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Missions Edition

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Let Me Know How Transient I Am

by **DARCY WILEY**

It was Independence Day back home, but I wasn't in the mood to celebrate. I had strained my Achilles tendon from walking all afternoon in a cheap pair of flip-flops through a maze of dusty streets in Cairo, a city of 16 million people. My translator and I were trying to locate a student who had asked us to visit her home to tell her more about Jesus. We had taken every form of transportation but a camel that day. I was tired, thirsty, overheated and just plain irritable. We finally found her apartment, but she wasn't home. When I got back to my air-conditioned room, I settled into what I hoped would be a long night's rest. And then the phone rang.

"You must come," my Egyptian friend shot back at me as I tried to politely refuse her invitation



Here, the Higgins Family and their team trek the sand dunes of North Africa. Their stories and those of other Northsiders on mission are chronicled throughout this month's *Vision*. Photo courtesy of Awe Star

to her rooftop party. "Your whole team is coming. We have your favorite dessert." She added a sweetness to her voice and then resorted back to her commanding tone, "You must come." To refuse would be to insult my friend and her family. So, I went, mumbling complaints about Egypt along the way. On the rooftop, I spotted my teammates and took a seat next to my friend Mike. "You're exhausted- I can tell," he said. "They forced me to come," I replied as I took the can of cold lemon Fanta he handed to me and pressed it against my face. "We won't be in Cairo much longer," he said, "You can loathe it, or you can love it." He smiled, softening the severity of his words.

It was a simple sentence, something to spur me on when I wasn't enjoying life on mission.

But those words changed my perspective. My days there were numbered. I began to sense an urgency. Instead of thinking, "I don't *have* to be here much longer," I started thinking, "I don't *get* to be here much longer." I presented my weary self to Jesus asking Him to help me make the most of my remaining time in Cairo. In the last weeks, I walked the dusty streets with joy and grew fond of the place and people.

In Psalm 39:4, David said: "Lord, make me to know my end/And what is the measure of my days;/Let me know how transient I am." It has been almost a decade since that summer in Egypt. Shortly thereafter, I met the man who would be my husband and I

made him chase me around the world for half a decade. Over two decades ago, I gave my life to Jesus. Yes, I'm getting to the age where I'm starting to think in decades. If God allows me to live a normal life-span, I'll have only five or six more of those. At first, Psalm 39:4 frightened me. David's lyrics were eerie. But then I focused on the last few words. It doesn't say I'm temporary; it says I'm transient. I am a traveler on her way Home- but I have a mission along the way.

**Lord, make me to know my end
And what is the measure of my days;
Let me know how transient I am.**

-Psalm 39:4

(Continued on page 2)

Acts 1:8 Strategy Includes Missions-Giving and Missions-Going

Northside has long been the leading church among Indiana Baptists in missions giving with over \$175,000 given to missions causes last year. Our missions funding is distributed according to the Biblical mandate in Acts 1:8 which says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the world." The Acts 1:8 strategy is to balance local missions (Jerusalem), state missions (Judea), North American missions (Samaria), and international missions (ends of the world). But an effort has been made to move Northside beyond being a great missions-giving church to becoming a great missions-going church as well.

This issue of the Vision is dedicated to Northsiders who went on mission this summer. As you read, you'll discover that the Acts 1:8 strategy is active at Northside. In local missions, we offered the first Circle City Upward Basketball Camp ministering to Indy's inner-city. Teams are helping Highland Lakes with construction projects. In North American missions, our students worked on a Native American reservation in Montana. Another Northside team worked with the Connection Church in Vancouver. College students, Erica Reed and Whitney Higgins, worked for iWitness Ministries in Texas. Jared Law took a Youth for Christ team to Mexico. With Eric David in Chile, former NSM interns Tom Hall and Lauren Higgins in Southern Africa, the Higgins family in North Africa, Cindy Timmers in Ukraine, Alison Whitely in Southeast Asia, and David Fladung in New Zealand, Northsiders were all over the globe this summer.

On August 20 at 6 pm, we will have our CommUNITY service at Main Campus. At this service, we will celebrate the return of our summer missionaries. The deacons will be hosting a home-made ice cream fellowship following the service. Join us and celebrate how Northsiders have embraced the Acts 1:8 challenge!

Pastor's Corner

by **DR. MARK HEARN**
Senior Pastor



(Continued from page 1)

Missionaries Make the Most of Their Measure of Days

by **DARCY WILEY**

Although he didn't know how soon he'd be going Home, our own BJ Higgins knew he was a transient when at age 14 he wrote his manifesto: "Self, I will not be satisfied. I will not let my passion be held in a bottle.... I will let my voice be heard. I will lead. I will serve. I will fight. I will tell people about Christ. I will bring Him up in conversations. I will not watch TV or play video games. I will...visit only at Christian, beneficial websites and will only email if it is edifying to a believer.... I will memorize Scriptures again and read Christian books again and spend more time in the Word. I will unsheathe my sword and stop playing [only] defense in this war. It's time to raise a revolution...." In his last year of life on earth, BJ cut ties with whatever would hinder him in running the race set before him. A few weeks ago, BJ's family scattered his ashes in North Africa, where BJ had hoped to share about Jesus this summer.

So, how are you using your days and decades? Are you making the most of your time? Are you living joyfully and undistractedly on mission? This awareness of how transient we are can help steer us to devote our days and decades to God, keeping us from being bogged down with negative attitudes or distracted by the glitzy things our enemy dangles in front of us. Need some encouragement from others making the most of their measure of days? In this issue, you'll read all about Northsiders on mission, those who have spent their summers spreading news of Jesus near and far. Turn the page and consider how you might make the most of the time you are given on earth.



