

The LIGHThouse

The online newsletter of Wildwood Community Church



May 2008

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Serving One Another in Love Through Go Wild

One Day, 5 Houses, 120 Volunteers

On Saturday, April 26th, Wildwood teamed with the non-profit organization "Rebuilding Together" to work on home repair projects for local families in need.

Wildwood members Carl Lentz and David Ridgway organized Go Wild this spring, coordinating approximately 120 volunteers at 5 different work sites. Each work site had plenty of opportunities for willing hands to serve; there were homes to paint, siding to replace, trees to remove, fences to build, rooms and sheds to clean, and a deck and storm shelter to repair.



David Ridgway commented, "I enjoyed watching our church make a difference in the lives of these homeowners. ... One of the homeowners was a retired pastor. I enjoyed that Wildwood blessed a man that has devoted his life to serving God. Another homeowner is an evangelist in prisons and homeless shelters. She told me that she felt God was blessing her through Go Wild."

Another homeowner, Wildwood's own Joyce Jackson, expressed her gratitude to Go Wild: "On Saturday, a wonderful Go Wild team gave up their time and gave of their talent to work on my home. I was in awe and blessed by their amazing work. I want to thank everyone who worked on my home and let you know how much I appreciate all you did. You really 'Shine as Light.'"



Blessed to Be a Blessing

For her Go Wild project, volunteer Nancy McCourry helped with yard-work and put up a fence for an elderly man in Norman. When asked about her experience with Go Wild, Nancy related the following story:

"I really enjoyed doing this, because I had a chance to bless someone and help in their need. It was really fun, and I enjoyed getting to know other Wildwood people. The past 9 months have been kind of trying for our family. My son was in the hospital for the better part of a month last October, and we had some other personal family issues; so, I was kind of having a pity party for awhile and I think feeling sorry for myself. The last few months God has been laying on my heart about helping people, but I didn't know how or who. So, when Re-

Serving with Go Wild, continued

building Together came up, I decided I wanted to get out there and help. It really helped me not to focus on myself personally and to put my focus on others, instead. The only thing I wish I could have seen is the gentleman's face when he came home and saw his new fence and backyard. That would have been priceless to me. Everyone who worked at this house was awesome. We had a great time doing it, and you could see it in everyone's faces."

Stretching Our Faith

Another volunteer, Travis Thomas, shared his faith-stretching experiences as a co-captain at one of the work sites.

"It is always a joy to participate [in Go Wild] and see the happiness it brings to the homeowners. This year was a little different for me, because I was asked to step out of my comfort zone and be a team co-captain. I was a little apprehensive, because I knew the responsibility would fall to my co-captain and me to make sure the work got done. However, as we began contacting our list of volunteers, it became quite clear we would have



plenty of help to accomplish the list of tasks. Our list of projects included replacing two storm doors, the back door, building a fence, repairing the back porch, caulking the windows, 'trimming a tree' (that means we cut down a 40+ foot dead tree in the back yard), cleaning the windows and clearing brush in a back corner of the yard. All these tasks seemed a little daunting considering our list of volunteers included only about 18 people, some of whom said they could stay only part of the day. However, our **faith that God would supply the hands needed to do His work** was met with about 10 more volunteers showing up who we had not spoken to or had any idea they were coming. The majority of our help was college age students all of whom had a terrific attitude and were will-

ing to do anything we asked them to do. Seeing God work through the hands of those who volunteer, even those who say they 'have no repair skills' continues to bless me, and I know after visiting with our homeowner it blessed him as well."

