

March 2005

In their hour of greatest need

You've seen the images: walls of water consuming towns and whole islands, sweeping everything away, leaving nothing but rubble. Your heart goes out to the victims and maybe you give money through a worthwhile charity. Still you think, "I wish I could do more; I wish I could be more involved." That's how I have felt in the past. Now I am involved and you can be too.



RescueNet is YWAM's disaster rapid-response team. We are the people who run into areas that everyone else is running out of - a professionally-trained team capable of responding to emergency situations with medical, search and rescue, counseling, refugee reception and other disaster-assistance skills. As a rapid-response team we aim to be in the air, on our way to the center of need within 24 hours of being alerted to provide assistance during the critical first 2-3 weeks.

Just recently I returned from assisting with disaster operations in the Philippines. During late November and early December parts of that country were devastated by a series of typhoons which killed over 1,600 people and left 265,000 without homes. Hundreds of thousands more were without electricity and safe drinking water.

During the two weeks we were deployed in the Philippines our team was able to provide food, clothing, medical care, medicine and the hope of Christ to those devastated by the storms. By treating wounds and infections, distributing hot meals and sacks of food, we assisted thousands in stabilizing their lives and hundreds in finding Christ for the first time. With these skills we were able to help keep the situation from becoming a much greater horror.

One little boy whose mother brought him to one of our clinics had a severe infection on his legs that had begun to spread over his entire body. Weak from lack of food and water, his body was not



able to fight the infection well. After half an hour of cleaning and bandaging the infected areas we gave his mother medicine to fight the infection and vitamins to strengthen his body as well as food and water to sustain them both. It was pretty simple, but without someone there to do it, I don't know what would have happened to him. I am glad to know that I don't have to wonder about that now.

Would you like to be involved? Please contact us. As we've seen recently, more help is desperately needed. For more information, please call, e-mail info@rescuenet.us or check our website: www.rescuenet.us

Dave Mansfield

& Great Blessings Great Challenges

Winter 2005 DTS

Over the last few months we have been really busy! We hosted our largest ever Mission Adventures (MA) outreach in one week! We had 216 participants doing evangelism in Las Vegas and all over Phoenix. Hundreds and hundreds heard the gospel and five people responded and gave their lives to Christ. One such lady was one of those who hands out free pornography on the Las Vegas Strip. She was so impacted that when the team came back later they found her sharing the gospel with some of her "colleagues". This last week we hosted another MA team and continued the same kind of outreaches - ministering to the homeless (food and clothing,) sharing with the elderly, street evangelism and even carrying crosses on the famous Las Vegas Strip!

If you remember - we ended our last newsletter with quite a cliffhanger. We were in debt for the first time ever - to the tune of \$12,000! However, just before the end of the year someone gave us a one-time gift of \$25,000!!! This enabled us to end our year in the best place we have ever been in financially! God is so faithful! Thank you so much for your prayers for us!

Now we face yet another challenge. The building that we have been renting from Central Christian Church for the last 5 years has just been bought and the new

owners - in genuinely needing to pay their mortgage - want to increase our rent to more than three times what we have been paying. Consequently, after much prayer and fasting, we have a real sense from the Lord that He is telling us to move out and find a new location for our base of operations. We are so grateful to Central Christian Church for their wonderful partnership with us these last 5+ years and now we are looking to the Lord again for Him to do yet another miracle for us. It will need to be a big one as we only have two-and-a-half weeks to move out and find a new location. Ideally we would love to have our own land and a place to purposefully build. But until then we're looking to the Lord to provide a place - the right place - for us so that we can continue to serve Jesus both in Las Vegas and the nations.

Please pray for us and let us know if you hear of anything that you think that we might be able to use - in both accommodation for our staff and teams and for office and ministry space.

Richard Thompson

SPACE WANTED
Please join with us in prayer as we seek the Lord for a new operating location. Also, if you know of anything suitable please call us. We are ideally looking for a mixed use facility with meeting rooms, a commercial kitchen, office space and potentially also living accommodation - starting at around 10,000 square feet. However, we are also open to a smaller temporary, transitional place.

