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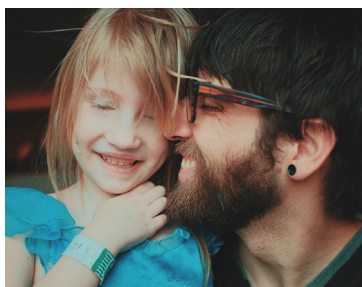
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CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION

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CHANGING LIVES



LIVE ON FOREVER

By Nathan Lundquist

Last year, I was given the opportunity to direct a music video for The Afters for their single "Live On Forever." The song is about eternal life and what heaven is like with our renewed bodies. At the same time, our oldest

daughter's health was declining from a liver disease she'd had since birth. Throughout the filming of the video, Ruthie was in and out of the hospital many times and it wasn't long after we finished filming everything that we got a call for her to get a liver transplant.

Over the following months she ended up having two transplants and we went through a number of terrifying moments. During that time, I had my computer in the ICU with me and I worked on the editing and visual effects at Ruthie's bedside. You might think I'd stop working during such a crazy time with our family but this video became a huge gift for me as we rode the wave. Not only was it a healthy distraction from the intensity of the situation but there I was with my daughter while I told the story of a man with a glorified body. While Ruthie couldn't walk or even eat, I had to focus on what it will be like when we can tirelessly run, jump, swim, and explore all of creation without limit.

"Live On Forever" was a constant reminder to me of the hope of heaven during a time when we felt like we were, at moments, toeing the line between life and death. The video later went on to win the Dove Award for Music Video of the Year and I was able to tell many about Ruthie's story and the gift this video was throughout such a traumatic time in our family's life. Today Ruthie is doing well and full of life and energy and we are so thankful to God. We still have bumps along the way but we know that no matter what happens we've been given the chance to live on forever.

To view the music video for "Live On Forever," please visit
www.nathanwilliam.net/work/the-afters-live-on-forever



MOMS ON CAMPUS

By Joan Allmendinger

Several moms in Colorado have returned to their old evangelistic stomping grounds—the college campus.

Early in fall 2016, five of us moms of Colorado State University students gathered on the CSU Plaza equipped with trays of homemade brownies and cookies, New Testaments, a big sign declaring "CSU Moms Listen and Pray," and a smaller sign offering free hugs. We simply wanted to show there are moms who care about college students and, moreover, God cares about them. Of course the students were drawn to the baked goods, but we explained we were on campus to also pray for their needs. These kids were disarmed. After all, how can you refuse a smiling mom who just fed you? Some had requests for good health and grades, while some asked us to pray for loved ones, their quests for new friendships, and the burden of vocation decisions. We prayed on the spot for their requests and realized most had never had someone pray aloud for them and with them.

In addition to praying, we have handed out New Testaments and Gospel tracts and engaged in meaningful conversations. We have met, not only US students, but also students from China, Iraq, Egypt, and other parts of the world. One coed we prayed for in September returned on crutches in November asking for prayer for healing with tears in her eyes.

Our fledgling outreach mirrors the objectives of a national ministry called Marketplace Chaplains. We are making Jesus approachable to a population of whom few probably have a connection to a caring church. Second, we were offering care, hope, and love. Third, we are sharpening our evangelism skills in a setting that normally can be hostile to the Gospel. Matthew 9:36 inspires us: "Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd."

MISSION USA

THE ROCK MUSIC

By Steele Croswhite

My name is Steele Croswhite and I am one of the pastors of The Rock Church in SLC Utah. I want to share how a ministry called The Rock Music was born.

By the age of 21, I had a recording contract and national tours with a successful band under my belt. In many ways, it was all I could have dreamed for. But something was missing: a dedicated love and passion for Jesus Christ. Returning home from a long tour, seeing my brokenness, my sister invited me to The Rock Church. Something happened in my heart that first time I attended. It was like water to a dry sponge. I had flipped for Jesus and He became my only desire in life.

