

Reaching Out: Small Group Service Report

-Jill Rose

Our group got to Ronald McDonald House at 2:30 pm and started bringing the chili up to heat. I had baked the corn bread at church, so the only other prep was washing and chopping lettuce. We got a chance to tour the four buildings and hear about how families qualify to stay (must live outside a 60 mile radius of U of MN). Everyone pays \$15/night, but the actual cost is \$91/night. Donations and volunteers make up the rest. There are 160 RMCDH's in the US and 180 houses internationally.

lone De Long Cooking away!



There were 45 families staying at RMCD House the previous day, but we probably served only 50 individuals. We were told that people take advantage of the leftovers during the night, so we left some extra food. The meal was a big hit; the men especially seemed to like the chili. I was really sobered by seeing the weary looks on the adults' faces as they came through our line. We saw some of their ill children with them, others were in the hospital. They had a sign at the serving area to let the residents know that this meal was put on by our church. We had red carnations in vases at our serving area and coloring sheets and crayons available for kids. I gave out handmade cards that said, "Sending you and your family love. From some of us at First Evangelical Free Church." I saw a cute grandpa coloring at a table.

It seemed like some people were rejuvenated a bit after the meal;

several people came up to say "thank you" when they returned their dishes. A new family checked in late, and we also served them. We were told that if a child is having a bone marrow transplant, the average stay is 18 weeks!

Lynn Longfield was doing the ice cream station: choice of Chocolate, Choc Chip, Vanilla Cookie Dough, or SuperMan (a very brightly colored mix of yellow, pink, and blue). Lynn and I renamed it Wonder Woman!

After running the dishwashers and doing lots of hand washing, we got out of there around 8:15 ish. We left very tired, but also very blessed.

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"The Centerpiece of Our Faith"

Isaac Watts invites us in his classic to "survey the wondrous cross." Charles Wesley celebrates the cross in his well-known hymn with the words, "And can it be, that I should gain / An interest in the Saviour's blood? Amazing love! How can it be / That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?" So much of our worship is focused on the cross.

The cross is the centerpiece of our faith.

As a Wheaton College student I always heard the story of Jim Elliot and Nate Saint, two of the five young American missionaries killed by the Auca Indians. Believing their lives were always expendable because of what Jesus did on the cross, they went to make God's love known. And paid for it with their lives. Service and missions of all kinds are cross-shaped.

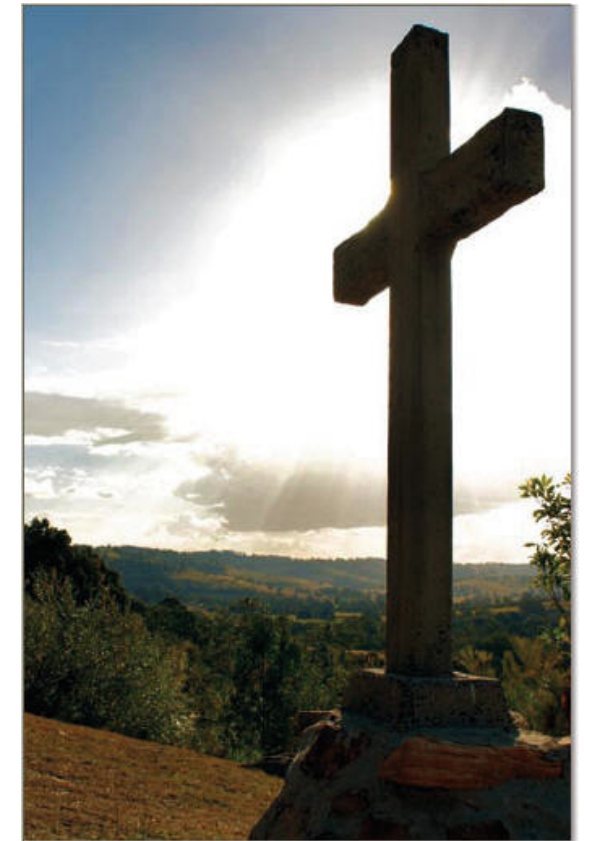
The cross is the centerpiece of our faith.

In most, if not all their stories, those who keep at it in the Christian faith find their motivation to be Jesus Christ and His perseverance on the cross. As disciples of Christ, we are compelled to enter into the muck and pain of the world and to embrace it with arms as outstretched as the arms of Jesus on the cross.

The cross is the centerpiece of our faith.