With great anticipation and preparation, the time has finally come! With the cancellation of our September 2004 DTS, the DTS staff busied ourselves with getting more training, working with other ministries on the base, and even starting a new ministry. However, in the midst of all this, in our heart of hearts the call of DTS had grown and intensified.

Our winter school began on January 9th! Our active waiting period during the last three months of 2004 enabled us to pour more prayer and planning into this school than any other. This has been our smallest school in several years with five students, but we are just as excited about them as if there were twenty of them. As always, we recognize that God has a reason for everything and we are committed to obeying Him and leaving the reasoning up to Him.

One thing that makes Las Vegas DTSes unique are the many outreaches we include during the lecture phase; this school is certainly no exception! In the middle of the lecture phase we hit the road for Phoenix, AZ where we trained and led 140 students from a Christian high school on a week long outreach in their surrounding cities. Directly following this we headed to YWAM San Francisco to merge with their DTS for a week of lectures and also outreach in the heart of the city.

The outreach phase of this school gets even more exciting!!! We had originally planned to take the team to Zimbabwe. However, due to an amazing open door of opportunity, we are now going to Sri Lanka! Our desire is to bring the Sri Lankans hope in a variety of creative ways as open evangelism is generally not accepted. We will be leaving April 3 and returning June 4th.

We would so appreciate your prayers for our protection and for us to be effective ambassadors for Christ. Watch this space for an update as I know it is going to be beyond anything you or I could imagine.

Clare Fischer



Basic Leadership School

Growing up in Germany I joined many worker's strikes. When I was 12 years old I can remember holding a sign and joining union workers on a strike for more money and fair conditions on the job! My Dad was a negotiator for the union, so for me strikes, the fight for the worker and negotiating were a normal part of life. Not that I actually understood all the flyers I was handing out.

Later on I chose to be a carpenter and a few years after that I joined YWAM, not at all thinking about unions or anything like that. And I'm still not. But one interesting fact is that throughout my time in YWAM people have poured so much into me and trained and cared for me that now I want to pour into others. And I've decided not to pick up signs and flyers again, but rather go more into the direction of training.

So this year for the first time YWAM Las Vegas is running its first Basic Leadership School (BLS). Don't worry, it doesn't include any strikes at all! But our goal is to have a one year mentorship program in which our staff has the opportunity to develop their personal skills and a deeper relationship with God. But we are also looking at developing practical skills, like basic accounting or cooking for example.

At the end we will have developed a great staff person, who can probably make a mean cup of coffee, lead a ministry and follow God wherever He takes him/her without ever having to resort to a strike. Wanna come?

Frauke Deseke

"Our desire is that each child would see the world through the eyes of truth..."



HANG TIME after school program

Oh, no! I thought, noticing the thick dark blood running down my arm. Out of reflex I quickly applied pressure on the wide open cut on my wrist. I grabbed the knife and exited the room before anyone realized what had happened. I was adding insult to injury or...injury to insult. Never had I seen such greed. Never had I experienced such ingratitude... and from children. Never had I hated Christmas so much.

We were having a Christmas party for the children in the community who participate in Hang Time, our after school homework club for the low income area in which we are based. The kids who participate are often underprivileged, and for this reason we were excited when South Hills Church Community, a local church, decided to buy gifts for the Hang Time students. What an awesome opportunity this was to show the kids how much they are loved by God and by His people! They would be blessed and thankful that people they didn't even know bought them gifts they didn't even expect! At least...those were my expectations.

When the time for the Christmas party finally arrived I was astonished by what I saw. The gifts were presented to the children and, to my surprise, instead of thank you's there were complaints and arguments. Instead of gratitude there was greed and jealousy. Instead of joy there were tears. This scene broke our hearts as we watched what we had

planned for a time of blessing turn into a time of catastrophe. As I frantically opened box after box and toy after toy, my knife slipped and stabbed me in my wrist. It seemed like the appropriate ending to our failed "Christmas give-away".

The problems we face here do not have easy solutions. Many would look at the problems in an impoverished community and then try to meet needs with whatever means necessary. However this type of ministry often ends in failure because the needs of the people in these communities go much deeper than what is seen on the surface. We are not simply coming against poverty in and of itself; we are coming against a mentality or an ideology. We are coming against a culture that we must try to change or all the problems that have been generations in the making will continue on to the next one.