Darcy Wiley has been a member of Northside since September 1994. On staff, she assists the Ministry & Evangelism team and edits and designs publications. She sings on the church praise team alongside her husband, Craig, on drums. Darcy has a heart for missions and has seen God at work in South Africa, Swaziland, Egypt, Slovakia, China, Thailand, Morocco and Spain.

In this issue, you'll read about these missionaries and more:
 ~ the Higgins who traveled to share about Jesus in the thirsty land where BJ was called to go.
 ~ Eric David who played the Good Prince in a drama in Chile.
 ~ Northside's first Vancouver team and the vision they have for Northside's future trips.
 ~ Cindy Timmers who delivered quilts (made by Northsiders) to orphans in Ukraine.

Hear stories from the mission field when both campuses gather as one CommUNITY Sunday, August 20, 6 pm at Main Campus.



Modern Church Gets a Little Too “Civilized”

by **DAN HORNER**

The Barbarian Way is the latest book from forward-thinking pastor Erwin McManus. Once again, McManus has attempted to capture the Church’s imagination to be a catalyst for change in our culture.

What is the “barbarian way” and how could anything barbaric relate to modern day Christianity? That is McManus’ point exactly. He contends that something has been lost as the church has become “modern”, “domesticated” and “civilized”. The church has left its original path of risk, adventure, passion and sacrifice for something safer, less risky. Christianity has moved from a small group of renegades to a religion of conformists, traditionalists and those with a refined faith. Jesus is being obscured by a religion bearing His name. McManus believes the barbarian way is about love, intimacy, passion and sacrifice. These are to be the characteristics of the people who have met the living God and fallen in love with the Savior of their souls. As the book says, “Barbarians love to live and live to love.”

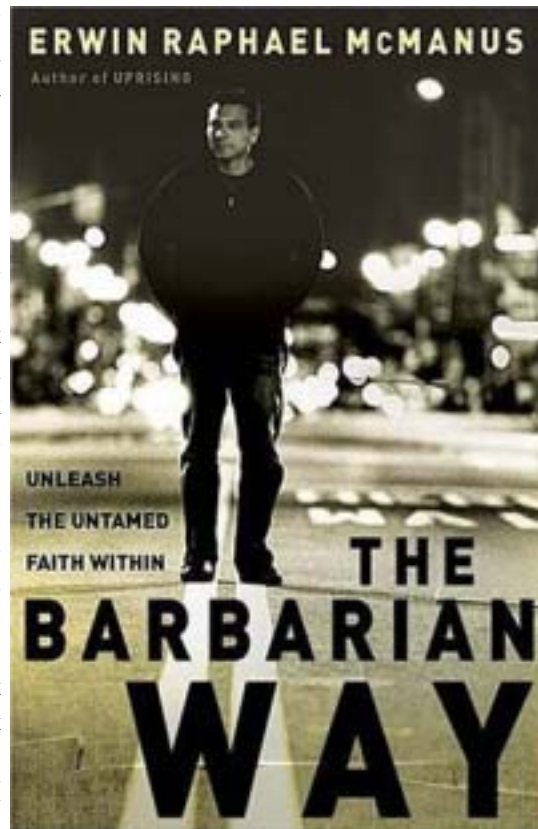
Do you heed the call of the barbarian or do you prefer something more civilized? The barbarian call is to live in this world as a citizen of an entirely different kingdom. In John 17:15-16, Jesus said to the Father: “My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.”

The barbarian sees the world for what it is, the kingdom of the enemy. As Christians, we are behind enemy lines and we are called to live a life that is committed to setting people free. If we live our lives in a way to not “lose” what we have in this world/life then Jesus says we will lose it. Modern Christian culture encourages us to live like the world, with only one distinct difference- we get to go to Heaven after we are done living here on earth. Many Christians think Jesus came to ensure our safety, convenience and comfort in this life. But in Luke 9:25, Jesus said, “What good is it for a man to gain the

whole world, and yet lose his own soul?” We must all ask ourselves if we have traded Jesus’ path for a more secure path in order to preserve the lives we have created for ourselves.

For an example of the barbarian lifestyle we need look no further than the Apostle Paul. Would anyone say that Paul lived a safe, comfortable or civilized faith? Paul had been a religionist with a refined life until he met Jesus. At the moment of his conversion he became a barbarian. He literally began to travel a different path. Paul did not find Jesus to be “safe” but he, like other followers of Christ, did find Him to be good, faithful, and closer than a brother. Like Paul, barbarians hear a different call and understand clearly that we follow the God who chose the way of the Cross. Jesus said for us to follow Him, wherever that may lead us. We have been called into an intimate relationship with Him in order to live a life where He has to show up. The civilized don’t need an intimate ally; the barbarian understand that their very lives depend upon Him. The civilized build shelters and invite God to stay with them; the barbarian move with God wherever He chooses to go. The civilized have a routine; the barbarian a mission. The civilized know the letter of the law; the barbarian live by the spirit of the law. For the civilized, programs make it happen; for the barbarian, the Spirit makes it happen.

What about Northside Baptist Church? Are we more civilized or barbarian? Does it really matter or is it merely an issue of personal preference? The real question that we all must answer is what did Jesus actually begin two thousand years ago? Is my life being conformed to Him or am I trying to conform Him to my lifestyle? These are deep questions that we must ponder in our hearts. As you think about your position (civilized or barbarian) pick up McManus’ book “The Barbarian Way” and let him take you deeper into your thinking about what the Christian life is meant to be.



