

Las Vegas News

youth with a mission

July 2002

With Great Fruit Comes Great Opposition

The fastest grossing movie of all time has some very true words spoken within it. Uncle Ben tells his nephew Peter Parker (just before he becomes Spiderman), *"With great power, comes great responsibility."* In the same way, when God is moving, or is about to move in a big way, there is often great opposition and this is something that we have seen here in YWAM Las Vegas in the last few months.

Our summer Mission Adventures program started in mid-June and we have seen God do more through these visiting teams of young people than ever. We have seen more people giving their lives to Christ than ever before (15 in the first week alone). Not only this, but we have seen some deeply hurting people give their lives to Christ – such as a prostitute (see Street Café article), as well as others and too many to count were encouraged through prayer.

As a backdrop to all of this we have had an overwhelming sense in recent months that God is leading us into a time of expansion as a base. In recent months more than 10 people contacted us over a period of a few weeks desiring to begin the process of joining full-time staff. As a result, by the end of March next year we could have around 25 full-time staff. Also our Discipleship Training School students have increased and it looks like we will have around 16 for our fall school – doubling in number from our last one. Part of the reason for this is due to the launching of our new website which has had 1400 hits since it opened 6 weeks ago (if you have not checked it out yet, you can see for yourself @ www.ywamlasvegas.org).

This all sounds great, doesn't it? And without a doubt it is, but we have experienced a backlash from the enemy in areas where we are most vulnerable. We can no longer use the building that we are in to house staff, students or teams (see Sleepless Article). We were refused permission to use the soundtrack that we wanted for the video that we have on our website. And on top of all of this, the owner of the parking lot, right downtown, where we have seen more

than 370 people give their lives to Christ over the last 5 years suddenly told us that we could no longer hold street outreaches there ever again! This was completely out of the blue and right after our most fruitful week there.

So what do we do now, Lord?

It may sound trite but we had to ask – what did Jesus do? When He underwent opposition to His calling, what did He do? If you look at scripture (Lk. 4:28-30, Mk. 1:45), He just carried on. On the few occasions that Jesus did undergo attack seeking to prevent Him from carrying on His public ministry, He would just slightly change His strategy, and then continue on until he had accomplished all that His Father had called Him to do. And so, on that basis, we will do the same!

Mission Adventures is continuing - the rest of the summer teams coming in will stay in church gymnasiums. Both our Fall and Winter DTS's will be housed in apartments across the street from our current location. And regarding our street outreach locations, we are looking into other options, sensing that the Lord is wanting us to pursue even more creative and dynamic methods than just the parking lot, so we will seek to be even more effective than before.

God is in control. God is on the throne. And we look forward to all that He has for us. There may be some challenges along the way, but if it means that we are getting on the enemy's nerves, then so be it, so long as we get to partner with God to build His kingdom in Las Vegas and the nations.



outreach at the skate park

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X-alt

Camp '702'



This summer vacation, 10 of our X-ALT students decided to unplug themselves from TV, video games, and the Internet, and plug themselves into a special time with God at Camp 702.

The 6-day, junior high camp was held in the beautiful mountains of Prescott, Arizona where the campers were nurtured in God's word, involved in heartfelt worship, and encouraged to make new friends.

X-ALT leader, Ricky Simmons, was one of the 70 counselors to serve at the camp. When asked about the impact that the camp had on the students, he said, "I've seen more of a difference in these kids in the last 5 days than I have in the past year." He said that many of the students expressed how they never knew this kind of Christian life was really possible. "They couldn't imagine people not fighting, cussing, and tearing each other down, but rather living in harmony."

The difference that was seen in the campers came only after much prayer. About half way through the week, all of the counselors met to pray for a breakthrough for their students. After that, Ricky says, "God's spirit touched them, and many of them raised their hands for the first time in worship. Some of them said they didn't even know why they were raising their hands, or crying. They said it was unexplainable. Sammia, a 12 year old camper said, "I feel that God really touched me. I think He has something special for me."

What these kids experienced helped them to realize the importance of walking with God. When asked what she learned at camp, 11 year old Domonique said, "I learned to always follow God, be connected with God, and love my enemies. I've learned some nice things that I haven't even noticed before. Also, that worship is worth my time and I felt happy when worshipping." Although the camp had many fun activities, such as horseback riding, swimming, and rock climbing, Domonique said that her favorite thing at camp was worship and praise time.

As the camp came to an end, some of the X-ALT campers didn't want to go home. They told Ricky that the most exciting, and best place to be is with the Lord. (Good thing God is always with us!) Ricky said, "I hope that their

zeal won't die, and that what they've experienced won't change after they've gone home." Please join us as we pray for them.

