

Las Vegas News

youth with a mission

July 2005

Drawing

Marrakech. The Red City. A city of red walls, red dirt, and the reddened skin of the many white tourists not prepared for the intensity of the sun. Marrakech is a city where the culture is rich and exciting, the locals are friendly and inviting, and the pace is a quirky mixture both frenzied and relaxing.

From the scrumptious all-Moroccan food buffet on the roof of the Hotel Ali and the taste-bud tempting French patisserie around the corner, to the constant activity of snake charmers and the brilliantly colored scarves, djellabas and endless caches of merchandise available within the Djemaa el-Fna and souqs...Marrakech is a city that begs a visitor to fall in love with its many delights.

It was only fitting that this great city would become the setting of an

unprecedented move of God. On three days in May, 85,000 people gathered as contemporary Christian artists and traditional Moroccan artists shared the stage for Friendship Fest 2005. After over a year's worth of planning and many, many years worth of praying, an offer of friendship between Christians and Muslims bridged the gap physically while God bridged the gap spiritually.

Standing on that dirt field...listening to words of worship rise up from the mouths of both musicians on stage and Christians on the ground...I was moved and awestruck. My mind draws a blank at the perfect word to describe the experience, for what word can describe what it was like to hear God's Word proclaimed in public over a country that is still Muslim by law? Or to feel the Holy Spirit sweep through the crowd – from Christian to Christian – touching everyone else in between?

What word can describe a sense of knowing that strongholds had been broken and that the unmatched power of the Gospel had already begun to change the hearts of the Moroccan people? Or what it was like to be pulled into an hour's worth of dancing to Moroccan music by a group of teenage Moroccan girls? Or to stand still in the midst of a vicious sand storm that threatened to shut down the last night of the festival...and then to celebrate as the show went on? And finally...what word can describe the joy at hearing that the Moroccan government considered the Festival to be such a success that they extended the invitation to hold Friendship Fest 2006?

Walking off the field the last night, I left speechless, but knowing this: God is huge. God is so much bigger than me, my team, a field full of people, or even a country who desperately needs Him...and that as we are faithful in loving others, loving Him, and lifting Him up...He will do the work of drawing all men to Him.

Dawn Matusz



Inside this Issue:

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GOLF With A Mission

It was May 7, 2005. 'The Jerks Anonymous', a men's Bible study group from Canyon Ridge Christian Church, had organized a fundraiser golf tournament for us. Finally the day had come and I found myself not only awake at 5:30 am, but at a golf course on the edge of town, meeting with "the Jerks" themselves and setting up the table to sell raffle tickets and various 'golffy' things. I have to admit I'd never heard of "mulligans" or 'improve your lie string' before, but once people started arriving they bought those very things, as well as raffle tickets, in rapid succession! During the actual tournament I had a chance to drive around in a golf cart, meet some of the 78 golfers and avoid getting hit by stray balls. Not that there were many stray balls, as these people certainly knew how to golf!

Once the tournament was over, we all met at a park nearby to have a BBQ and of course announce the winners. When the final scores were revealed, the leading score was shared by four people. Of those four the winner was decided through an impromptu chipping contest. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves and I learned a new skill (driving a golf cart) and a lot about golf. We brought in over \$3500 for YWAM through the sale of tournament spots, raffle tickets, mulligans, improve your lie string and some other creative ideas.

Thank you to 'the Jerks' who organized this event for us and did such a great job! Thank you to all the golfers and supporters, and to those who gave or took part in some way. The event was a success and a blessing for the ministry. We are hoping to have another tournament in September, so book your space early!

Frauke Deseke

DTS Hits the Road!

Our fall DTS will be taken to a whole new level in the history of YWAM Las Vegas! Our desire for each student is to impart to them a call to inner-city missions, beginning with but not concentrating in Las Vegas.

God has recently expanded this call for our fall DTS which means the launching of our first City Net Tour. The focus of this traveling DTS is to develop in our students a call for inner city missions and a lifestyle of evangelism. This means that we hit the road for the first two months of the lecture phase, traveling to ten locations!! We will be connecting with various bases and teachers along the West Coast as well as an assortment of ministry opportunities, and two of these weeks on the road will be devoted solely to outreach.