Dan Horner joined Northside in 2004 along with his wife, Diane, and three children, Morgan, James and Jackson. Dan participated as a member of the Project Jabez Team to launch the North Campus and raise necessary funds for the church. Dan’s passion for ministry resides with Indiana Outpost, a men’s ministry he and ten other men founded in 2005.

Churches Team Up with Northside



Volunteers Let Kids Know Somebody Loves Them

by **STEPHANIE WILLIAMS**

The first day of camp during the small group devotion we were talking to the kids about how God is love. We talked about special gifts that we'd gotten from someone who loves us. I mentioned a softball glove and my sister talked about her wedding ring. We asked the kids what someone who loved them had given them, I'll never forget the response of two

Brookside Park

particular little boys. Neither one of them could think of any-

thing. We tried giving them examples like hugs or a bicycle, but they said nobody loved them and that all their mom did was yell at them. It made me so sad to hear that. We quickly told them how God loves them and so do we. It made me realize how fortunate I was to grow up in a loving, Christian environment and how it is our job to help share that with other people.



Photos by Rusty Kennedy

Rain Delay Allows Campers to Linger on Gospel Message

by **MARY CARVELLE**

All week long rain had threatened basketball camp, but each day the rain cleared just in time for us to get on the courts. That is every day except Friday, when we got soaked, and ended up under the park pavilion for much of the morning. The blessing in this was that Friday was the day that we presented the Gospel to the kids in our small groups. The rain delay allowed us to linger on the truth that

Jesus took our punishment for us, and offers eternal life in exchange. My group consisted of about eight

Douglass Park

first and second grade girls, and as we shared with the kids, they asked lots of questions about how Jesus took our punishment. Finally, one little girl named Diamond stood up on the picnic table, threw her hands up in the air, and yelled "I LOOOOVE GOD!" She was so unabashed in her praise to God, and I learned that I should be so passionate as well!

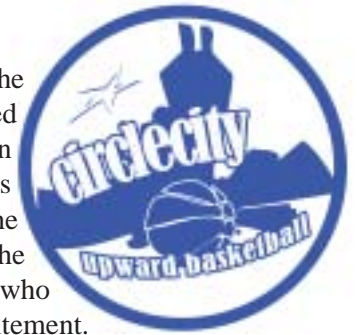


Photos by Rusty Kennedy

to Share God's Love with Indy Kids

by **ED WILLIAMS**

Praise God for planning and providing the 2006 Circle City Basketball Camp. I was inspired by the presence of God who clearly demonstrated He was in control as His plans were being carried out. It was a privilege and a joy to team together with the volunteers during this event. Earlier in our planning process I said that during this camp we would have one of the greatest opportunities afforded to us, a chance to have an impact on the character building of the life of a child. The most important thing we could have done was to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the children and their families. That is what made this camp so important. Thank you so much to all who were willing to serve and be part of this exciting week. It was full of high-energy, fun and excitement. What a privilege we had to carry out His plan.



Ed Williams and his wife Ruth Ann have been at Northside since October 2002. Ed got the idea for this camp while on a mission trip last summer. Stephanie Williams, Mary Carvelle and Mark Helmus all volunteered at the various sites of Circle City Upward Basketball Camp in June. Stephanie is Ed Williams' daughter and teaches in North Carolina. Mary has been a member of Northside since August 2002 and facilitates the Celebrate Recovery ministry. Mark is a member of St. Luke's Methodist and has been involved with Upward at Northside in the past.

Coaches Open Eyes, Hearts and Arms for God's Glory and Children's Benefit

by **MARK HELMUS**

My experience with the Circle City Upward Basketball Camp was amazing! So much happened and so many lives

Washington Park

were touched, it's difficult to focus on just one. What struck me the most (and has stuck with me since the camp) was the children's need for human touch. After the first day, I told my wife that I think I gave and received more hugs in four hours than I would ordinarily get/give in a month from my own two children! While the basketball drills and games were fun for everyone, the clearest evidence of God's presence was in the smiles on the children's faces. Thank God for the opportunity to serve and for opening our eyes, hearts and arms for His glory and the children's benefit!



Photos by Anne Hutchison



VANCOUVER PARTNERSHIP Mission Team Plants First Seeds

by MEG PATTON

I'm not a basketball anything. I'm not a player. I'm certainly not a coach. In fact, I don't even like the game. But when the opportunity to go to Vancouver to help with an Upward Basketball camp was presented again and again, I had to ask myself "Why not?" I saw the Lord offering me this opportunity. How could I say no? I might do nothing more than talk to a few children who didn't want to play, but I knew I could do that.

The first day of camp in Vancouver, the first child to register was a little 5-year-old boy who was intimidated by all of the "big" kids registering alongside

him. He started to cry. I talked with Kameron and we became friends. I left him in

Casey's good care knowing he'd be fine, but Kameron's tears were still there when I checked on him, so I decided to stay and help children line up for basketball drills. Standing on that basketball court, I thought "Oh dear, these children might think I'm a coach! Rusty is going to laugh when he finds out about this."

But the real purpose of the trip was not to teach bas-



Our mission became clear when we mentioned Jesus and had nothing but blank stares in response. These children didn't know anything about Jesus.

ketball skills. Our mission became clear when we mentioned Jesus and had nothing but blank stares in response. These children didn't know anything about Jesus. It became clear when we sang "Jesus Loves Me" and only the other leaders and I knew the words. We had 70+ well-behaved children, yet the majority knew

nothing about Jesus. They knew the name of God but had no idea what He does, who He is, nor what security He can bring to those who believe in Him. I will never forget having the opportunity to show Jesus' love and plant the first seed. At the end of the week, when several of the children called me "Coach"—I was proud to answer.

