

Las Vegas News

January 2002



DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING SCHOOL



photo: Our DTS Staff

Can you believe it?

It's already January of 2002 and the beginning of our **Winter Discipleship Training School (DTS)**.

Our DTS staff includes Rob and Tricia Hensser, Daniel and Beccy Susenbach, and Jeremy and Val Sizemore, who will be **leading, teaching, and discipling** the students for the next five months. The eight students will be coming from all over the **United States, Canada, England, Korea, and even Kyrgyzstan!**

The students have committed to go through a three month lecture phase where we will bring in speakers from all over the world. The speakers will be teaching on such topics as: **Evangelism, Character and Nature of God, Relationships, Christian Foundations, Intimacy with God, Intercession**, and many others. The students will be expected to attend lectures, turn in a weekly journal, complete several book reports, and participate in a variety of evangelistic outreaches throughout the city.

Directly following the three-month lecture phase, the outreach phase of the DTS starts. This is the part of the DTS where the students put into practice what they have learned in the classroom. The outreach phase will start with the students helping to lead our Spring Break Mission Adventures Program. In Mission Adventures, youth from all over the country come to be trained in evangelism and then are sent into the city for some hands-on experience. The DTS students will be staffing the program by teaching, leading outreaches on the streets, and getting a real taste of leadership in ministry and missions.

After two weeks of being staff, the DTS students will travel over-seas for seven weeks of outreach in another country. We are currently planning on going to Thailand to assist the local church, minister to the many indigenous people groups, and share the love and grace of Jesus to the predominately Buddhist nation.

We ask that you please keep our Discipleship Training School in your prayers. We know that this next five months of the student's lives in DTS has the potential to help shape, train, and equip them for a life of ministry.

Inside this issue:

D.T.S. Kicks Off!
Plans and Vision
Street Cafe Changes
'X-Alt' Update
... and more

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X-alt

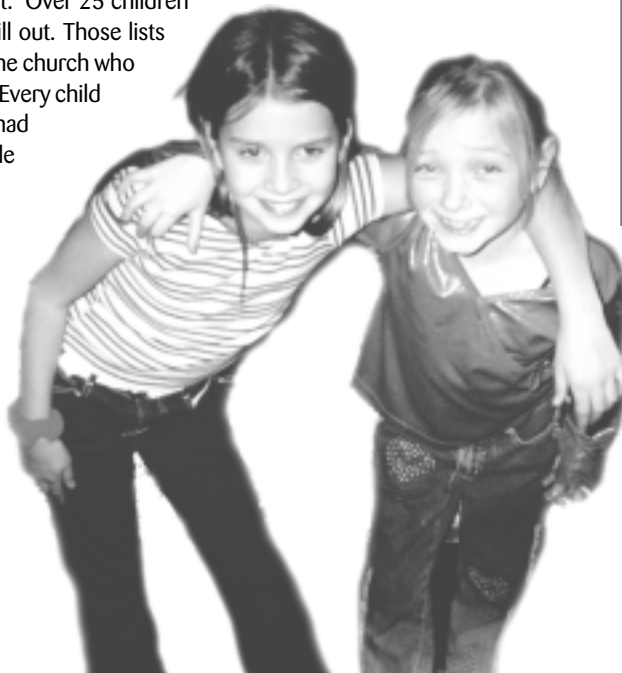
making a difference in Las Vegas and the Nations

Can you name the Fruits of the Spirit? The X-Alt girls can! Not only can they name all nine of them, but they can tell you how each of the Fruits are growing in their lives.

A couple of months ago, many of our X-Alt kids did not attend church, and now most of them are attending bible study 4 days a week. The boys have been learning about the cross, the blood of Jesus, and the Ark of the Covenant. The girls have been learning about the feelings and emotions of Jesus, the Fruits of the Spirit, and most recently the Christmas story and why Jesus came. Along with X-Alt bible studies, they are getting plugged into youth groups and attending weekend church services.

For Christmas, South Hills Church Community and The Dream Center "adopted" those who regularly attend X-Alt. Over 25 children were given wish lists to fill out. Those lists were taken by people in the church who wanted to buy them gifts. Every child received something they had wished for. What a tangible example of God's love!

As X-Alt continues to grow, we pray that our staff will increase. We thank God for the hunger that these kids have for Him, and pray that it will be contagious in their homes, neighborhoods, and schools.



STREET CAFE

The end of 2001 was a time to celebrate our 3-year anniversary of Street Cafe.

20,000 meals served each year!

Now open 2 days a week we have approx 200 guests coming in each time we're open year round.... that's a lot of meals served. Only through working together as a ministry partnership with Church on the Street, Canyon Ridge and our many volunteers we are able to do this.



Those of you that have been down to the Street Cafe know that it's not all about food! Although our desire is to feed the guests with warm, good food, our ultimate desire is to build relationships, pray for the guests, share the love of Christ and see them discipled. Throughout the year, our faithful team of volunteers have had many conversations and divine appointments whilst sitting and chatting over a cup of coffee, and each week the Street Cafe proves to be a key place of connection.

Our "1 O'Clock Devotion" has been a growing spot each week where the guests get to experience an optional separate 30 minutes of worship and the word. Enthusiasm for this has grown, and it's been wonderful to have opportunities to pray with the guests and introduce them to Jesus.

Expansion!

We shared in the last newsletter that as the ministry has continued to expand with a vision to increase the operating days, we have outgrown our facilities at Church on the Street. This has been a prayer request and the Lord has opened up a wonderful opportunity for us to partner the Street Cafe ministry with City Mission, and it is clear that the partnership not only enables us to fulfill our vision but the ministry will enable City Mission to also fulfill their vision to minister in a wider way to the lost in the inner-city. God is so good.