After hearing these stories, I came to see how God can use events like Go Wild to teach us more about Himself and how He works in our lives. For instance, Nancy's story reminds me of how when we pour ourselves out in acts of service to others, God fills us back up with renewal. Travis' experience with Go Wild stretched and increased his faith, which reminds me of God's faithfulness and challenges me to trust Him for the things in my life which seem impossible. Travis and his team trusted God to help them finish their ever-growing list of tasks, and they were surprised with many more helping hands to get the job done. We, too, can step out in faith. Not only has God prepared in advance good works for us to do (Ephesians 2:10), but His power will also "give us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him..." (2 Peter 1:3)



Sending Out Summer Missionaries

For many, summer also signifies a chance to journey to new lands and share the good news of Christ with others in word and deed. Many of Wildwood's own are traveling stateside and abroad this summer on mission trips. Although these trips differ in their destinations and duration, they all have the common purpose of following in Christ's footsteps to share His truth and love to the world.

Just as Christ sent out His 72 followers in Luke 10, He still sends us out today to communicate His message of grace and hope to a hurting world. Let's rejoice and thank Him for the 41 plus people from Wildwood who will be serving stateside and abroad this summer. Below is a brief explanation of each summer trip, so that as a church Body we can remember to support our summer missionaries in prayer.

Stateside...

Daniel Chouinard is going on the Ozark Lakes Summer Project with Campus Crusade to Branson, MO.

Carmen Martinez is going to Los Angeles, CA, with Campus Crusade for an inner-city community Summer Project.

John Rodgers will be in Colorado Springs at Eagle Lake Camps with the Navigators working as a Program Coach, directing daily activities and discipleship for counselors.

Kyle Hess, Darby Kelly, Wes McFall and Tim Thomas will be serving at Sky Ranch in Tyler, TX.

Abroad...

Brandon Alexander will be building relationships and sharing the Gospel with people in East Asia.

Mike & Heather Beckham are going to Moscow, Russia with Campus Crusade from May 20th-June 19th. They will be working with a team to share the Gospel on college campuses.

Abroad, continued...

Amanda Hayter is going to Thailand for a month this summer to teach English and basic life skills at orphanages and schools. She will also be doing some street evangelism.

Jennifer Hess is going to Cancun, Mexico from May 28th-July 9th as an intern for Mexico Missions with the Chain family.

Kat Moy will be in Montenegro and Thailand to

search out where the Lord would have her serve long term. She will also be ministering to the local missionaries and communities in each location.

Jamie Vulgamott is going to Moscow, Russia, with Campus Crusade from May 18th-June

20th. Among other things, she will be sharing her faith with Russian students on numerous college campuses.

The Wildwood Youth will be going to Mexico from June 4th-11th to work with Mexico Missions. About 28 people are going on this trip, whose names are listed below.



Individuals going to Mexico June 4-11: David Robbins, Victoria Baker, Katherine Borgerding, Calvin Boyd, Rosemary Boyd, Madison Butts, Robbie Clark, Elizabeth Craig, Sarah Frederick, Rebekah Moorman, Alexis Morren, Lora Robinson, Ryan Robbins, Jessica Russell, Tabitha Schaffner, Kelly Shockley, Shea Snyder, Bethany Vanderpool, Tyler Wesnidge, David Wesson

Individuals going to Mexico June 4-18: Kirbie Cuaderes, Audrey Folmar, Hannah Foster, Ashley Musgrave, Stefanie Nees, Rochelle Randles, Shea Trotter, Caitlyn Wesnidge

Backpacks for the Next Generation



Think about all the times you have packed a backpack in your life. Maybe you were a student, loading it with heavy books to study. Maybe you were a parent, making sure your little one had plenty of sharpened pencils and full boxes of crayons. Or, perhaps you were one of the many at Wildwood who helped to fill the 300 colorful backpacks this March for Mexico Mission's Project: Next Generation. These backpacks were filled with toys, treats, and Gospel materials for children in Mexico.

More Than Just a Backpack...

In March, a Wildwood small group, teamed together with

Mexico Missions, organized and led the backpack project.

Phil and Marianne Chain, founders of Mexico Missions, collected and distributed a total of 2,000 backpacks in the Cancun area on April 30th, Children's Day. This project, however,

was not just about passing on a backpack into the hands of eager children; it was about passing on the message of God's grace and salvation into their hearts.