My prayer is that other older adults will answer the call to share Jesus with everyone using whatever venue God makes available— even if

it's Upward Basketball. This trip was the first of many to come in our partnership with The Connection in Maple Ridge, a suburb of Vancouver. Over the next several years, some of us will plant the seeds, others will water and God will cause the increase. I still can't make a basket or dribble down the court, but the kids started calling me "Coach" anyway. It's not about the basketball or the cheerleading; it's about telling children and their parents about Jesus.



Meg Patton has been a member of Northside since June 2003. As the widow of a Southern Baptist pastor, she has a passion for ministry and missions. She is involved in women's ministry and teaches a single women's small group. Meg works full-time teaching medical coding.

VANCOUVER

"The Connection" Reaches out to Pagans, Hindus and Everything Between

PARTNERSHIP

by **JOHN MARTENS**

In the first week of summer holidays for the schools in Canada we put on Upward Basketball and Cheerleading camps. Workers from Northside and a church in Texas came to help, and about 70 campers showed up each day. The children learned skills and played various sports while making new friends and hearing about Jesus. About 80% of these kids had never been to church before. In attendance were people who were Pagans, Hindus, and everything in between.

One of the teams also spent time prayer-walking, handing out popcorn door-to-door, doing free car washes, and getting our library and new location ready.

At the close of the week we put on a concert in Maple Ridge's central park. About 150 people showed up. While the children played under the perfect sky, people set up lawn chairs. The band performed for 90 minutes, worship dancers helped out with several songs, and all the while people handed out free water, lollipops, and kid's games. Somehow the weather, music and dancing all came together powerfully – or rather I should say, God showed up. Person after person talked about how they were moved by this. A prisoner on furlough invited us to play in his prison. Several security guards on break came and chatted for 30 minutes. It was awesome!

When it was all over, the Indiana team (Matt Snow, Casey & Drayland Horn, Tim Lawrence, Jared Law, Meg Patton, Rick Williams, Jennifer Wilson and Rachel Hearn) stayed in our house for the night and left for home early Saturday morning. Later, on Saturday night, we had 8 first time visitors show up at our church. As I said, God showed up.



John Martens is a church-planter who pastors The Connection Church in a fast-growing suburb of Vancouver where he lives with his wife, Tiffany, and kids, Mikaela and Adam. Northside will be partnering with the Martens 'til February 2010.



Photos by Rick Williams, Jennifer Wilson and Matt Snow

iWitness Interns Help Students Go Global

by **ERICA REED**

This has been an amazing summer. I have been working as an intern at iWitness Ministries. Fellow Northsider Whitney Higgins joined me for the first part of the summer before going with her family on a mission to North Africa. As summer interns, we have had the chance to help iWitness in sending high school and college students on trips all over Europe, Asia, and Africa. Some of you may know Lance Shumake who served as Director of Youth Ministries for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana for a while. A few years ago, he moved back to Texas and started iWitness Ministries where he is now president.



I've had a wonderful time meeting students who are answering God's call to missions. Among the many practical training exercises I helped with at base camp was the Igosian market where soon-to-be missionaries had to barter to get a good price on their cucumber and tomato breakfast. I had a great time playing the role of a difficult shopkeeper. But I wasn't just a trainer. I also got to experience the mission field first-hand. July 19-29, I was one of 134 people traveling to Cologne, Germany to join in God's work in Europe. We interacted with people from all over the world in hopes of having opportunities to engage in meaningful conversations about our Savior. I cannot wait to share all of my stories!

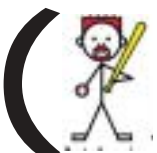


Erica Reed has been a member of Northside since summer 1993. She has participated in various Northside missions, including disaster relief and Upward trips, and has taught with Northside Student Ministry. Erica graduated in May with a degree in biology from IUPUI.

Students Present "Freedom" Drama with Founding Fathers in View

by **RUSTY KENNEDY**

When the Northside Student Ministry Wild, Wild West team arrived at Mount Rushmore, we asked the park ranger if we could do the "Freedom" drama at the huge amphitheatre on the grounds. The ranger had us fill out a form and then 5 minutes later we started the drama. There were people observing it and other church groups present that were encouraged by it. The cool thing about it, is that "Freedom" was performed at this national park honoring some of the founding fathers who pursued freedom wholeheartedly so that all men and women could live in a free society. Their fight for freedom has given our students the right to present "Freedom" so that men and women can hear that they can be set free by Jesus. The Good News was definitely told and our students mingled with the people afterwards. It was a great opportunity. Check the blog at www.nsmwildwest.blogspot.com and come out for CommUNITY report Sunday night, August 20 to hear more stories about the flat-tire on our double-decker bus, our interactions on a reservation in Montana, our VBS ministry with a church in Flagstaff, and our performance that got cut short at the Grand Canyon.



Rusty and his wife Michelle have been at Northside since 1989 and have two children, Cory and Chloe. After serving as Minister to Students for years, Rusty now serves as Associate Pastor of Ministry & Evangelism. Rusty is a Jesus fanatic and he likes baseball too.



Chilean Students Crowd around to Hear Good News

by **ERIC DAVID**

God is doing a mighty work in Chile. I traveled there with Awe Star Ministries this summer. Our team of 22 performed an 18-minute street drama that explains the Gospel through representation of Jesus Christ and salvation. My team was blessed to perform a total of 93 times in over 40 schools allowing us to share with 35,000 students! By the end of the tour, we had received 8,000 decision cards.