We're thankful to the Lord for Church on the Street - our wonderful, faithful partners

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**INTRO NEW STAFF
AND GROWTH &
DEVELOPEMENT**

Daniel and Becca Susenbach are another wonderful trans-Atlantic union and the most recent addition to our team. In 1998 Daniel and Becca did their DTS in Denver, Colorado as singles, they went on to do a School of Biblical Studies for 9 months at the base in Montana, got married in 2000 and went on staff at the base in Holmsted (Cuckfield, England) until October 2001. Though the youngest members on staff they have traveled widely and led several cross cultural outreaches. They abound in gifts, but their willingness to serve stands above the rest. They will staff the Winter DTS and lead the outreach to Thailand and we hope to see them hone their leadership and teaching abilities in their time with us.

Look how the staff have grown! Those of you who have been with us since our first Newsletter remember a very different picture. We are so thrilled by the increase and excited by what God is doing through each and every member.

During a recent planning meeting we realized that we will need 35-40 new staff over the next 2 years to expand current ministries and start some new ones. While exciting this is also hard to get our heads around when we are only 14 here locally. This kind of growth will bring a number of logistical and leadership challenges so please keep praying for Rich, Rob and the other ministry leaders. Change and growth are good we just need God's wisdom to know how to assist it and not be lead by it.

cont'd..... STREET CAFE

of 3 years for all that they have done and pray God's blessing on them. The transition will take place mid-February. Please pray for the Lord's hand of protection and provision over the ministry and the volunteers in this time.

**WHAT WILL
WE BE DOING
IN 2021?**

Good question! Of course only God is the One who really knows the answer to this, the Bible does say:

"The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty." (Proverbs 21:5)

So, recently we have begun our journey in seeking to be diligent.

We started Strategic Planning for our base by asking the question: What do we believe that the Lord wants us to look like 20 years from now? Some of the answers began to surprise us as we began to see the vision (and the cost!) that God has in store for us. Some were simple and others were so huge that they almost seemed ridiculous, however, whatever we came up with we made sure that it would have to fit within our Mission Statement:

"YWAM Las Vegas is an interdenominational Christian missionary community in partnership with the local Church, reaching Las Vegas and the nations through evangelism, training and mercy ministries in response to the Great Commission".

An ongoing part of this process which is expected to take several months, will be to submit this to and get input from our newly created Advisory Committee. This is currently made up of about 7-8 business professionals who are donating their time and expertise to the development of our ministry in areas where we are especially challenged: fundraising, marketing, advertising and the acquisition of a permanent facility! If you are interested in becoming a part of this team, or know of someone who is, please let us know. Also if you have any ideas for what we should be doing 20 years from now, give us a call since the Bible also says:

"Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed." (Proverbs 15:22)

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Also, we will need to see our volunteer base increase dramatically. This is where you can help! For current ministries such as Street Café, X-alt and Lost World Rescue we need approximately 70 new volunteers over the next 12-18 months. Maybe you have volunteered in the past, perhaps now would be the right season to renew your involvement, just give the office a call. If you have prayed for a specific ministry or felt in some way drawn to one, but thought you might not be needed be assured YOU ARE!
So call or e-mail the office for more information regarding ways you can be involved in spreading the love of Jesus in practical ways to the city of Las Vegas.



BANQUET UPDATE

One of the highlights of the last three months for us here at YWAM Las Vegas was the hosting of our third annual banquet, which was held once again at the Stallion Mountain Country Club.

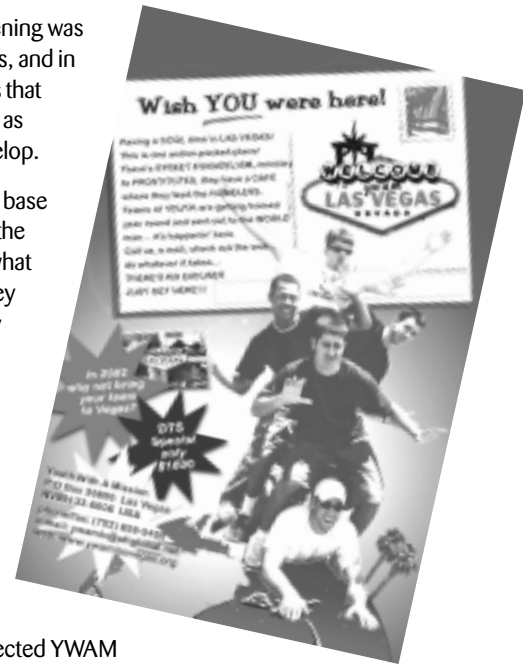
On Friday, November 16th, we played host to over 100 dinner guests, who had come to support and learn more about the work that YWAM is doing

here in the city. The main purpose of our evening was to raise awareness amongst the local churches, and in the local community, of the different ministries that YWAM Las Vegas is currently running, as well as sharing some of our heart to expand and develop.

The evening started with a welcome from our base director, Richard Thompson, and throughout the evening our guests were given a glimpse of what YWAM Las Vegas does, and who we are. They were shown a video, brilliantly put together by Andrew Hamilton, which outlined all the ministries run by the base, and some of the children that come to X-alt performed a heart touching drama depicting the comfort and strength of God.

One of our special guests and keynote speaker, was Mr. John Dawson, founder of the International Reconciliation Coalition, YWAM leader, speaker and author. It was our honor to have such a well know and respected YWAM leader speak on our behalf, and his words of encouragement to push through the pains of pioneering really blessed us as a base.

Overall the evening was a great success and a lot of fun! It was a chance to bless and fellowship with our supporters, and to thank God for the growth we have seen over the last year. We would like to say thank you again to all of our wonderful guests, who, by their generosity, helped us to raise around \$8500 for YWAM Las Vegas.



address correction requested



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