After the backpack distribution, Phil Chain excitedly told me of the overwhelming response to the Gospel message. "It was awesome. We saw lots of children,

about 60% of those at the program, pray to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We also saw 3-12 adults at every program accept the Lord. The pastors took down all the names of the children and adults that were not attendees so they could follow up with them."



So, next time you pack or carry a backpack, I hope it causes you to remember this story of how God used a small group of people in Oklahoma to make a big difference in the lives of several children and their parents in Mexico. Also, may it cause us to stop and ask ourselves how we can take small, practical steps towards actively living out our faith.

If you would like more information about Mexico Missions, go to their website at: www.mexicomissions.org

Connecting with the World Through Prayer



More than 6.6 billion people now call planet Earth their home. These 6.6 billion individuals represent a stunning variety of cultures, languages, and worldviews. Even Norman boasts of a vibrantly active international community. Approximately 1,600 international students from over 106 nations attend OU alone. Faced with these numbers, you may ask yourself, “How can I make an impact for Christ in this global community?” One answer to that question is found in prayer. Through prayer, we have an opportunity to positively influence the international community here and abroad.

On the first Sunday of every month, Wildwood holds an International Community Prayer Meeting that offers people a place to come join with others in prayer for the international community in Norman and in the world.

Chris Cope, who helps organize the monthly prayer meetings, told me of the importance of these corporate prayer times in his own life. “We have begun sowing seeds of prayer, and now we wait for the growth and harvest. For me personally, the corporate prayer meetings are a time to agree with God and other believers about the desired salvation of people from all nations. This, in turn, encourages me to pray about these things during the remainder of the month on my own. **If we truly believe that God hears and answers prayer, and that nothing good will happen in ministry unless God brings the increase, then prayer may be the best investment of our time in reaching the international communities.**”

If you are interested in joining others in prayer for the world, check out the monthly International Community Prayer Meeting held the first Sunday of every month at 4:30 pm in the Fellowship Center East (Time and place may change, so check the bulletin on Sundays for updated details.)

There are other ways to get involved right here in Norman with internationals. Two opportunities are:

- * Adopt a student through the “Friends to International Students” program at OU.
- * Participate as a language partner in Conversation Café at the Center for English as a 2nd Language

If you would like more information about any of the involvement opportunities above, or if you are wondering how to begin welcoming and loving internationals, please contact Chris Cope at (940)231-9312.

It's that time again...

*The All Church Perfect Swing Spring Fling Thing is **Sunday, May 25**, immediately after church.*

The cost is \$3 for YouthWAVers and older and \$1 for children 5th grade and younger. This includes hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks. If you will be attending, please bring a large portion of your favorite dessert (in a disposable container).

Pass It On Update: Trusting God's Provision



There are times when God uses the physical world to stretch our faith and show us His provision. One situation like this occurred in Mark 8 when Jesus asked the disciples to feed 4,000 hungry people. Another situation like this is occurring right now at Wildwood inside our children's ministry. As our ministry has grown over the years our need for physical space (and the large price tag to create that space) has placed us in a situation in our physical world where God wants to stretch our faith and show us His provision.

In their time of need, the disciples were not alone. Jesus, God Himself, was right there with them, fully capable of empowering them to finish their task of feeding the thousands. Over the past few months, we have been reminded that we are not alone either . . . The same Jesus who fed the 4,000 is with us as well!

Imagine the disciples looking down in amazement at their baskets overflowing with leftover fish and loaves, thanking Jesus for His miraculous provision. Wildwood, too, can look at the past several weeks of the Pass It On initiative and thank God for how He is abundantly providing.

One does not have to look far for evidence of God's hand in Pass It On. As of now, approximately \$2.1 million has been committed to the project over the next three years. On Sunday May, 4 a special "First Fruits" offering saw a total of \$300,000 given. This allowed Wildwood to pay off our existing mortgage on May 5!