When we were in Ovalle, we traveled to a small neighborhood to perform our drama. We arrived an hour early and split up to go invite the people. After about 45 minutes of inviting we all returned and began to worship and pray. It came time to perform the drama and there were only about five kids. The

leadership of our team decided that we were going to perform whether there was a crowd or not. One of the guys on our team stood up and started shouting a prayer for God to come and show Himself. After that we began our drama. About halfway through, we turned around toward the what we expected to be a small group of five, only to realize that it had grown to a crowd of about 200! When we finished the drama, we started it over again so that the newcomers could see the whole thing. At the end we gave "the net", which explains all the symbols in the drama, then we went out to talk to the people. That night 40 people made decisions to follow Christ.



Eric David has been a Northside member since spring 1998. He is a freshman at Mt. Vernon High School and is active in Northside Student Ministry, playing guitar in the NSM band. He became interested in missions after conversations with BJ Higgins at JumpStart 2005.



Home Provides Comfort for Grieving Family in Mexico

by **JARED LAW**

My trip to Mexico with Youth for Christ was both awesome and interesting. God was there and He was on the move and I saw many of our kids change over the two weeks. We worked and we worked to build houses for two different families. These families have lived in nothing but pallet houses with cardboard walls for most of their lives. One family had three kids and one on the way. A year before this trip, the family had a fire in their hut and lost their baby. This year, the mother became very emotional after the completion of the house because although she was still mourning the loss of one of her children, she was glad to be pregnant again and to have a brand new home to raise her new baby in. She continually thanked us for coming and thanked God for allowing us to be there.



Now it never rains in the part of Mexico we were in, but of course while we were there it poured down rain on two different days. One day it wrecked our outreach and another day it forced us all rush to the bus to get out of the downpour while we were working. But God had it all under control and allowed us to do the outreach another day. We got to minister to over 400 people, both children and adults. The most amazing thing was seeing the happiness and contentment on people's faces, even in the midst of such poverty. They were happy for what they had and content in the knowledge that God loves them.



Jared Law has been a member of Northside since spring 1996 and Director of College Ministry since fall 2004. His position is in partnership with Youth for Christ where he serves as campus coach at HSE High School. Jared attends seminary in Louisville.

Former NSM Interns Bring Message of Hope to Southern Africa

by **LAUREN HIGGINS**

To see the sun rise or set against the mountains, I had only to walk outside the circular house where we stayed. We were on a hill, able to overlook a village in the valley. Cows wandered along the dirt roads. Women walked the road balancing 5-gallon jugs on their heads without spilling a drop. Roosters crowed. The smell of cooking fires filled the air. This is Swaziland.

Statistics say at least 38% of the people are infected with HIV but the locals say the statistics are wrong, that at least 90% of the population is infected. The Swazi culture is so steeped in witchcraft that some of the men falsely believe they can cure themselves by having sex with a virgin. Rape is prevalent, and girls as young as 6 years old are being affected. People are dying. This is Swaziland.

The hospital was the hardest place for me to go. I knew it would be nothing like the hospital where BJ spent the end of his life, but I was still nervous. It was only my second time in a hospital since he died, and my first time in a children's ward.



The first thought that struck me as we walked the dirty hallways toward the children's wing was that BJ had everything in the medical world- up-to-date technology, current knowledge, cutting-edge procedures- and still he died. In this filthy hospital, where children came to be healed, it seemed much more likely that they would meet death.

One room was filled with premie babies wrapped in layers of blankets- no incubators. I just sobbed. As I watched through the glass into a separate section of the room, I saw a cockroach crawling on one of the

sheets. Two other rooms held almost a dozen children each. Many were gaunt. One little girl was expressionless. I could feel her spinal cord, and her ribs through her shirt as I hugged her. All I could do was pray. When I looked up and around, I saw more than half of my teammates bent over a bed, heads bowed. It was all we had to offer.

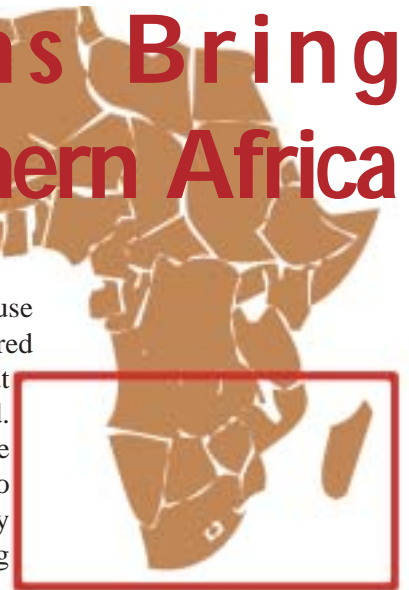
Undombi, the one who took us through the hospital wing, had more to offer. She spoke their language. In each room we entered, she told the children and their parents a Bible story and prayed over them. Every week, Undombi visits the children and brings them a message of hope. In John 10:10, Jesus said, "The enemy has come to steal, kill, and destroy. But I have come that you may have life." The Lord has moved Undombi to fight for life where satan would spread death. Look for more Swaziland stories in my May-June entries on prayforbj.com.



Lauren Higgins grew up at Northside and was active in Northside Student Ministry. She served as an NSM intern in summer 2005 between semesters at Indiana Wesleyan where she is working on her Adolescent Ministry and Biblical Literature double major. Although she was already missions-minded, Lauren's life was greatly impacted by her brother, BJ, who gave his all to Jesus on the mission field before his death in September 2005.



