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CHRISTIANITY IN

action

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CHANGING LIVES



LAEL HUTCHESON

Since 2001, Lael's partnership with Operation Christmas Child (OCC warehouse pictured left) has helped thousands of people around the world hear the Gospel.

In 1982 when Lael became a Christian, she was shy and hesitant to surrender her life to God in the area of evangelism. She feared that the moment she did, God would have her speaking publicly in the streets. But God helped her overcome her fears and is now using her in an incredible ministry. In 1996, she and her family got involved with Operation Christmas Child. New Song Community Church joined efforts and in 2001, 88 shoe boxes were filled for children around the world. Last year, thanks to her "packing parties," Lael and 100 other volunteers of all ages from New Song helped put together 1,951 shoe boxes filled with gifts for Christmas. But most importantly, they included Gospel tracts in the child's native language.

Samaritan's Purse has found that an average of 20 people hear the Good News of Jesus Christ from just 1 shoe box. Based on this average, nearly 40,000 people heard the gospel last year through the New Song packing party organized by Lael. An amazing work by God through someone who was hesitant to be an evangelist!

If any church is interested in having an Operation Christmas Child "packing party," please contact the GCC office. Lael attends New Song in Reynoldsburg, OH: www.inewsong.com.



NICK BAL

Nick Bal and his family meet the needs of neighborhood families during a flood.

God used Nick Bal (Walnut Creek Community Church, Des Moines, IA) and his wife and family to minister to others during a crisis.

Nick says, "In June 2008 floods and tornadoes hit the state of Iowa. It was shortly after midnight that my wife Carol and I realized that our sump pump could not keep up with the rising water in our basement. We moved as many things upstairs as we could and then headed to bed. In the morning, we realized that our entire basement had flooded. As the morning went on, our neighbors began to emerge outdoors as people were carrying items ruined by the flood out to the curbside. With all the commotion around us, God had given us a tremendous amount of peace throughout the storm."

What Nick fails to mention is that instead of focusing on themselves and the loss of their property, he and his family took that day to serve a dinner to their neighbors. The peace they had in Christ allowed them to reach out to others. One neighbor commented, "Why are you doing this when your own basement is flooded?" The answer: The love of Jesus Christ. Nick and his family are examples of what Paul instructed the Philippian church: "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind, let each of you regard one another as more important than yourselves." (Phil.2:3)

Nick and his family attend Walnut Creek Community Church in Des Moines, IA: www.walnutcreekcc.org.

MISSION USA

NEW CHURCH PLANTS

PNEUMA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

By Brian Bridgeman

In 2004, Pastor Berk Wilson led a team of staff and students to take a step of faith by starting the Wilmington Summer Outreach Project.

We continued the project each summer and by 2007 there were eight individuals who were committed to be in fellowship with one another. In November of 2007, my wife and I moved to Wilmington to assume leadership of the young church. We saw God give amazing answers to prayer in regards to our housing and financial support. He is honoring us as we continue to step out in faith.

Our church has a couple of strong points. First, we've been able to answer many questions people have about the Christian faith. Second, we've been able to take the gospel to the students instead of waiting for them to come to us. We've been taking back turf that this world so brazenly claims it owns.

Recently, I had lunch with a freshman. After our conversation, he kept thanking me because he had never heard the gospel explained so clearly. He knew that day that Jesus was his Savior. It's been great to go out on a limb and find the fruit God has for us.

Check out Pneuma Christian Fellowship:
www.pneuma-uncw.org.



The Bridgeman family

LIFESONG: ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

By Dave Megill (co-pastor of Lifesong with Andy Sanchez)

Lifesong, a church plant of Rio West Community Church in Rio Rancho, opened its doors on October 5, 2008.

The first service set the tone for diverse and connecting worship, which includes a range of drama, art, music, biblical teaching, and "coffee chat." (The "coffee chat" is a time to explore together, in smaller discussions, the experience of the worship time). However, Lifesong truly began its services months earlier, by doing service evangelism in the neighborhood and parties in the park.

Lifesong established itself and has continued to function as a church of the community. From car washes to clothing drives and movie nights in the park, the church members are trying to build a reputation which goes far beyond what happens on Sunday morning. We want people in the neighborhood, who never go to Lifesong, to believe the church is here to serve them, just as Jesus Christ came to serve us.

God has blessed Lifesong and the church is gaining just such a reputation—hopefully restoring

the glory of God's reputation in our community.

Check out Lifesong Church:
www.lifesongrr.com.



