that simple business card which read, “Somebody Cares, call 24 hours a day” was distributed through the street ministry of TPMJ and is still used today.

1983

TPMJ’s First Jericho March (Prayer Walk) Around a Rock Concert Was Held.

Jericho Marches continued at rock concerts and various clubs. Gospel literature was distributed and many young people were helped through the years.

1986

Ministries Meet For Prayer Worship and Strategies...

The First Annual Evangelism/Spiritual Impact Conference was held in which inner city, evangelistic, discipleship ministries and churches came together. Citywide outreach strategies were shared through the 10 annual Evangelism Conferences. Relationships were established and maintained from a local to international level.

1988

Turning Point and Local Churches Come Together...

The First Jericho Drive marked a pivotal point for Houston area churches. A competitive spirit operating in the city was also influencing the church. Local pastors desired to see the barriers broken that had divided the church. As ministers and laity united in prayer, change began. A ten-year anniversary Jericho Drive was held in October 1998.

Friday Night Alive

What began as a bible study in Doug’s apartment became a weekly fellowship. Believers from Houston area churches of diverse racial and denominational backgrounds met for a decade. Friday Night Alive now meets on a periodic basis for targeted evangelistic efforts.

The Early 1990’s

Bridging The Gap — The Body of Christ Joins Hands...

The Montrose area of Houston, known at that time to have the highest crime rate in the state of Texas, was targeted for weekly street ministry. It was also a concentrated center of decadence and perversion of every kind. Addicts, prostitutes and runaways were fed, clothed and placed into homes. Inner-city ministries worked together, sharing the love of Christ for several years. Seasonal outreaches including Fourth of July Beach Blitzes and Mardi Gras Outreaches provided opportunities for Christians to co-labor.

1994

Reaching the Hard-to-Reach..

A community in Southwest Houston was adopted by Somebody Cares Houston. Volunteers distributed food, clothing and taught English as a Second Language to residents.

November 19 - The first Gang Prevention/Intervention Training Seminar was held equipping volunteers to assist in the public schools.

1995

Unknown Zip Code but I known by Christ

Though the Port Houston community's zip code could not be found on the map, the people were noticed by God. This low-income, predominately Hispanic neighborhood was a ministry focus of Somebody Cares Houston for over 2 years.

Gang Prevention/Intervention Seminar — Community Involvement...

April 29 - Youth Guidance Consultants hosted this seminar to further equip volunteers. These workers facilitated public schools on the last day of classes to prevent gang activity.

First Monthly Somebody Caress Project Meeting

December 6 - The Somebody Cares® Houston Project (SCHP) concept was presented to 71 ministers and organizational leaders.

“Positive change in the cities of a nation will be reflected by a move toward holiness, righteousness and Godliness.”

Doug Stringer

1996

Occupy The Land

Occupy the Land was initiated by Bammel Baptist Church to cover the city of Houston with prayer. They have strategically mapped 2,700 square miles of the Greater Houston area into small blocks that are assigned to households for prayer. Somebody Cares Houston has partnered with Occupy the Land.

Prayer Mountain — Citywide Gathering to Pray for Houston and The Nations

March 15 & 16 — In March TPMI sponsored Houston's first Prayer Mountain Weekend. A local amphitheater located on a man-made hill in the central part of the city was rented. Many gathered for times of worship and prayer for revival.

Life on the Edge

The plights and pitfalls of gang life were displayed in 2 drama presentations hosted by Victory Inner City Ministries. Participating Somebody Cares churches and ministries underwrote the costs. Approximately 6,500 at-risk youth and gang members attended. As a result 1,200 gave their lives to Christ.

Houston — An International City

April - Hispanics and Asians received the Gospel during 2 targeted outreaches at Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center. 16,000 copies of the "Message of Hope" scripture booklets were distributed during the Hispanic Forum and the Vietnamese New Year Celebration.

From Print to Pavement

May 3 - The arrival of the first 50,000 Somebody Cares Houston New Testaments sparked the mobilization of outreach ministries. Through cooperative efforts, the SCH New Testaments, 50,000 illustrated children's bibles and 80,000 pounds of food were distributed to the needy.

Time for a RIOT [Righteous Invasion Of Truth

May 11 - Volunteers shared Christ with youth and adults at the Carman RIOT concert in the Astrodome. As people responded to the Gospel, each one received a Somebody Cares Houston New Testament.

Touching the Fatherless

Generation Inner-city youth were reached at urban camps and outreaches throughout the Summer.