Don't worry! Las Vegas is near and dear to our hearts, and our desire to impact our home brings us back to this great city at the end of November. We will have four more weeks of teaching during the stay in our town, and then

it's off to outreach!

The focus on urban settings will carry over into the outreach phase of the school, which will take place in the two prominent European cities of Paris and Berlin. We're expecting great things from staff and students alike as we put our powerful inner-city training to use overseas.

The outcome of a DTS of this caliber will be intense discipleship, constant application of teachings, challenged comfort zones, leadership training, and the experience of missions in cities throughout the world, resulting in a call on the lives of our students to become life long city-influencers!

Clare Fischer

WE'VE MOVED!

After five and a half years in the same location it was time to move - but it all happened so fast! We moved everything within a month of having the initial meeting with the new owners of our building complex.

As you may remember, we had been renting 10,500 sq. ft. of space that has been our "base" for over the last 5 years. At this meeting, their first order of business was to let us know that they wanted us to stay - but that they would have to more than triple our rent! They were in no way being mean to us or inappropriate - as a church who themselves have taken a step of faith in buying this property (and taking on a \$25,000/month mortgage payment!), but they too were being good stewards. So we did what we know to do in these situations: pray and seek God for direction.

Over the next few days we prayed and fasted as a base and we had real unity and sensed VERY strongly from the Lord that He was telling us to leave - actually as soon as possible. Quite a shock to say the least! After more prayer and through counsel from our YWAM leadership, we came to the conclusion that we should find a small temporary office for the next few months - while we have a lot of staff coming and going. Thus we ended up moving just up the street to an old doctor's office a couple months ago. The new space is about 1,000 sq. ft. - so we're really on top of each other!

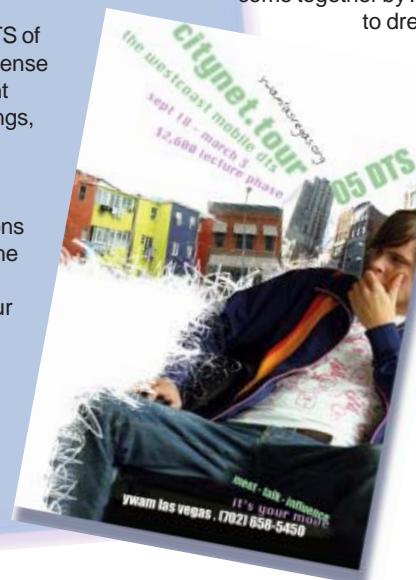
The challenge, however, is this: what are we going to do when we have our 20 staff plus students back together - from December 1st onwards? We really need to see the Lord provide us with a facility that we can use - preferably one that has accommodations, meetings rooms and a commercial kitchen!

Some good news is that there are currently two groups of people who are talking about the possibility and currently working on getting YWAM Las Vegas some land (about 5-10 acres) on which we could build a permanent campus (although is December 1st too soon to have all this come together by?). It's quite a tension...to begin

to dream as we come up with a plan and preliminary drawings, but to also hold things lightly so as to guard against disappointment. Please pray for us in this that we may strike this balance as close to perfect as possible!

Whatever happens we know this: God is in control no matter what. And He still wants us to continue serving Him no matter what. So that is what we will do!

Rich Thompson



Hot Summer Days!



Our summer breaks down into four major projects:

Mission Adventures

Although we officially only have two "MA" Teams coming to Las Vegas this summer, we have taken the initiative to try new forms of ministry within the city. We have and will continue to take teams to Buddhist temples, Muslim mosques, and the Mormon temple to pray and intercede. In one instance at a Buddhist temple, we were invited to take a tour, sit in on a service and were fed authentic Thai food. We also had the opportunity to share the love Of Christ with many of those attending the service. This sets a precedent for future teams and also us as YWAM staff. It amazing what God can do when we step out and seize new opportunities.