In 2003, I was asked to write and record a worship album for the church. I had never written anything like that before, but I was excited to try. God

blessed it and sparked a passion in me for great music inside the local church. In 2005, we released another album.

During some extended time away with God, I felt Him speak to my soul. From that time in prayer came an idea: The Rock Music. What if it wasn't about one person who made great music? What if a movement of musicians who could make a living in the world decided to play music inside of the local church to make Jesus' name great? What if the best bands in the world came out of a local church? What if musicians loved God, blessed the saints, and won the lost?

Today, The Rock Music is an independent collaboration of musicians who are dedicated to making relevant, Christ-centered music without



compromise. With Christ as our anchor, each musician subscribes to the following mission statement:

"I have been put on the earth to touch the world for God through music and to be a part of the best band in the world known for loving Jesus Christ."

Most recently, we have partnered with the Dream Label Group & Capitol Christian Music to release our worship album "Awakened by Hope," which is available through iTunes or therockmusic.org.

BETTER TOGETHER

By Larry Kinkopf

Recently, Grace Harbor Community Church was led by God to merge together with First Baptist Church of Monroe. Prior to the merge, each church had been seeking God for at least a year on how to move forward. When Pastor Ron German and I met for the first time in July, 2016, it was clear that God had been orchestrating something special between the two churches.

After months of prayer, discussion, and spending time together as a single congregation, the merge was finalized in November 2016. The new church constitution was accepted and the name Watermark Church emerged—reflecting "lives marked by God's love."

What factors have been essential for the success of this merge? First, God was clearly the initiator. We simply recognized that God had been preparing

each church for the merge. First Baptist Church had been praying for over a year to find the right local church to merge with. Grace Harbor Church had been considering a move from a temporary location to a permanent facility. Once we realized God had been preparing each of our churches long before we met, it helped move the process along quickly.

Second, the leaders of each church "left their egos at the door." The unity that resulted has allowed God to pour out His blessing. The initial discussions took place within a team comprised of three members from each church. Over several weeks, we discussed twenty-five critical issues inherent in a church merge. We came to a place of agreement in all twenty-five areas!

Third, we merged more than the people of



each church; we merged a similar mission based on the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Watermark Church has been founded on a firm resolve to be better together in fulfilling "why we do what we do." We are rallying together around this common cause: because Jesus changes lives, He has reconciled us to Himself and He has given us a ministry of reconciling others to Himself.

Though the journey together has just begun, we are hopeful that Watermark Church will have an increasingly greater impact for Christ in Monroe and its surrounding community.

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC UPDATE

By George Sebek

In Luke 10, Jesus exhorted seventy-two "missionaries" by telling them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Over the last number of years, mission teams from the U.S. have been going to the Dominican Republic. Multitudes have heard the gospel and many have received Christ. The major challenge is having believers who are equipped and ready to lead people to Jesus, disciple these new ones, and get them connected to the local body of believers.

The work God has been doing in Santo Domingo has been very encouraging—and very challenging. Our prayer has been for God to raise up a committed body of believers who are united and have a heart to fulfill God's

mission for Santo Domingo and the rest of the Dominican Republic. He has answered so many of our prayers!

God has answered by raising up three leaders who have a heart for outreach and discipleship. Gabriel, Yuri, and Miguel have been working closely with one another and with us to see La Vid grow and have an eternal impact. They are seeing people saved and getting connected to the church.

Our goal this past year has been to strengthen and encourage these believers on a regular basis. Thomas Lemus and I alternate monthly trips to be with them. We train them in the gospel and help them follow-up with new believers. We also spend time equipping them in their personal lives and in the dynamics of working together as a body. When we are not



with them, we have weekly training times over Skype, as a group and one-on-one. These times have proven to be immensely valuable for their ongoing encouragement and development.

Please pray for the Dominican Republic and for the believers there to be *"steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 15:58).

If you would like information on participating in what God is doing in the Dominican Republic, you can email me at George.sebek@reliant.org.