"Financial Wisdom in Tough Times"

- April 5 – Palm Sunday – Wise Folly – I Corinthians 1:18-2:5
- April 12 – Beyond The Cross – 1 Corinthians 15
- April 19 – Getting our Finances In Line
- April 26 – Losing Control
- May 3 – When Money is Useless
- May 10 – Mother's Day – How to Gain in a Down Market
- May 17 – A Wise Financial Plan



In anticipation of Easter, we have been taking a deeper, wider, and longer look at the cross. Why? Because it is the centerpiece of our faith.

And the great thing is that none of us stands alone as an individual at the foot of the cross. The cross brings us into reconciled relationships with others and it forms a community in which we all share in Christ, His forgiveness, and His grace.

This Easter season, my prayer is that you might experience the cross of Christ in a new and more powerful way.

~ Pastor Joel

We exist to
BRING people
into a relationship
with Jesus
CONNECT them
to God's family
MATURE them
in their faith
EQUIP them
for ministry
so that God's name
is EXALTED

Talking with the School of Worship

1. What does it mean for you to worship God?

"For me, personally, I think it's writing and singing because that's just the best way to get my feelings out. As far as worship altogether,...it's anything praising God. Anything that reminds you of how great God is." - Marolyn Saulsberry



"To worship God is just to praise Him. Even at our hard times, just praise Him for what He is." - Ken Mayo

"To worship God, you really don't need anything. You don't need a Bible; you don't need instruments; you can just pray to Him. Praying is a form of worship, reading your Bible is a form of worship." - Andrew Holliday



2. What kinds of things do people worship instead of God?

"Well, I know a lot of people in the world worship sex, drugs, alcohol. They can become obsessed with those things. Some people worship other people, ideas, and false gods." - William Klenk

3. How does music help you with worship?

"...It just helps me to focus and understand things ." - Marolyn Saulsberry

"Music, for me, is really important. It is basically my place of solitude. In music I find message and meaning, so I really have a huge passion for music and being able to devote that to God." - William Klenk

"It gives me words to sing instead of just thinking about it." - Anthony Larson

4. What is the most important quality in a worship leader?

"A leader needs to be focused on God." - Adam Caruso

"The ability to put yourself below the people that you're working with and lead, but also in a sense, be led by those people and find out what they think is best for whatever the group is doing." - William Klenk



"A person who is humble and holy, who gives their talents to God and does not just keep them for themselves." - Ken Mayo

"Caring about God because as long as you care about God, you can do anything." - Carolyn Saulsberry

5. What in your mind is the best way to connect with God?

For me, either singing or talking to him because it seems to me like talking to Him is like talking with a friend. Which He is. - Carolyn Saulsberry

School of Worship

- Eric Twietmeyer

Do we really need someone to teach us "how to worship?" It is natural for us to focus on that thing we love and devote ourselves to it wholeheartedly—whether it be a hobby, a relationship, our stomachs or any one of our desires. So, no, we don't need any help worshipping. Why a school of worship then? We all need to refocus our heart, mind, soul and strength on the only love that really matters: Our amazing God (Matt. 22:37).

The School of Worship is an experimental, informal school that is attempting to bridge the gap between generations of worshipers through the use of arts/music, biblical knowledge, and relationships. My final project in graduate school studied various youth worship teams only to find that high school students in particular didn't have a strong understanding of worship, didn't regularly integrate scripture into worship, and have had no training whatsoever in leading others in worship. I thought there must be a better way.

Being a musician, I have always been drawn to anything 'musical' in the Bible: Psalms, songs written by various authors, etc. Much to my surprise, I found that King David had a music training school for the Levites, found in I Chron. 25. We have a long way to go if we are ever to become a respectable school of worship like David's, but we will do our best to pass on what we have. I have had the privilege of working alongside two other teachers (Dave Baartman and Brian Bartle) and 12 students in our attempt to recapture the essence of using music in worship.

Our short term plan is to help the current group of students become a sustainable musical worship group by the fall of '09. Please pray for the students and teachers of the School of Worship as we seek to prepare our next generation of Jesus-following worshippers!

SPECIAL SERVICES:
GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH AT 7 PM
"MAN OF SORROWS"
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH
9:30 AM & 11:00 AM
"BEYOND THE CROSS"
1 CORINTHIANS 15

CLASS 101
EXPLORING
CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP

CLASS 201
HOW TO
GROW
DEEPER

APRIL 26, 4-8 PM
FIRST FREE CHURCH

NCAA Men's Night Out
April 6 @ 6 pm
Come watch the finals
and hear Gary Maloney
All men and youth
are invited



"COME, MESSIAH, COME"



A CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

PERFORMANCES ARE MAY 15 AT 7:00 PM
& MAY 16 AT 2:00 PM
FOR INFO CONTACT BETH BROWN 612-827-4705
OR DIANE RYDEN 612-825-7521



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