Summer Tour

Yes, this year again we went fishing! Not for silver, slippery sea dwellers - but for

those that God is calling to be discipled and trained as missionaries for the "City-Net Tour" - our fall, traveling Discipleship Training School!

This summer a team visited a large Christian rock festival in Pennsylvania, as well as a number of churches between Las Vegas and the East Coast - to promote our DTS and see who wants to be a part! It was well worth the time as the team returned with a list of over 140 people to follow up with in regards to DTS as well as Mission Adventures! Pray with us as we make additional contact with people.

Liverpool, UK MerseyFest Mission Adventures

Our third MA team is international - to Liverpool, England - yes, that's right - where the Beatles came from! Once a major and proud city, it has a huge inner city and poverty - both physical and spiritual - is everywhere.

We are hosting a team made up of two local Las Vegas church youth groups to partner in a National British outreach to this city. They are expecting 20,000 people to bombard Liverpool with the "two-handed gospel": with one hand they will seek to meet the felt needs of the city physically - and with the other they will share the message of hope that is only found in Jesus. We're really excited about this team that will go out for more than two weeks in August.

The Original Call...

We're sensing from the Lord that we need to get back to basics! So this summer - we will be involved daily in both evangelism and intercession.

Please pray that the Lord will lead us to those who are ripe and ready to receive His word and that through this and prayer for our city and the nations, that the Lord will prepare and sharpen us for the next season that He has for us as a base!

Partnering with God in Sri Lanka

It was an amazing opportunity to partner with God on outreach to Sri Lanka!

Our DTS team of nine left on April 3rd, not knowing the adventure that God had in store for us.

It was incredible how God's hand guided us on each leg of our journey. There were times when we didn't have any contacts at all, yet the Lord provided people to guide us as well as places for us to stay. We stepped out in faith and found God to be amazingly faithful.

One of my favorite stories is about a guy named Ranil, who worked at Pizza Hut in the city of Kandy. Ranil was always talking about how devoted he was to Buddha and how much he loved Buddha. The more we time we spent with Ranil, the more attached to our group he became. The very last day we saw him, he almost began to cry knowing that he was going to have to say goodbye. That last morning n Kandy, we said goodbye to Ranil, not expecting to see him again.

Later that day, we went into the town to do some evangelism with the street

beggars and happened to run into Ranil. He wanted to know what we were doing and why we were stopping not only to talk to the beggars but also sit down on the ground with them and pray for them. He said he had never seen anyone do that before. We got to share with him that when Jesus was on earth, He did the very same thing. It was so awesome to have the open door of sharing Christ with him. After that, he asked us if we would pray for him. What a change in the "Buddha is the only way" attitude that he had when we first met him.

We are staying in touch with Ranil and I pray that God is continuing to water the seed that we planted.

Heather Krook



2005.05.01

Sri Lankan Tea Pickers



2005.05.03

Tsunami struck area - site of a former hotel

check us out on-line at www.ywamlasvegas.org





Training for "That Day"

It's amazing what can happen when committed, daring people come together before the Lord and say "Yes, I will do it." With RescueNet, YWAM's rapid-deployment disaster response team, those people are rare and precious. We had a team of them come together in April in Townsville Australia to investigate and train for our disaster response team. They were terrific.

For two weeks we explored emergency medicine, search and rescue, crisis counseling, team structure and other aspects of the disaster environment. We tied knots, we lowered people from buildings, we practiced, prepared and prayed – and we had fun! It was a full couple of weeks, and it was fantastic!

Dave Mansfield



Hi! I go by the name of "Mo" and hail from Oregon, and naturally have a love for adventure and the outdoors, even while I'm drying out in Las Vegas. I'm a Third Culture Kid and relate to others very easily. I'm coming into this phase of my life later than the typical YWAMer, but have spent most of my early years moving around the world. With so many broken, hurting people, why wouldn't I be here? I'm new to the organization and looking forward to using my gifts, helping with fund raising, loving on the scorned and working my administrative magic.



photo below: refugee camps in Sri Lanka



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