GOSPEL TRAINING OVER SKYPE

By Tom Short

Taking the gospel to foreign lands has never been easier. Past generations crossed the seas by boat in obedience to the Great Commission. In recent years, we travel by air in comfort and a fraction of the time. Over these past few months, I've been able to be even more efficient.

Throughout December and January, I used Skype to teach teams of young evangelists in India and Nepal. There were seven separate teams consisting of between four and twenty evangelistic workers. I Skyped with each team for an hour each night, teaching on a variety of themes including, seven Scriptural principles of the harvest, how to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, how to walk in victory over sin and temptation, how to resist the accusations of the devil, and New Testament patterns of effective communication.

These teams are working to win souls, make disciples, and establish Great Commission churches in Northern India and Nepal. They work really hard in the gospel, literally laboring day and night to win the lost. Their zeal and dedication is inspiring. Indeed, I was humbled to have the privilege of teaching them and was so encouraged by their hunger to learn God's word and their gratitude for the lessons I brought them. Pray for these zealous gospel workers.

Ministering the word in this fashion, overseas, over Skype, using a translator to speak to people whose circumstances were so different than mine but who are my brothers and sisters was a great encouragement to me. The first time I traveled to Asia, it cost me six dollars a minute to call home on a



poor phone connection. Today, I can do video Skype with a far better connection for free. What an opportunity. What great technology! Let's use it to advance the Great Commission!

(Note: Due to increased persecution of believers in these countries, we are not posting the name of the organization or American based workers who have recruited and trained these teams.)

INSIDE GCC



BRIDGE BUILDERS CONFERENCE 2017

A Bridge Builder is someone who “builds bridges” that people can walk across to find salvation in Jesus. The Bridge Builders Conference is designed to inspire, inform, encourage, and equip you to become more effective as you engage in various forms of cross-cultural ministry.

Join us May 19-21, 2017 in Clarksville, Maryland or May 26-28, 2017 in Omaha, Nebraska to meet heroic bridge builders from all over the world, and to become a better bridge builder. Visit www.gcbridgebuilder.com for more information.

MEET A GCC PASTOR

THIS EDITION:

Frank Liu

As long as I can remember, I've dreamed about being a hero and making a difference. Of course, my version was with superpowers and a secret identity. God's version included partnering with my amazing wife, Gisela, and being dad to four amazing children, Josiah, Talia, Isabel, and Danielle.

For my wife and me, our story was launched when we got married in the summer of 1997. That same year we graduated and moved to Jacksonville, Florida with a team of eight others to launch a campus church at the University of North Florida. In 2008, we took great joy in helping that campus church transition to a community church focused on reaching young



singles, young families, and the young-at-heart in our city.

Since being ordained in November of 2000, I have viewed my role as being primarily to help others fulfill their God-given potential. It breaks my heart to look around and see people (young ones, in particular) struggling with insecurity, fear, a lack of purpose, and a lack of impact. As a family and as a church, we embrace the charge to do our part in helping change that. Heroic or not, by God's grace, we'll make a difference.

ADVANCING THE WORD

JOHN HOPLER - DIRECTOR, GREAT COMMISSION CHURCHES



“And the word of God kept on spreading.” Acts 6:7

“But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied.” Acts 12:24

“So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.” Acts 19: 20

The book of Acts has many stories about Christians, churches, and Christian leaders who exhibited devotion, faith, and sacrificial love. What stands out in these stories is that the gospel of Jesus Christ continued to spread. Jesus was building His church

through gospel proclamation—and He continues to build His church today.

This newsletter highlights men and women in different settings advancing the gospel. Some are artists. Others are mothers. Some are full-time missionaries. But all are ordinary people who have been given the Holy Spirit to fulfill an extraordinary mission.

So, don't sit on the sidelines. Join up with us to fulfill Christ's mission on this earth. Follow the Lord's leading for your life and unite with your church as we work towards this common goal of spreading the word of Jesus Christ to the whole world.



NAE | National Association of
Evangelicals

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