Tom Hall has been a member of Northside since November 1999. As a high schooler, he was active in Northside Student Ministry and later served as an intern in summer 2004 between semesters at Purdue. He graduated college this past May with a degree in engineering. He has a heart for international missions and is currently seeking God's direction for his future.



by **TOM HALL**

I won't be able to share my stories with you this month as I'll be in Namibia through the beginning of October. I have the opportunity to live out the Gospel in this hurting nation that gained its independence from South Africa sixteen years ago. The sad fact is that every day, 66 adult Namibians die of AIDS in a population of 1.8 million. Many children have been orphaned by this disease. In hopes of improving morality and health, the government of Namibia has welcomed Christian missionaries like me to teach abstinence in schools. I pray that the people of Namibia embrace God and His design for them so that they can one day say AIDS is no longer the epidemic that it is today.



Stones Hide Treasure Stored in Heaven

by BRENT HIGGINS

We drove as far as we could up a mountain dirt road. No guard rails, just a sheer drop as we ascended. When we got as far as we could drive, all 19 of us plus our missionary hosts, and another 6 summer missionaries from another team started the trek up to the chosen final resting place for BJ's remains. It was beautiful- pine trees above, and a view of several mountain villages below, with our host city in the distance. Minarets from the area mosques were in clear sight from this panoramic view. Shade and a gentle breeze eased the heat of the day.

We gathered in this small natural amphitheater, and entered into a time of worship. After offering praises to our King, each person spoke a few words, read Scripture which was meaningful to them personally, and then each layed a large river boulder into a small pile. I went first.

I spoke about Beej's Christ-centered desperation to see the lost come to Christ, his call to North Africa, and related Scripture. Then I layed the first stone, and poured out his remains onto it. The breeze kicked up, but left his ash alone. Each person then added to this. Here, where the Lord is working and moving in these villages, we believe He ordained for BJ's remains to be. Yes, we shed many tears. We heard many wonderful affirmations from this body of Christ. BJ would have been embarrassed, but we his family were very thankful for the self-less participation of each team member. This is how we began our journey in North Africa.

On our final day in country, our host took Deanna, Lauren, Whitney and me back to the site, along with BJ's best friend from his last trip to Peru, DJ. The site was thought secure, and we figured it would go undisturbed, but that was not the case. In this land, riches are thought to be found in the mountains. If one suddenly becomes successful in life, all believe he has found wealth in the mountains. One such searching soul was looking for the same under this pile of stone. I trust he found the wealth my son had in life. I trust he is on a path that leads to Christ. Truly, what was buried beneath the stones of this cairn was a treasure, but it is stored in heaven.



Traveler in North Africa Finds Reason for Journey

by BRENT HIGGINS

Our team had been traveling in small villages for weeks when we had the opportunity to stay in the country's largest tourist city. We were staying here because of its proximity to some of the small villages where we would be sharing our drama during the evening.

When checking into our hotel we noticed and interacted with a half-dozen Europeans. Our team was friendly, but thought little else of the encounter. We climbed

into our mini-buses and headed out to the village where we were expected that evening. We sat down for dinner and were quite surprised when those same Europeans walked into the private home where we were eating. Our team embraced them, and began sharing. One young man, Matt from Poland, was moved. He said he was "lucky in God" as he had conversations with Catholic priests, nuns, Muslim imams and now us. He stated there was something different about us. He could see the difference and wanted to know what it was.

When asked why he was there, he indicated that he was hitchhiking the world in search of what he was to do with his life. After viewing the drama, I sent one of our students to talk to him. He indicated that he was supposed to have been in Japan and China, but did not end up there, and was trying to figure out why he was in this area. We shared the Gospel with him, and he figured out why he was there. He gave his heart to Jesus!

After joining in 1983, Brent Higgins and his wife Deanna raised their children, Lauren, Whitney and BJ, at Northside. They served in Northside Student Ministry and sang on the church's praise team. In 2004, the family moved to Martinsville to serve at Highland Lakes. In fall 2005, after BJ returned from his second mission to Peru, the family watched him battle a serious infection for six weeks until he went to be with the Lord. BJ's testimony traveled near and far (www.prayforbj.com) and many, including the Higgins family, took up the challenge to go to the mission field. Brent went on staff with Awe Star a few months ago and this summer took his family on mission to North Africa, the place where BJ was called to serve.

Musicians Accompany Oppressed Missionaries in Rare Opportunity to Sing Aloud

This summer, I traveled to a closed country to play the piano for a training week for families living and serving abroad in various countries of the Pacific Rim. A group of my friends and I were asked to come to lead the music for the week. While we were there, people came from



other closed countries and we were able to talk with them and hear testimonies of the work God is doing in the face of oppressive governments.

One night, a man came up to me

with a photocopied piece of music that was written in another language, completely unintelligible to me, and asked if

I would be able to accompany him the following morning while his team gave their update from the field. I told him I would do my best. The music was an operatic arrangement which, in order to play well, I would need at least a week of practice. As I began to practice and get frustrated with myself and the music, the director of the meeting approached me to thank me for taking the time to work on the song. She told me that the severity of the country

in which this man is serving is such that they are not allowed to sing out loud, and that this man and his team had not sung a song of praise to God in over three years. She said that the meeting where we were was a great encouragement to the team, in that they were able to sing aloud, and that this was going to be a special blessing to them in that this song is in their heart language.

The next morning, I listened as the man stood up and sang to God through his song, and then I played for him while he sang "How Great Thou Art," one verse in English and one verse in his language. After hearing about his team's work and listening to him sing, my pride was broken, and I had only to praise God for everything that He is, and all that He is doing abroad.

CCC Intern Leaves Summertime Behind to Help Start Ministry in New Zealand

by **DAVID FLADUNG**

Earlier this year, as I worked as a Campus Crusade for Christ intern at Indiana University, I was asked if I would consider going with a team of CCC staff and students on a project to New Zealand to help start a campus ministry.