For the next year, Hang Time aims to cut the problems off at their roots. We aim to fight for the future of our city, our community and each child that walks through our doors. We aim to transform their attitudes about education and learning, about respect and honor, about gratitude and humility and about life and purpose. New programs like Boys Club and Girls Club aim to instill in children a respect for themselves and for the opposite sex. Our desire is that each child would see the world through the eyes of truth and believe that they can have an impact; that each child would have a genuine love for God and for each other and that they would go into the world and infect it with the truth of God's word. In other words we aim to start a revolution in the culture of inner city Las Vegas and you can help. Will you join us?

Joe Fortier

Mission Trips & More...

In 2005 we have opportunities for you to experience an overseas mission trip. Pray about joining us!

MOROCCO

Dates: May 2-12
Where: Marrakech, Morocco
Cost: \$1650.00
Ages: 18 and over

Join us in the unprecedented event of Christians and Muslims meeting together for a 3 day music festival called Friendship Fest in Marrakech!! After the Festival we will go to Village of Hope orphanage in Ain Leuh.

For more info call Dawn Matusz @ YWAM Las Vegas (702) 658-5450.

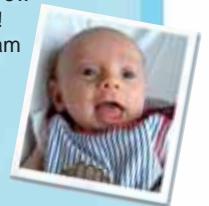
UNITED KINGDOM 'Mission Trip 702'

Dates: August 5-22, 2005
Where: Liverpool, England
Cost: \$2000 – includes training, food, housing, transport
Ages: Teenagers and up!

For more info call Richard Thompson @ YWAM Las Vegas (702) 658-5450 or (702) 806-4120

WELCOME TO THE WORLD

Congratulations to our very own Sarah Hamilton and husband Andrew on the birth of Joshua Brian! Joshua was born at 10:01 am on January 20, weighed 6 lbs 10 oz, and was 19.25 inches long. Mother and child (and father!) are doing great!



WEDDING BELLS!

Wedding Congratulations to our staff member Ricky Simmons and his new bride Jennifer (Mills). They were married on February 20 at Greater New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church.

FOR MORE INFO. CHECK US OUT ON-LINE

@ WWW.YWAMLASVEGAS.ORG



Introducing... Our New Staff

Chrystal Williams



Hey, hey! My name is Chrystal Williams and I am from the most beautiful place in the world – British Columbia, Canada! I love outdoor sports – cliff jumping and snowboarding to name two! I also love to travel, but most of all... I LOVE God! I have a sister, two nieces and great parents. My mother is the one who most inspires me to strive to be more like God.

I'm currently staffing DTS, where I get to do another of my favorite things: impact youth and help them find who they are in Jesus Christ. It's exciting to watch them transform day by day as God grabs hold of their hearts and continues to make them into the person He has made them to be!

Keith Owens



Hi, my name is Keith Owens. I completed D.T.S. in Kona, Hawaii in August 2003. Through it God has completely changed my life, altered the way I view the world and broadened my peripherals. Outreach was great, as I really watched God move. I didn't know what I wanted to do after outreach but I knew I wanted to work for God.

I made a friend while in Hawaii by the name of Jimmy. Jimmy is from Las Vegas, and I came with him to the Valley for a visit. A lot of the things I saw here disturbed my spirit. The city was full of blind people who were desperately in need of the Savior. After returning home I could not shake it out of my mind. Through a series of events, God led me to serve on staff here at YWAM Las Vegas. I'm currently working with Hangtime and Boy's Club. I can't wait to see the Lord move in this community and city!

Janelle Everett



My name is Janelle Everett and I am a single parent of three grown children. Being a single parent, one puts his/her life and dreams on hold to rear children. I felt like my dreams were missed and the opportunity lost to minister with a mission organization until I came to Las Vegas last March to visit my daughter while she was in DTS.

At that point, restlessness began to grow. I sensed God wanting to take me on a huge journey of surrender and trust in Him. God kept leading me toward Las Vegas through my devotional readings, prayers and encouragement from family and friends.

I'm serving short term as the Kitchen manager, and am blessed to be able to minister to the DTS students! I am still amazed how the Lord opened up this door of opportunity for me to be able to minister and be a part of YWAM Las Vegas!

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