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CHRISTIANITY IN

action

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CHANGING LIVES



LAUREN GORDON

Lauren Gordon is a middle child in a family of 11 children. At age 10, she is eager to be involved in sharing her faith.

This spring, the Gator Christian Life campus church provided an eight week long Outreach Training Class to equip the students in the Bridge Diagram, a clear method of sharing the gospel. Lauren attended the class faithfully along side of the college students, then would pair up with an older sibling once a week to share the gospel with students on the University of Florida campus.

The highlight of her spring was going on one of the spring break outreaches to Florida International University in Miami. There she had the privilege of helping lead two FIU students to the Lord. Lauren looks forward to sharing her faith on the college campus. She will boldly approach any college student, give them a survey and proceed to take them through the Bridge Diagram, often including her testimony. If she is this bold now, just wait until she gets to college!

Lauren attends Gator Christian Life:
<http://beta.gatorchristianlife.com>.



MATT & ADRIANE WAGNER

Matt and Adriane Wagner work together in their common vision for international student ministry.

1) HOW DID YOU BECOME DRAWN TO THIS MINISTRY?

Both of us have been international students at one time or another. We both studied in Japan in high school. Adriane is a native of Canada who attended a university in the U.S., where we met. We have always known God has called us to share the gospel internationally. Now we are doing so without ever leaving the state!

2) WHAT IS THE FOCUS, AND WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES, OF YOUR MINISTRY?

Our ministry focuses on international high school students. Over the past six years, families in our church and other like-minded, local churches have hosted over one hundred exchange students, for stays of one month to one year. They get exposed to weekly church and youth activities, not to mention experiencing what Christians are really like—an important bridge for those who come from countries where the gospel is not widely preached. We have led Bible studies, held Jesus film showings, and offered hospitality to dozens of young internationals. Obviously, many of them still reject Christianity. But seeds are planted, the gospel is shared, and precious souls have been saved. We have seen several begin a relationship with Christ in our own church.

Matt and Adriane attend New Song Community Church:
www.inewsong.com.

MISSION USA

NEW CHURCH PLANTS

THE WATERS CHURCH: CIBOLO, TEXAS

By Kelly Craighead

The Waters Church began officially meeting September 14, 2008. Our launch team consisted of about 25 people, including children.

In seven months, we have doubled in size two times over, now at 100. We have attracted both the already convinced and people who have little or no “church” experience. There are many new believers as a result and the “old” believers are beginning to know God in ways they never did before.

This past Sunday we had testimonies of life-change since people began coming to The Waters Church, and it was one of the most grateful and humbling experiences of my life.

Our pressure point on growth now rests in our current location as we have outgrown it. The owners have allowed us to bring in a portable classroom for children which has helped; however, the facility itself is less than ideal. The schools are nearly impossible to get into due to a waiver requirement (which no other district in South Texas requires).

Because this was recently just a rural area there really are no other places to meet our needs with the exception of one building. That building is up for sale and a friend of mine is working with me to try and get the appropriate financing for the facility and adjacent property.



Children’s Program at The Waters Church

Thank you for your prayers for our new church plant.

Check out The Waters Church:
www.waterschurch.com.

THE ROCK: PROVO, UTAH

By Steve McInroy

The Provo church plant officially opened its doors on Friday night, September 21st, 2007.

We have purposefully tried to break down the paradigm of what church looks like, meeting on Friday nights at 7:24 PM in reference to Matt. 7:24 when Jesus says: “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on a rock.” God blessed with over 415 people at the first service, and we are continually trying to put His words into practice.

With 50,000 students at BYU and UVU, and a Utah County combined population of 400,000+, we believe God has placed us in an amazing fishing hole. Many people think of this area being filled with clean-cut folks with high morals. We have found a group of people within this culture that are the outcast and rebellious. They are hungry for love and acceptance. The gospel is exactly what they need and many are being drawn to Christ.