Lifesong's Grand Opening Service

INTERNATIONAL

DANIEL GOERING: GERMANY

It is exciting to see the principle of Isaiah 37:31 being displayed in the now four churches in Germany (Dortmund, Dusseldorf, Berlin and Cologne) as they "take root downward and bear fruit upward."

Our initial church plant in Dortmund is developing leaders, has a vibrant children's ministry, and a healthy group of 60-70 people. The Dusseldorf church has a special outreach focus at the university, has a large number of children, and recently moved their Sunday meeting of 70-80 to a great new location. Berlin has taken a huge step of faith this spring in moving their main worship service to Sunday mornings, and is gaining momentum with 35-45 people coming. The newest church plant (Cologne) is still meeting in a living room, with around 25 people.

We recently sent out a "Joshua Team" to scout out future church planting opportunities in Aachen, Koblenz, Frankfurt and Darmstadt. The doors are open, the harvest is white, but the laborers are few. Pray along with us for the Lord of the harvest to send out His laborers to the proper fields in His timing.

For more information, contact Daniel at: daniel.goering@gcmweb.org. Daniel is a member of Great Commission Europe: www.gceweb.org.



Gospel International in Dortmund, Germany

LOCAL CHURCH'S INVOLVEMENT IN MISSIONS DURING 2009

A MISSIONS DNA

By Doug Riggle

At Linworth Road Church we consider short-term mission trips part of our DNA. In 2009 we planned three trips with unique destinations and purposes. Generally, we look for small, start-up church plants and make a three to five-year commitment to help them get a healthy start. This includes sending short-term teams, making certain the leader(s) connect with the Linworth congregation when they're in the States, dedicated prayer and financial support for the leaders, and building strong relationships.

Our trips this year include:

Milan, Italy – Having just completed a five-year commitment in Turin, Italy, Linworth is pleased to continue the work in Italy by supporting their new church plant in Milan.

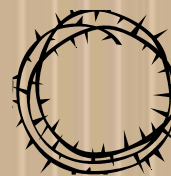
Guatemala City, Guatemala – In partnership with BRIO, to share the gospel along side young people from all over America.

Managua, Nicaragua — with a focus on ministering to the poor, sharing the gospel, and coming alongside those living in and around Managua to make an impact in the lives of the people.

Check out Linworth Road Church: www.linworthroad.org.



Short-term missionaries visit a school in Managua, Nicaragua.



INSIDE GCC

CONFERENCES

**FAITHWALKERS: DECEMBER
27-30, 2009**



Colossians 1:6: This same good news that came to you is going out over all the world. It is changing lives everywhere, just as it changed yours the very first day you heard and understood the truth about God's great kindness to sinners.

Changing Lives is the theme of FAITHWALKERS 2009. The conference will be held Dec. 27-30 in two cities: Omaha, NE and Asheville, NC. Register by October 15 to save!

Learn more and register at:
www.faithwalkersonline.net.

MEET A GCC PASTOR

THIS EDITION: DENNIS CLARK



Dennis is one of the founders of the Great Commission church movement. In the beginning, he used his gift of music to help attract crowds on the college campuses to hear the gospel. He has served as a pastor of several Great Commission churches over the past 35 years, helping plant churches in the Midwest and on the East Coast. He and Thelma have been married for over 30 years, and they have 9 children and 9 grandchildren. Dennis currently serves as a pastor at Prairie View Community Church in Parker, CO.

Life verse: 2 Chronicles 16:9

Advice: In this verse God promises to "... strongly support those whose heart is completely His." Lots of things go into making this happen, but a critical factor God has used in my life over the long haul, is being committed to a 'band of brothers' who meet weekly to encourage, support, and hold each other to right standards of thought and conduct.

Check out Prairie View Community Church: www.prairieviewcc.org.

CHANGED LIVES

JOHN HOPLER - DIRECTOR, GREAT COMMISSION CHURCHES



This past June, we had a special Pastors Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

The pastors got to hear some stirring teachings....enjoyed some wonderful fellowship....and heard some testimonies that gave practical advice on how to be effective in ministry. But it was not the teaching, fellowship or testimonies that made this conference so special. It was what occurred the second night of the conference.

Instead of having another teaching on loving people, we decided to....love people! All the pastors got in their cars and went door to door in the St. Louis neighborhoods, sharing the love of Jesus Christ. We asked residents if we could pray for them, and also invited them to a cookout hosted by the Great Commission church in St. Louis the next night.

This conference truly was a memorable time of "New Testament Christianity in Action Today."

Would you please join with your pastors and your church in the wonderful adventure of changing lives for Jesus Christ?