In addition to some of the financial provision that Wildwood has seen lately, it is also clear that God has been motivating the entire Body to get involved and utilize their individual gifts to help make Pass It On a success. Amy Frederick, Associate Children's Director, said that she has been encouraged by seeing the gifts of the Body come out during Pass It On. "I have been amazed at the gifts of the Body and everyone's talent and willingness to step forward not only to see Pass It On succeed, but also in using their gifts to help shape the vision of the new children's building."

Pastor Mark Robinson also spoke of how encouraging it has been to see "so much participation by the Body." He told me how many different people at Wildwood have given their time and talents to help make Pass It On run smoothly and successfully, including creation of the Pass It On video, printed materials, and the website. Also, the home fellowship meetings would not have happened without the willingness of several families acting as host homes for the meetings.

Wildwood member Muriel Kemp shared her thoughts on Pass It On so far and what she was encouraged by from the home meetings. "The home meetings really helped me to catch a vision of passing on a legacy. If I invest in this building, it could be my grandkids going to Sunday school there in the future. It just makes sense that this is the right next step for Wildwood. We have room for adults upstairs, but we cannot seat more adults if we have no room for their children. We can't grow without provision for more kids."

Whatever your involvement has been with Pass It On, hopefully your faith has been strengthened and challenged through the process. No matter if it's loaves and fish or bricks and buildings, God can do a lot to multiply our limited resources!

To get involved further with Pass it On or for more information visit our website at www.wildwoodchurch.org/passiton

Wildwood Events and Activities Calendar

Major Upcoming Events

5/24	Fit Together tours Farmer's Market
5/25	High School Senior Recognition
5/25	All Church Perfect Swing Spring Fling Thing
5/30-6/1	Father/Daughter Campout
6/4-11	Youth WAV Mexico Mission Trip
6/6-6/8	Father/Daughter Campout
6/23-26	WildLife Safari
7/14-19	Christ in Youth Conference

During the week at Wildwood...

WEDNESDAY

- 5:30 pm WildLife (grades 6th-8th)
- 7:00 pm Open Prayer Meeting (Room 227)
- 7:45 pm Break-Away (grades 9th-12th)

SUNDAY

- 9:00 & 10:40 Worship Services with full children's ministry available

Sunday Morning Adult Fellowship Groups

Meet at 9:00 am

Young Couples and Families, 20s & 30s
 Fellowship Center East (downstairs)
 Leaders: Stan and Cheryl Schuermann
 Tim and Ann Riley

Truth Seekers
 Fellowship Center West (downstairs)
 Leaders: Jeff and Joyce Harwell
 Julius Harrell

Meet at 10:40 am

YouthWAV (Grades 6th-12th)
 Youth Room (downstairs)
 Leader: Dave Robbins

Koinonia
 Fellowship Center West (downstairs)
 Leaders: Frank and Tammy Wesnidge
 Mike and Julie Strauss

Ladies Fellowship
 Room 227 (upstairs)
 Leader: Jill Brown

Family Fellowship
 Fellowship Center East (downstairs)
 Leaders: John and Lori Abernethy
 Dave and Fran Ryan

Men's Fellowship (1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sunday)
 Staff Office (upstairs)
 Leaders: Bill Fix & Garry Krueger

The Heart Behind the LIGHThouse Newsletter...

Wildwood exists as a church to glorify God by shining as LIGHT in our homes, our community, and the world. LIGHT is an acronym that stands for the following:

- L**iving out God's truth
- I**nvest in reaching others
- G**iving of ourselves through service
- H**onoring God through worship
- T**eam together in relationships

To add events to the calendar or suggest a story for the LIGHThouse, email Jina Schrader at jinaschrader@wildwoodchurch.org. For information about any Wildwood calendar event, contact Becky Clark in the church office.

For more information about any of these groups, please inquire at the Information center upstairs.



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