I was reluctant to go literally to the other side of the world (where our summer is their winter), but I am excited about being a part of what God will do there. I am sure it will be difficult in a place where over 35% of the population would describe themselves as atheist or agnostic and sheep outnumber people 12 to 1.

Our main role there will be much like the marines, to go in and lay the groundwork for those that are coming after us. We will help a small group of students who have a desire to begin a Campus Crusade ministry (known there by another name due to the stigma of the word 'crusade'). We will be staffing and attending the Campus Crusade for Christ Winter Conference soon after we arrive. This will give us a chance to serve the ministry there as well as meet the New Zealand students and staff that are involved in ministry on the North Island. I have been given three young men to disciple during the project. Following the conference, we will head to Wellington to reach out on the campus of Victoria University for 4 weeks at the start of their second semester. After we leave New Zealand, the first STINT (or Short Term INTERNATIONAL) team will be going to Wellington to spend an entire year working with student leaders and sharing the Gospel on campus in Wellington.



David Fladung has been a member of Northside since fall 1994. Active in student ministry, he was in the first NSM band and played the Good Prince role in the drama with NSM in Croatia. He graduated Indiana University in 2004 and returned as a Campus Crusade intern.



Ukrainian Orphan Shows No Sign of Recent Cutting

by CINDY TIMMERS

Her name is Christina and she is a “cutter,” or at least she was. She used to cut herself on purpose, which experts say can result when a child has not developed healthy ways of dealing with strong emotions or difficult relational problems. Last year, the team leader's wife got Christina to promise that she wouldn't cut herself during camp. This summer we saw no evidence of fresh scars on her arms.

Christina is about 16, and is one of 90 children from an orphanage in Ukraine who is spending a month at a summer camp near the Russian border. These kids have a stigma attached to them. They are the unwanted ones. They've been given up by families who are financially, physically, mentally or emotionally unable to care for them. They've also been given up by the orphanages where they were originally placed. They are the kids we would label as emotionally-disturbed, troublemakers or slow learners.

When I was in Ukraine a few weeks ago, I didn't see troublemakers. I didn't see emotionally-disturbed kids. I didn't see children with learning disabilities. All I saw were children who were starving- but not for food or clothing or a roof over their head. They were starving for love. They were starving for affection. And they were starving for someone to share the love of Christ with them. We had the chance to do that through an organized camp program that allowed us to spend time with these kids, to build relationships with them and to pour our hearts and our lives into theirs. I'd go again in a heartbeat.



Cindy Timmers has been a member of Northside since March 1997 when the Lord first called her to the mission field in Vietnam. Since then, she has served in Vietnam (a second time), Mongolia, Mexico, Hong Kong and Ukraine.

Indy's Nehemiah House Offers Chance to Reach out Right at Home

by MARLA POLAK

In 2003, Cornerstone Christian Fellowship saw a need to minister to women who were attending our church. Our church meets in the area used by the Metropolitan Baptist Center, in the Crossroads Association building downtown. These women were staying in the VOA, (Volunteers of America), and were part of a work release program from prison.



We felt God leading us to begin a transitional living program for women coming out of prison. In March 2004, we

The house mother's primary responsibility is to be a Christian witness to the residents of Nehemiah House.

bought a one-hundred year-old house, in desperate need of renovation.

In April 2005, Nehemiah House opened to our first resident. We ministered to three women that first year.

Northside members have been with us since the beginning. Some toured the house and saw it before any renovation had begun. Teams helped in the renovation process, especially with electrical and plumbing. We've had Northsiders assist with decorating, leading a Bible study, as well as on-going financial support from the church.

We currently have a need for women volunteers. Our primary hope is that

women will volunteer as house mothers, to spend the night at Nehemiah House. The basic shift is 7 pm to 7 am. The house mother's primary responsibility is to be a Christian witness to the residents of Nehemiah House. A woman can come alone or with a friend. We have a House Mother's room set-up to accommodate up to two volunteers. Other ministry opportunities include: leading a Bible study with the residents, mentoring, teaching life skills, bringing in a meal, interviewing potential residents while they're in prison, etc. For more information, contact Tom or Marla at 687-0075, or tomandmarla@sbcglobal.net.



Marla Polak works alongside her husband Tom as he pastors Cornerstone Christian Fellowship in downtown Indianapolis. The couple also works together to run the Metropolitan Baptist Center and Nehemiah House.

August 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
August Highlights August 9: Budget Q&A w/ Stewardship August 11-13: JumpStart August 16: WNT Pool Party August 20: Summer Missions Report August 21: Upward Soccer Practices Begin August 23: No WNT August 30: 6th Grade Dinner		1	2 6:30 pm Prayer & Bible Study NSM WNT TeamKID Bible Skills 7:30-9 pm Budget Q&A w/ Personnel Comm.	3	4	5 8 am-2 pm Upward Soccer Evals 6:30 pm College/Career Bible Study																																																	
6 8:30, 9 am MC Prayer 9:30 am MC Sm Grps 10 am North Campus 11 am Main Campus	7	8 7:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study 5-7 pm Upward Soccer Evals	9 6:30 pm Prayer & Bible Study NSM WNT TeamKID Bible Skills 7:30-9 pm Budget Q&A w/ Stewardship 7:30 pm Deacon Meeting	10 9 am Ladies' Prayer 10 am Women on Mission	11 NSM JumpStart  5 pm Students Meet for JumpStart	12 6:30 pm College/Career Bible Study																																																	
13 JumpStart 8:30, 9 am MC Prayer 9:30 am MC Sm Grps 10 am North Campus 11 am Main Campus 9 pm JumpStart Return	14	15 7:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast 11:30 am JOY Luncheon	16 6:30 pm Prayer & Business Mtg. WNT pool party TeamKID Bible Skills	17 9 am Ladies' Prayer	18	19 6:30 pm College/Career Bible Study																																																	
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NORTHSIDE NUMBERS

