



River Ridge
Community
Church
PAGE TWO



United for Europe
in 2014
PAGE THREE



Reaching Out
in India
PAGE THREE



Meet the Pastor:
Dave Putthoff
PAGE FOUR



CHRISTIANITY IN *action*

VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 3 | SUMMER 2011
www.gccweb.org

CHANGING LIVES

THE ROCK IUPUI



By Ray Harmon

Who would have thought that two fathers would be involved with their college-age children in starting a new campus ministry?

It was an answer to prayer. We had been praying that the Lord would provide an opportunity to continue laboring in the gospel with our children as they got older. We hadn't considered that the Lord would answer this prayer with campus ministry.

Two families, two graduating high-school seniors, and two high school juniors—this was all we needed to establish a campus ministry at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). Although our first year was small, it provided an opportunity to work with our own children and a small group of students to help them mature and gain a vision for the lost on campus.

In just three years, that little group of 12 increased four-fold. We have had the opportunity to do initiative evangelism, attend Faithwalkers, enjoy fall and spring retreats, and attend corporate worship together.

Please pray with us as we are believing in God to raise up many of these young students as leaders and church planters. We are also considering how we can get involved on some of the other smaller campuses in our city.

Check out The Rock IUPUI: www.therockiupui.com.

MISSION WITH THE FAMILY

By Steve McInroy

At age 37, my wife, Jeanne, and I came to Christ on the same day through a GCC church in Loveland, Colorado.



We were both brought up in broken families, and one of the most compelling aspects of the GCC movement for us was, and still is, great families dedicated to Christ.

As our children grew older, we looked for ways to serve Christ together as a family, not only in the church, but also through short term missions trips (STM). Our first trip was to Baja California in Mexico, where we joined with a team from Utah to help Amor Ministries build homes. This trip was very impactful, and we began looking for more opportunities. We realized STM trips were crucial in helping us maintain our zeal for the Lord as a family.

I cannot put into words the impact my family has experienced through being involved with missions together. We have since returned to Mexico, and my entire family participated in a European STM in Turin in 2006, as well as in Poland and Turin in 2008. We are currently preparing to participate in what we are calling "E11," a musical tour in four GCE cities in Europe. Please pray for our team as we leave August 31 and return September 17.

Our children are mostly adults now, and this has been the most hands-on faith builder of which I know. I am so thankful for God's provision and vision for raising godly families.

Steve and his family attend The Rock in Provo, UT:
www.experiencetherock.com.

MISSION USA

NEW CHURCH PLANTS

RIVER RIDGE TEAYS VALLEY: TEAYS VALLEY, WEST VIRGINIA

By Chad Cobb

With approximately 30 families, River Ridge Church planted a second campus in Teays Valley, WV in the fall of 2008.

The church decided on a model of “one church in two locations.” While each of the five pastors concentrate their ministry efforts on specific campuses, both campuses are served by a plurality of leadership. The Teays Valley campus has been meeting in a local elementary school, which has provided opportunities to minister to the staff and teachers.

One of the highlights of the year is the church’s annual Big Kick Soccer Camp, a week-long soccer camp for elementary school students, where the kids receive not only soccer instruction, but also the truth of the Gospel.

In the three years since its planting, the people of River Ridge have boldly reached into their neighborhoods, and God has blessed that faithfulness with lives being changed by the Gospel and people being baptized. In January, the church began having two services to serve the growing number of families who had begun attending River Ridge. The Teays Valley campus is actively pursuing property in the Teays Valley area in order to reach this community for many years to come. As God continues to widen the geographic influence of River



River Ridge’s Big Kick Soccer Camp

Ridge into surrounding communities, the pastors are always seeking to identify leaders for a future church plant.

Check out River Ridge Church, Teays Valley, West Virginia: www.riverridge.org.

NEW SONG WEST COMMUNITY CHURCH: MESA, ARIZONA

By Brandon Pullen

A faithful band of overworked heroes prayed that God would send help to their little church in Tempe, Arizona.

As God often does in His mystery, He waited, and then in what seemed to be the last hour, help came in the form of a handful of families and singles from Fort Collins, Colorado who moved to join the spiritual warriors of Tempe. The largest result of this blessing from God has been

a sense of refreshment throughout the church. May God be praised for the satisfaction and life only He can bring to the soul!

Not only that, but God has reached deep into the community of Tempe by bringing in those we would never have expected, while giving a jump-start to those in the church who have been stagnant in growth. Recently, we organized people into groups called “Faith Teams,” which focus on having faith together for the

outside community and each others’ lives.

Lastly, because we shared our name with others in the valley, we have changed it to Desert’s End Community Church. May God bring the end of the desert to many souls! “For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert” (Isaiah 35:6).

Contact Brandon at brandonpullen@summitview.com.

INTERNATIONAL

UNITED FOR EUROPE ‘14

By Daniel Goering

In a desire to help the GCC churches fulfill “the uttermost” part of their Acts 1:8 vision, GCC is teaming up with Great Commission Europe (GCE) on a long-term strategic plan called “United for Europe 2014.”

This is an exciting cooperative initiative to make a significant impact in five or six new countries of Europe in the next few years.