Since our opening over 75 people have asked Jesus into their lives, over half have been baptized, and most are still with us. And many, many others have heard the gospel. Please pray for God’s



The Rock’s Grand Opening Service

leading, protection, and provision as He releases His power on this place! He is mighty to save!

Check out The Rock Church, Provo:
www.experiencetherock.com.

INTERNATIONAL

ASIA MINISTRY UPDATE

There were two major developments in Asia during 2008.

The first was the expansion of partnership churches in nine countries (Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Nepal, India, Japan, Thailand, creative access country (a country where there is religious persecution) and the Philippines) which will lead to Great Commission church plants within the next three years.

The second was the conducting of eight ConneXions leader trainings both in Asia and the US. The Asian churches are as strong as their leaders and Great Commission Asia church plants will happen through leader development, but it will take time and steady involvement. The Asia team continues to work to recruit missionaries, short term mission teams, mentors and future leaders.

For more information on Asia ministry, contact Ching Yu Wang: chingyu@e3lg.org.

Asia Ministry group. Doug Brown pictured at top left.



THE STOCKDALES: POLAND

By Jack Stockdale

Language difficulties, cultural challenges, and the realization that the door of opportunity in a given country could soon close, compel virtually every foreign missionary to follow Christ's example.

Jesus was very purposeful in His interaction with His disciples, strategically passing on to them things which they would need to effectively carry on the work of the Kingdom after His departure.

A Polish man I meet with recently lamented, "Jack, I am so weak in personal evangelism! In my job I often speak before hundreds of people. No problem! I'm very comfortable with this. (And I'm good at it.) But when I'm 'one-on-one' with a person I just don't know

how to talk to them about their soul. What do I say? How do I lead them to Christ? Please help me!"

I spent the rest of our meeting sharing from my experience and passing along to him what others have taught me. We made a plan to meet again and get some firsthand experience sharing Christ in a local park. But he didn't wait until then to begin to put into practice what I had taught him. The next evening he sent me a text message. He and a friend had just led a lady to Christ implementing some of the things we had discussed. For me, as for every missionary, this is profoundly rewarding, just as it was for the Apostle John who said, "I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth."

For more information, contact Jack at: jack.stockdale@gcmweb.org.



Jack Stockdale, missionary to Poland

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 Ridgecrest, NC. Register by October 15 to save!

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

MEET A GCC PASTOR

THIS EDITION: TOM SHORT



Life Verse: Acts 20:24

Piece of Advice: If you want to win the race of life, you must know where the finish line is and who the judge is who declares the winner.

Our race is not run nor our course finished until we stand before Jesus and hear Him either say "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Master," or "I never knew you; depart from me you who practice lawlessness."

At age 21, Tom was one of the youngest pastors ever to serve in the Great Commission movement. He is still going strong today, serving as a full-time campus evangelist. His outdoor presentations of the gospel and apologetics have led many students to Christ and inspired countless believers to stand firm in their faith while on the college campus. He has served as an elder in five different Great Commission churches and is now based out of Linworth Road Church in Columbus, OH. He and his wife, Roz, have five grown children. Check out Tom's website: www.shortreport.com.

CHANGED LIVES

JOHN HOPLER - DIRECTOR, GREAT COMMISSION CHURCHES



"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

Six years ago, God did an amazing work in my family.

In the fall of 2003, some Great Commission Church pastors decided to put on a Christmas-time conference. Around 400 attended the very first Faithwalkers.

I cannot begin to describe the impact that Faithwalkers had on my wife, my five children who attended, and on me. The messages, the worship, the prayers, the fellowship around the meal table were amazing. It was like we were in the first century church in Acts 2.

But Faithwalkers was more than a "mountain-top" experience. The real impact of the conference was the first night we got home. We had a prayer meeting as a family unlike any we had ever had before. God had visited our home! The revival in our family overflowed into the lives of my children's friends who they were reaching out to. And many of these friends have since come to Faithwalkers and had their lives transformed.

Isn't it time for you to come to Faithwalkers?



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