June Averages

Total Worship Attendance	547
Main Campus	304
North Campus	243
Bible Study Attendance	372
On-campus Small Groups	283
Off-campus Small Groups	89
Weekly Budget Giving	\$20,783.30

June New Members

Profession of Faith/Baptism (18-28 of fiscal year):

Abigail Dolbeer	Kaeli Cockrell
Timothy Snow	Ruth Hanawalt
Kele Cannon	Katie Roeder
Ali Ward	Haley Breckenridge
Vicky Ward	Sarah Golubski
Marty Stone	

Soccer Registration Begins



Upward Soccer registration is still open! The cost is \$75 (includes uniform, shorts, socks and more). Come get a kick out of Upward Soccer at Northside as we enter our 2nd season! Forms are available at church and online at www.worshipfortoday.com/upward. To get plugged in as a volunteer in this exciting outreach, contact Matt Snow.

Students JumpStart School Year with rEVOLT

As the school year approaches, it's time to rEVOLT! Students in grades 6-12, you are invited to take part in JumpStart August 11-13. Get prepared to stand up and stand out for Jesus at your schools this year. The \$90 registration fee will allow you to spend the night at Highland Lakes Baptist Camp, play ultimate frisbee, water polo and other fun games, eat plenty of great food and spend a day at Six Flags Kentucky Kingdom. Just bring a little cash for lunch/dinner at Kentucky Kingdom. Students should arrive at Main Campus at 5 pm on Friday, August 11 to get nametags, turn in medical release forms, and register. For more details, visit www.worshipfortoday.com/nsm.



Sign Up for Labor Day Golf Tournament

Fore! It's time to sign up for the annual Labor Day Golf Tournament! Come join us Monday, September 4 at 8 am at Crooked Creek Golf Club. The cost is \$40 (including greens fee, cart, range balls, and after-round meal). Deadline to sign up is August 30! Contact Matt Snow for details.

New Budget Proposals Available

Copies of the budget proposal are available in the Guest Center at each campus. The Stewardship Committee will be available for questions August 9 at 7:30 pm in the Latham Room. The budget will be presented at the August 16 business meeting, with a silent vote taken on August 20.

Women's Group to Study Life of Daniel



Beth Moore's study of Daniel chapters 1-6, examines the Daniel's life in a contemporary way and models how women can develop enduring integrity in an enticing world. This six-week study begins Friday, September 22 at 9:30 am.

Missionaries to Share Stories from the Field at Next CommUNITY Gathering



Our next CommUNITY gathering will take place at Main Campus on Sunday night, August 20 at 6 pm. Mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss out on testimonies from Northsiders who've gone on mission across the country and around the world this summer.

LAME DEER, MONTANA • FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA • DURANGO, COLORADO
JULY 20-29, 2006

Check out the blog at www.nsmwildwest.blogspot.com.



Main Campus:
3021 East 71st Street
Indianapolis, Indiana



North Campus:
Hamilton Southeastern HS
126th & Olio Road
Fishers, Indiana

NORTH SIDE

BAPTIST CHURCH

Northside Mission Statement

Loving God, Loving People by praising the Lord in worship, promoting love in the fellowship, pursuing the path of discipleship, participating as gifted in ministry, piercing the lost world through evangelism

Worship Times

Sunday Morning Main Campus Bible Study- 9:30 am
Sunday North Campus Service (HSE)- 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Main Campus Service- 11:00 am
Wednesday Prayer Meeting- 6:00 pm

Contact Information

Church Office: 317-255-6692
Fax: 317-257-9168
Website: www.worshipfortoday.com
Editor: dwiley@worshipfortoday.com

Please contact the editor at the email listed above with ideas or submissions for *The Vision*. Articles and other submissions for *The Vision* must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication and will be included or edited at the editor's discretion. If you do not wish to receive this publication, please call the church office or email the editor.

Pastoral Staff

Dr. Mark S. Hearn- mhearn@worshipfortoday.com
Senior Pastor
Rusty Kennedy- rkennedy@worshipfortoday.com
Associate Pastor of Ministry & Evangelism
John Reeder- jreeder@worshipfortoday.com
Associate Pastor of Worship & Arts

Ministers & Directors

Tony Manning- tmanning@worshipfortoday.com
Minister to Students
Phil Jacoby- pjacoby@worshipfortoday.com
Worship & Arts Associate
Diane Phillips- JPhil73420@aol.com
Director of Children's Ministries
Matt Snow- msnow@worshipfortoday.com
Director of Upward & Recreation Ministries
Jared Law- jlaw@worshipfortoday.com
Director of College Ministry
Micah Langmaack- mlangmaack@worshipfortoday.com
Facilities Manager
Jim David- jddavid@worshipfortoday.com
Director of Media Ministries

Administrative Staff

Kim Dolbeer- kdolbeer@worshipfortoday.com
Office Administrator
Darcy Wiley- dwiley@worshipfortoday.com
Ministry & Evangelism Assistant
Becky Englin, Jan Jeter- benglin@worshipfortoday.com
Office Assistants



NORTH SIDE
BAPTIST CHURCH
3021 E. 71st Street
Indianapolis, IN 46220-2205

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