From a Simple Business Card to a Billboard

In May, the first "Somebody Cares Houston" billboard went up thanks to Gannett Outdoors displaying the message. . . "Area churches/ministries want you to know. . . Somebody Cares® Houston. For help you may call (713) 621-1498" By August, an influx of calls began.

Houston Prayer Mountain

Over 300 churches and ministries joined for 40 days of prayer, fasting, worship and evangelistic services. Prayer requests came in from around the world. Many who attended received salvation, healing and deliverance.

Benevolence

As churches worked together during the 40 days at Houston Prayer Mountain, thousands of dollars were given to urban ministries to assist in their holiday outreaches.

- On December 7th, Operation Blessing's Hunger Taskforce delivered truckloads of blankets and food to feed 5,000 families.
- December 14th, Goad International brought in 40,000 lbs. of food.
- December 25, Christmas Outreach at Houston Prayer Mountain. Benevolence goods were distributed.
- 40 million pounds of food were distributed on a budget of \$43,000 in conjunction with Action Ministries.

Somebody Cares® Expands

Somebody Cares Tampa Bay

Reclaiming the area as the "Bay of the Holy Spirit", civic leaders, pastors, business professionals and intercessors became co-laborers.

"Knock and it Shall be Opened..." Doorhanger Distribution

May 28 - The distribution of one million prayer doorhangers began. The doorhangers share a message that Somebody Cares and a phone number to contact an area church or individual is given.

An Outdoor Citywide Baptism

July 27 - A Citywide Baptism was held at Adventure Bay water theme park. Pastors from across the city baptized 600 people. Conservatively there were 200 new converts that day. Over 103 churches were represented.

Asian Communities United

August 22 — 23 - The Asian churches and ministries hosted “Together On Fire”. Dressed in native attire, they each bowed their national flags to the cross of Christ. With a beautiful display of unity, ministers prayed for their native lands, America and the church. The services concluded with the proclamation, “Give us Houston. Give us the nations.”

Food Distribution

102 million pounds of food was distributed on a budget of \$48,000 as Somebody Cares Houston worked in conjunction with Action Ministries.

Somebody Cares and Operation Blessing Meet Individual Needs

Through a matching funds program, Somebody Cares and Operation Blessing Int’l assisted over 600 people during a 6 month period. On the average each person received \$14 to provide for basic living necessities.

Somebody Cares National Consultation

June 18— 19 - Representatives from across America joined for strategy sessions in Houston, TX.

Somebody Cares Inland Empire (SCIE)

Somebody Cares Inland Empire, California was established. Pastors, ministry leaders and business professionals united. With a vision to network and mobilize the church nationally and internationally SCIE implemented evangelistic efforts.

In August when the cry for help came from Indonesia, SCIE linked with International Harvest Outreach and SCH to take relief to a land in despair. SCIE mobilized workers and through the SCA network, physical relief was provided. Doug and a team from Houston went to Indonesia as Somebody Cares Indonesia was launched. While there, President Habibie publically endorsed Somebody Cares. Through cooperative efforts to date, SC Indonesia has fed 4 million people. The work continues in Indonesia as the mandate is fulfilled, “From Houston, Texas, to the four corners of the world.”

City Reachers School

September 28 — 30 - In conjunction with such organizations as Mission America, Somebody Cares Houston hosted Harvest Evangelism’s - City-Reachers School with Dr. Ed Silvano. The Body of Christ was further equipped to reach the Greater Houston area.

Fasting & Prayer ‘98

November 12 — 11 - Along with Mission America, Somebody Cares Houston was honored to host Dr. Bill Bright and Fasting & Prayer '98 in Houston, TX. This was a significant time to pray for the Church and for the Harvest in America and the nations of the world.

Year of Answered Prayer

Somebody Cares Tampa Bay initiated a concentrated focus on prayer and evangelism.

Here are the results of this year—long strategy.

- 140 churches throughout the Bay area are participating in the Occupy The Land prayer strategy.
- 250,000 door hangers were distributed.
- 600+ prayer boxes were placed in businesses and churches.
- 500 yard signs were displayed.
- Billboards will continue to be displayed throughout 1999.
- A prayer phone line is in place and on the average 30 prayer requests are received daily.

1999

Food Distribution

Approximately 100 million pounds of food was given to the needy on a budget of \$52,000 as Action Ministries and Somebody Cares Houston co-labored.

Somebody Cares and Operation Blessing Investing In Individuals

Through matching funds, Somebody Cares and Operation Blessing assisted 500 people, each receiving an average of \$40 toward living expenses.

Christmas Outreach Benevolence

In conjunction with Operation Blessing, Somebody Cares Houston distributed \$17,500 toward 21 ministries. Communities received Christmas provision thanks to these cooperative efforts.

