

**F**ifteen-year-old T'Kerria comes from a troubled — and crowded — home. Living in a one-bedroom apartment with five family members isn't easy, nor is living without her dad, who has spent years in jail.

Every day after school T'Kerria comes to the bright yellow brick building on 6th Avenue — the ministry center of Touching Miami with Love — for a feeling of home and the love of a family.

"This is like my second home — one big family," she said.

For T'Kerria and dozens of other children and teenagers, their lives have been changed by Touching Miami with Love (TML), a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship partner ministry that shares the love of Christ in one of the nation's poorest and most dangerous urban neighborhoods.

"There are a lot of needs in our community, such as a place that is separate from the dangers of violence and crime and negative influences," said Jason Pittman, one of CBF's field personnel who leads TML with his wife, Angel. "We share the love of Christ with children and youth by offering hope, opportunity and resources."

Nearly every weekday TML is buzzing with activity. During the school year, children and teenagers come to the center after school for a nutritious meal, recreation and crafts, help with homework, time in the computer lab, and classes about literacy and social skills. During the summer, TML offers an all-day children's camp that many of the local teenagers help lead.

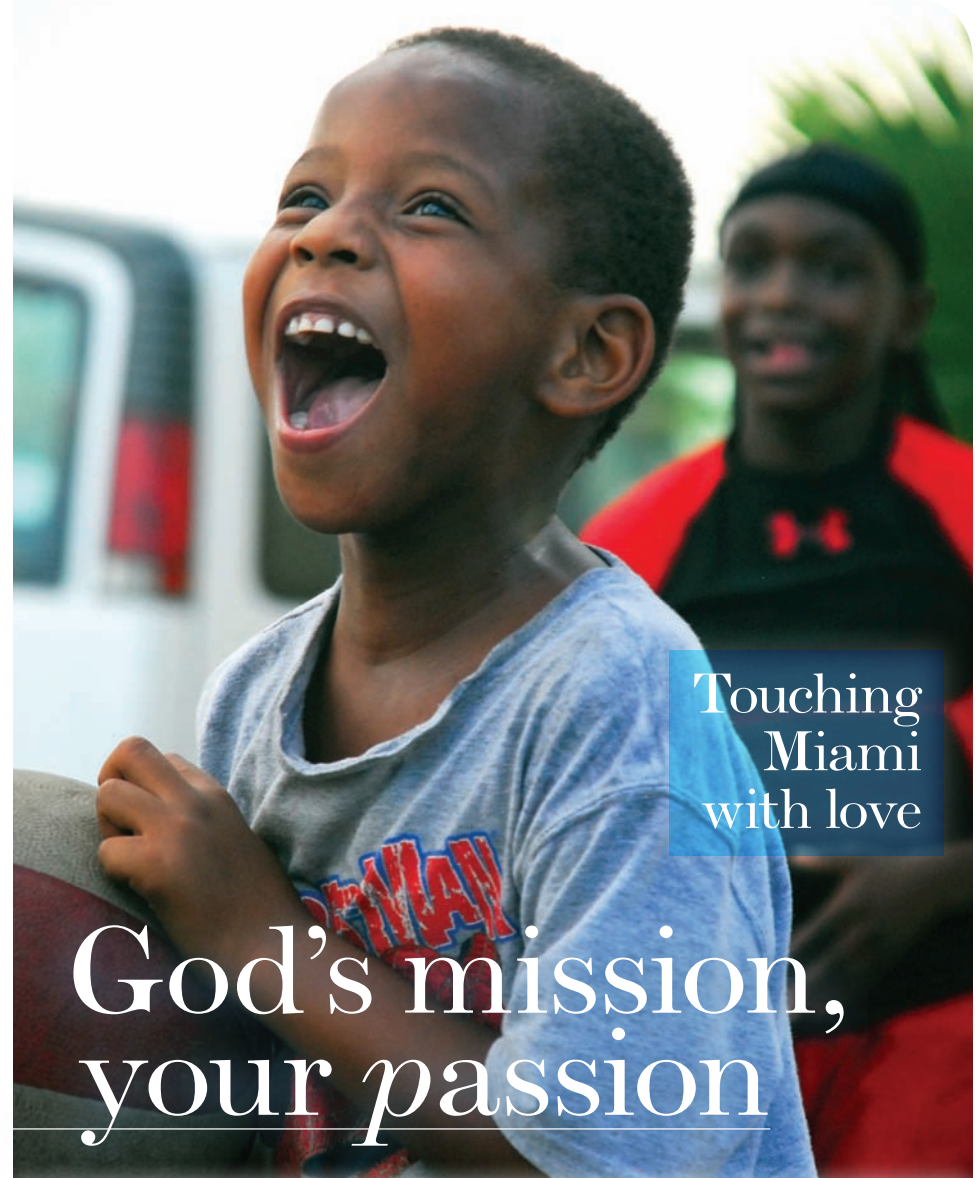
"The kids need a safe haven to go to, and this is the place for them to be," said Ultrina Harris, a lifetime Overtown resident who directs the ministry's programs for children. "TML is their oasis."



**Y**our gifts to the CBF Offering for Global Missions support Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel Angel and Jason Pittman as they lead the ministries of Touching Miami with Love in inner-city Miami.

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**O**nly blocks away from downtown Miami is the community of Overtown, where gunshots and drug dealers are as common as the number of gang members roaming the neighborhood streets. Many of the local children and teenagers live in poverty, go to a failing school and have witnessed gun violence firsthand. But when they enter the ministry center of Touching Miami with Love, that all changes as they encounter the presence of Christ.