Camp 702 was put on by 9 local churches (702 being our area code), who made scholarships available to our X-ALT students so that they could attend. We thank you so much for giving our students this wonderful opportunity.

Next week, 4 of our high school age students will participate in our local Mission Adventures program. This will be a first for them as well, so please pray that they will have open hearts for all that God wants to do in and through them.



New Staff

Slava Bogu (Praise God) we have another new staff member! All the way from Kyrgyzstan, **Dmitriy Paschenko** a 21 year-old Russian, is only the 4th missionary from his country in this era. Our comrade brother finished his DTS with us in May and has a heart for the discipleship of young people here and back home. He is currently working on our Mission Adventure program and has so many gifts and talents that we look forward to what the future holds.



"I've seen more of a difference in these kids in the last 5 days than I have in the past year."



to Thailand

DTS Outreach

The two-month Discipleship Training School (DTS) outreach to Thailand was an incredible time of growth, learning, and ministry.

When all was said and done, at least 15 Buddhist Thai's received Jesus as their Lord and Savior, hundreds of gospel-seeds were planted, many Christians in Thailand were encouraged, and the lives of both DTS students and leaders were forever changed.

They did all of this in a variety of ways. The team went to Thailand equipped with 2 dances, 4 dramas, and personal testimonies ready to be utilized at any time. They used these tools in open-air performances all over Bangkok, Chiang Mai and many small villages throughout the country to reach university students, shopkeepers and passers-by. The team also ministered the gospel by shoveling scorpion-infested dirt piles for local churches, doing prayer walks and witnessing to monks in Buddhist temples, and by caring for orphan children with AIDS. The team was instrumental in encouraging and even inspiring the Thai church by using dramas, dances, testimonies, and messages about "reaching the lost" and "God's grace" in the local congregations.

The whole team was moved out of their comfort-zones and allowed God to use the hot/humid weather, working within a foreign culture, sickness, and inter-relational challenges to refine them and make them more like Jesus. They got a small glimpse of a whole world that desperately needs to hear about the love and grace of Jesus. They were stirred to know God more and make him known to every nation. It is our prayer that they will never forget or recover from the things that they saw, experienced, and accomplished in Thailand.

Please pray for the staff preparing and the students applying for our upcoming September DTS. We want this to be an incredible time of knowing God in a more intimate way and making him known!



Sleepless in Las Vegas

As you will be well aware from previous newsletters our need for a permanent building remains high on our prayer list. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control the need is greater than ever. Last month after several meetings with Clark County we were informed that we can no longer use the building we presently occupy as a residence. This means that no one will be able to sleep overnight in the building after July 11th. Obviously, this has far reaching implications. Firstly, no permanent staff can live on the YWAM base and will have to find other accommodation. In addition, our upcoming DTS programs will have to find alternative residence for the students, and most importantly right now - our summer Mission Adventure teams can not stay at our current location.

For the remainder of the summer all our teams will be sleeping in the gymnasium of a local church and will commute to our building each morning. While this gets us through the summer crunch we need to find a permanent solution for housing teams by the beginning of the next year. We have negotiated to rent several apartments across the road to house permanent staff and DTS students, but this is further expense in addition to being inconvenient.

These solutions are both only short-term patches. Ultimately, we need to find a permanent location to house individual staff, students and our incoming teams. As you know property in Las Vegas is hard to find and very expensive. We have looked around for long-term options and are at a stalemate - we really need a breakthrough in this area. It is crucial to our development and growth, but more importantly to our impact in this city. Would you pray and ask God how you can be a part of the solution to find us a permanent home?



Goats Give God Entry!

From our couple in South Asia an update on Income Generation projects for missionaries and church planters:

One income generation project in Bangladesh helped a remote village area of tribal people who were extremely poor. The village chief told the church planting team that they were not welcome to come into the village, as they were 'foreigners'. In this context foreigners means anyone not born in that village. The church planting team though all Bangladeshi were not native to this area. So they prayed and asked God to give them a strategy for getting into the village. God had them purchase several goats, and take them to the outskirts of the village. There they made agreements with several villagers whereby they would give the goat to a family then once the goat produced kids the village family would keep one and give the other back to the church

planting team. A 50-50 deal! This arrangement also took place with the milk once the goats were producing. Before too long, several families were cooperating by raising these goats and in a short amount of time they did the same with a few pigs (no milk though.) The church planting team was welcomed with open arms into the village the chief! They went on to plant and harvest ginger to sell in a town not too far away as well. From these simple efforts the Gospel is now going forth in an area where it has never been heard before.

While these projects are on a small scale they have made substantial impact in the lives of the individuals, teams and churches benefiting from them. They are not only a source of income that allows them to minister as God has called them, but a value of quality honest work is being promoted in South Asia as well.