Somebody Cares America Expands

Chapters are forming across America and in other nations.

1999 Year of the Bible

In conjunction with the American Bible Society and others, SCH/SCA designated 1999 as the Year of the Bible. The city was encouraged to read through the New Testament in one year.

Somebody Cares Denver

- Two hundred and fifty pastors came together as Doug Stringer addressed the newly formed Denver chapter of Somebody Cares.
- Soon after formation, Somebody Cares Denver held a 24-hour outdoor outreach in their community. Three hundred and fifty people were ministered to during the outreach. Prayer partners from several denominations came to pray. Local businesses donated breakfast and lunch for everyone. Eighteen worship teams from area churches participated. It was an awesome outpouring of God's grace and mercy!

Somebody Cares Plant City had a very good year in 1999:

- Nineteen thousand Books of Hope were distributed in their community. Numerous testimonies of increased church attendance and restored marriages were reported.
- Pastors came together for an annual community rally called “Sound the Trumpet” which was held at a local baseball stadium.
- “Feed Plant City”, an annual outreach, fed over 500 people with extensive food distribution.

Somebody Cares Houston

Heal Our Land

October 29th, 4500 people gathered at Lakewood Church for a time of worship, praise and prayer. “Heal Our Land” was a powerful interactive musical interspersed with times of prayer for the future of our families and the transformation of our nation. A multi-congregational choir led the worship and 35 Houston-area pastors led times of prayer. A diversity of churches were represented and 80 people came forward to commit their lives to Christ.

Book of Hope

Five-hundred thousand Books of Hope were distributed in the Houston area by the cooperative efforts of CBN and Somebody Cares Houston. The pocket-sized books came handsomely packaged with matching door hangers. The Book of Hope provides the reader with an exciting new sense of purpose and direction for life through Jesus Christ.

Occupy the Land by the end of 1999, more than 750/s of Houston’s population was covered in prayer through this citywide prayer initiative.

Food Distribution

Somebody Cares Houston member, Action Ministries, exemplified world-wide compassion by distributing the following:

- One hundred and fifteen million pounds of food to underprivileged families.
- Food baskets to 3,260 families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.
- Fifteen semi-trailer truckloads of clothes and furniture to needy families.
- Disaster relief to: tornado and flood victims in Texas and Oklahoma; hurricane victims in North Carolina and Florida; earthquake victims in Turkey; and, provisions to war refugees in various countries.
- A shipment of \$30 million in medical equipment and \$8 million in medications to assist in the opening of 44 hospitals around the world.
- A shipment of food, clothing, medical supplies, blankets, cleaning products and toys to Mexican orphanages.
- Forty-one vehicles to pastors and ministries.

Holiday of Hope

Thousands of toys were distributed to area ministries and organizations during the “Holiday of Hope” Christmas Outreach. The outreach targeted underprivileged children in the Greater Houston area.

Somebody Cares Tampa Bay hosted the following events:

- An area-wide prayer evangelism conference with Ed Silvano.
- Forty days of prayer and servant evangelism in area middle and high schools in which 600 teens participated.

- Monthly Lighthouses of Prayer on Joy FM radio connecting 1,500 Lighthouse homes across the Bay.
- “Raise the Roof” in Tropicana Stadium. It was the fifth largest crowd ever at the stadium 37,670 people attended! 2,100 underprivileged children were sponsored for the event, and over 500 decisions for Christ were reported.
- “Restoration ‘99” in St. Petersburg. Area churches came together for racial reconciliation. Food was distributed to over 1,000 families through Operation Blessing Int’l.
- 600,000 Books of Hope were distributed in the Tampa Bay and Ocala communities.
- Amy Grant/Michael W. Smith concert in partnership with The Ice Palace. Partial proceeds went towards the purchase of New Testaments.

Somebody Cares Inland Empire

Somebody Cares Inland Empire expanded and changed its name to Somebody Cares Southland, becoming an official California corporation. They also became an official “Operation Blessing Outreach Center.” Somebody Cares Southland collected 20 truckloads of food and life-giving materials that have touched up to 90,000 people.

Somebody Cares Houston Today...

Somebody Cares Houston continues to hold pastors gatherings on a regular basis. Strategic citywide outreaches are coordinated, working with other national ministries and organizations. The vision does not stop here. The calling is for this type of networking to occur abroad in even greater measure.

Somebody Caress America

Through cooperative efforts, Somebody Cares America is networking with national and international organizations to take the love of Christ to the nations. The purpose is to serve the existing churches in any community or country.