The leadership teams of GCC and GCE believe that the time is ripe to take some bold new steps in teaming together to reach Europe. After 20 years of laying foundations, uniting on core values, and seeing several beachheads established and reproducing, GCE is in a position to provide laborers and support for teams to be formed in reaching strategic new parts of Europe in the next few years. The lessons learned, and the structures in place

(regular conferences, pastors’ summits and huddles, regional coaching, etc.) convince us that the hour has come to step through doors which God has been opening in the following countries: Latvia, Sweden, Moldova, France, Romania and Albania. There are also possibilities in Scotland, England, Russia and Kazakhstan.

The steps forward are simple, yet challenging. We will be seeking to connect interested individuals and churches from the U.S. with churches and regions within Europe, to take steps of faith through those open doors as God gives direction and opportunity. This will involve a screening/selection process, much pre-field training and preparation, short-term mission experiences, and for some, eventual relocation to new countries.

With consistent communication through our “round-table model,” which helps keep



GCE leadership team

the goals, responsibilities and expectations clear between the sending and receiving churches and regions, we are confident that we will see permanent progress in spreading the gospel in Europe. Please be praying along with us for God to lead and provide.

Check out Great Commission Europe at www.gceweb.org.

REACHING OUT IN INDIA

By Tom Short

God is opening awesome doors of opportunity in India – the land with more lost people and unreached people groups than any other nation in history.

I recently took my sixth trip to India where 850 people attended our Faithwalkers India conference. Despite very hot weather, the students sat for hours listening attentively to the Word. It was humbling to minister to these students, some of whom live under the threat of violence from radical Hindus. Most of them are committed to daily Bible studies and to reaching their friends and classmates with the gospel.

We stayed a second week to conduct evangelistic crusades in Northern India – an extremely unreached area, where dozens of people responded to the gospel message. We assisted a GCC missionary, who is building a solid

leadership team and whose evangelistic training is leading to tens of thousands of conversions!

Prior to my trip, Jonathan and Christine Kimball (my son-in-law and daughter) spent a month in India evangelizing in the areas where I was to follow. They had joined me in India last year and decided to venture out on their own this year. God used their musical talents, passionate preaching and unbounded energy to win many Hindus to Christ and to encourage the disciples who are stepping up into leadership positions.

We truly are seeing breakthroughs in India. One man who has joined our North India leadership team has been a full-time evangelist for 18 years. He told me he has never seen anything



Tom Short speaking in India

like this – that there are more radical conversions occurring in a single night than he sometimes saw in a year! Keep praying for the Light to shine in this dark and needy land!

For more information, visit tomshortcampusministries.com.

INSIDE GCC

FAITHWALKERS CONFERENCE:

BLESSED! DEC. 27-30, 2011



Knowing, believing, and laying hold of our blessings in Christ is essential to a faith that will sustain us through the years. That is what this year's Faithwalkers is all about. Join us for four life-changing days as we discover together the incredible joys and rewards of being a Christian. Check out the location websites to learn more.

Faithwalkers East:
www.faithwalkers-east.net

Faithwalkers West:
www.faithwalkers-west.net

Faithwalkers Midwest:
www.faithwalkers-midwest.net

MEET A GCC PASTOR

THIS EDITION: DAVE PUTTHOFF

Dave is from Kansas City, Missouri, where he came to Christ as a college student in 1982. He and his wife, Terry, have been married since 1987, and have three active teens. For his first church plant, he was sent from Cornerstone Community Church in Kansas City to an area of northern Virginia to launch a campus ministry at George Mason University, and a community church for surrounding suburbs in 1985. Dave moved back to the heartland and helped start Lee's Summit Community Church in 1988. Since that time, additional ministries and churches have been started, including Open Range Fellowship in Lone Jack, Missouri, where Dave pastors and serves the Great Commission Heartland region for Missouri and Kansas. Open Range includes the working ranch, Ransomed Heart Ranch, home to HorsePower for at-risk youth, and Open Road, which reaches out to bikers.



Verses: "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it" (Colossians 4:17). "Do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry" (2 Timothy 4:5). "That I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20: 24).

Advice: *Work at telling outsiders the Good News, and carry out the ministry God has given you, which includes reaching out to lost mavericks in all contexts whether rural, urban, suburban, or campus.*

You can contact Dave at gcheartland@me.com.

CHANGED LIVES

JOHN HOPLER - DIRECTOR, GREAT COMMISSION CHURCHES



This past June at the GCC Pastors Conference, our focus was "Reaching the Next Generation for Christ," in which we promoted two primary strategies.

First, we urged each church to build "families on mission." When fathers, mothers, sons and daughters are serving Jesus Christ together in His mission (like the Harmons and McInroys in the articles on the front

page of this newsletter), young people in the church are not only reached--they become disciples who can reach others. Second, we promoted the value of intergenerational churches that are relating to and effectively reaching young people who are not in the church. Today, the family has been destroyed... and young people in our communities have suffered as a result. Therefore, a church, as the family of God where older and younger believers love each other and work together, is in a great position to present the love of Christ to those who are far from God.

Whether you are young or old, rich or poor, a new believer or a longtime follower of Christ, you are greatly needed for this work. Will you join your church in reaching the next generation for Jesus Christ?