Together we will see a harvest of souls added to God’s Kingdom. This is unity with a purpose in action.

Somebody Cares Any Town...

This vision is far greater than any one of us but requires all of us to accomplish. It is the burning desire of Somebody Cares founder, Doug Stringer, to see multitudes upon multitudes still in the valley of decision come to Christ. Somebody Cares is simply a vehicle to unite the Body of Christ to win souls for Christ. Working from a grass-roots level, any community can be reached.

Together let’s share the message that Somebody Cares and His name is Jesus!

Information on the Internet

Information on Somebody Cares® Houston, Somebody Cares® ft America, upcoming events and participating members is given. **The website address is: www.somebodycares.org or www.tpmi.org.**

For More Information Contact.”

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Tel: 713.621.1498 Fax: 713.621.2076

e-mail: somebodycares@somebodycares.org

Together We’re Sowing Seed Into The Soil of Souls

Doug Stringer

What Community Leaders are Saying

I'm very encouraged by the approach that this ministry and other ministries are taking. I firmly believe that this is the hope of this generation.... I know I speak on behalf of all the law enforcement officers of this department in encouraging you to continue your work.

Former Police Chief Sam Nuchia
Houston Police Department

I appreciate your work with the Police Department and the Council on gangs. I think that's some of the most important work anyone could do.

Former Mayor Bob Lanier
City of Houston

Thank you for the copy of your Gang Intervention Handbook. You did a great job putting it together. We have numerous uses for such information in our community and school training curriculums. With your permission, we would like to reprint portions of the handbook for these purposes. I look forward to working with you again.

Kimbra Ogg
Mayor's Anti-Gang Office
Houston, Texas

What Others are Saying About Somebody Cares

Doug Stringer is the driving dynamic behind Somebody Cares. Under the touch of the Spirit of God, he has moved into an arena of divinely given influence that has affected the uniting of hundreds of congregations... and brought about immensely wonderful and awesomely **powerful** things.. as God views "powerful" Doug Stringer is a voice for unity... believing today's cities and their dying need can be conquered for the glory of God.

Jack Hayford
Founding Pastor
Church On The Way
Van Nuys, California

How thrilling to see how God has unified His body in Houston largely under the inspiration and leadership of Doug Stringer and Somebody Cares to win people to Christ. Somebody Cares is helping to lead a movement in that wonderful city that is truly unprecedented, and a real model to other cities. You will be encouraged as well as sobered with their insights and practical steps that lead to genuine spiritual awakening.

Dr. Bill Bright
Founder and President
Campus Crusade for Christ International

The concept of reaching your city is exploding across the globe and has caught up with one of its pioneers. Doug Stringer has been implementing and carrying the vision of a citywide church in Houston for almost twenty years. Doug Stringer was a city reacher before city-reaching was cool.

Daniel Bernard
Executive Director
Somebody Cares Tampa Bay, Florida

Doug Stringer understands the correlation between prayer, worship, reconciliation, mercy ministries and evangelism as few men I know. He is a man who literally “does the stuff” required by God in Isaiah 58 for the healing of a land.

Jimmy Owens
Heal Our Land

God has uniquely gifted Doug Stringer and Somebody Cares to bring hundreds of pastors and churches together around the harvest. Somebody Cares is a catalyst to help the church see that, together, we can get our arms around any size city.

Steve Riggle, Senior Pastor
Grace Community Church
Clear Lake City, Texas
President, Christian Evangelistic Assemblies of Churches

The significance of the mended net for catching the abundant harvest should speak to all of us. Somebody Cares testifies of the breakthroughs and victories that have been won as churches and ministries have united with the purpose to see lives changed. I have the privilege to know the ministry’s founder, Doug Stringer, on both ministry and personal levels - and I can confidently testify that this is a man who lives what he preaches.

Paul Tan
Senior Pastor
International Full Gospel Fellowship
and Somebody Cares Inland Empire
Claremont, California

Doug Stringer communicates the heart of our Father to church leaders, in the classroom setting and gang leaders alike. He shares a message of functional unity which is demonstrated through the networking of ministries in both our local communities and our international mega-churches.

Dr. Joseph Umidi
Professor, School of Divinity
Regent University

It is a great blessing to be a part of Somebody Cares. For several years I have observed the fruit of Doug Stringer’s visionary leadership and the impact he is having in Houston, across America and around the world. I believe God has gifted Doug to be instrumental in inspiring, unifying and activating the body of Christ and to be a strategic leader in the coming revival.

Jerry Wiles
Assistant Vice President, Church Relations
Houston Baptist University
Houston, Texas