

The Source

What's New at TRVC?

Thanks again for taking time to read our monthly newsletter. We've received quite a bit of positive feedback on it so far – glad that you're finding it helpful, informative, and maybe even a little inspirational at times... Here's a quick story and a couple updates for this month. – Brian

Why our church is named Two Rivers – another story: This past Sunday, I shared a number of things about how God led us to name our church Two Rivers, and how that was more than just a name... that it was also a powerful metaphor that speaks to our mission as a church. We want to be community that experiences and extends the power and truth of Jesus Christ. Those "two rivers" are what changes our lives, and what will make an impact in our area (and beyond)

I had one other story that I didn't get to share on Sunday, so thought I'd include it here. One afternoon in 2002, about the same time that the name "Two Rivers" came to the surface, I had a fun encounter of reading the Bible. I was reading John 4, where Jesus interacts with the woman at the well, and then speaks to the disciples, making this main point to them: "You say that the harvest is 4 months off – I say, open your eyes, the fields are ripe for harvest." Of course, Jesus is not speaking about grain being harvested here – he's speaking about people. As I read that chapter, something struck me deeply: Jesus sees spiritual interest in people that I/we don't usually pick up on. There is a hunger and a search that we often miss.

That day, I began to pray, "God, would you give me eyes to see what you see. Let me perceive where you are working in people's lives, so I can genuinely help them connect with you." This past month, I've been coming back to that kind of prayer. I believe as Jesus looks over Greater Mankato, he sees spiritual hunger and searching that we don't often perceive. May God give us eyes to see what He sees, and empower us to be the hands and feet of Christ to our community in whatever way we can.

Utility Trailer Fundraising Idea: Our worship ministry people came up with a creative idea that we wanted to share with you. With the expansion of worship teams and worship equipment, the need for a utility trailer to transport everything has become apparent. (The Bartell's Dodge Caravan can only hold so much stuff!!!) The creative idea is this: the worship folks would like to coordinate an on-line garage sale to raise money towards the purchase of a utility trailer. Basically, people from TRVC would make available some good quality items to sell Craig's list and/or Ebay, and then we'd use the proceeds towards the purchase of a trailer. The approximate cost of a new 5x8 enclosed trailer is \$1600. The great news is that we already have \$600 committed towards that goal. If you have items that you'd like to sell towards this idea, contact Aaron Bartell (612-437-2003 or aaronbartell@gmail.com) and he'll get you more details. Specific financial gifts towards this project are welcomed as well. Thanks much!

Christmas Plans: We have some fun things coming together for the Christmas season. As in the past, there will be a women's Christmas party in early/mid December. It's always a great time of fellowship and fun, as well as an opportunity to focus on the real meaning and impact of Christmas. If you'd like to be part of that event planning, contact Kelly Berg (340-5324 or iamkelbelle@hotmail.com)

We've also slated Sunday, December 13th as a special day at church – this year planning both a choir piece, and worship dance that we'll include as part of our gathering that day. Both those items are open to anyone: if you're interested in the choir, contact me (388-8313 or brian@trvc.org). If you'd like more info on the worship dance, contact Amy Kvidera (934-1211 or kvideras@hickorytech.net). More details coming soon!

Dates to Remember:

- **November 7-8:** "Living the Message" Area Vineyard Conference in Burnsville, MN
- **November 12:** City-Wide worship event at Mankato Armory Building
- **February 2010:** Mexico Missions Trip to Puerto Vallarta
- **June 13-17, 2010:** Vineyard Midwest Conference/Family Camp at Green Lake, WI

**Contact us at brian@trvc.org
Website: www.trvc.org**

November Q & A: Jim Muyres

Tell us about yourself, Jim.



Hi, I am 53 years old, single and live on a hobby farm north of Madison Lake. I was born and raised in Rochester, have six brothers and sisters and attended Catholic school for ten years. Though never married I was in a 20 year relationship and helped raise two boys, one of whom died tragically at age 22. For pleasure, I enjoy fiddling around at my country home, reading, fellowshiping with friends in recovery, and the company of my two cats, geese and chickens. After high school I attended school for carpentry, then solar energy. I worked in the building trades and started my own construction business. I returned to school for an AAS degree then worked in government for 18 years in building inspection, land use and environmental health I am presently seeking a new career path.

So you've been involved with the Mankato Celebrate Recovery group for the last couple of years, what's that about? Who is it for? How can people get involved?

For most of my life I struggled with or ignored the questions of my faith. In 2004, I committed my life to Jesus Christ at Woodland Hills Church in St. Paul. My life has had a new meaning and energy ever since. I am active in twelve step recovery programs and serve as district treasurer and public information chair for one organization. I am also a facilitator for Celebrate Recovery (CR), a bible based recovery program in Mankato that helps everyone grow in an abundant life with Christ. CR is a program to help everyone recover from whatever hurts, habits or hang-ups stand in their way of an abundant life. We meet every Friday from 7:00-9:00 pm – there is a half hour of worship music, then a lesson then the men and women break into small groups, followed by a snack afterwards. Since CR is for all emotional, addictive and spiritual struggles, we have a great mix of people helping each other grow in Christ.

I was led to TRVC about a year ago and am grateful for the fellowship, message and direction of the church family. I am starting a new chapter in my life and look forward to seeing where God leads me.

Update from TRVC Intern:

Wow, it's already November! This Sunday we will be having another college/young adult get-together at the Brinkert's following church. So if you are a young adult, come and join us ☺ The next hang out will be Nov 15 - more information to come.

Beginning next week, I will be working with The Sudanese Women and Children Services at least ten hours per week to help further their vision. The Sudanese founder, Gatwech Ring, has a primary focus on immigrant women living in Mankato. He says his goal is to meet the needs of these women by having 2-3 sessions per month, helping them adjust to the lifestyle in Mankato. The program will offer cooking classes, counseling, and lots of sessions assisting in grasping our culture while embracing their own. You can help by brainstorming ideas and providing any resources you think may benefit this mission. Thanks for your help! Also get ready because I will soon be asking for volunteers to come join me in loving these women. ☺

Made to Love, Amanda

TRVC 2009 Financial Report through September 30, 2009

Income: \$85,259

Expenses: \$79,633

Excess/(Shortage): \$5626

Account Balances as of September 30, 2009

Checking: \$5840

Savings: \$9150

Average Weekly Giving in Sept (4 Sundays): \$1843

Thanks again for your continued support and generosity towards the mission of TRVC. Our financial goals for 2009 included a push towards saving \$10,000, allowing us greater freedom to try new things and take new risks in the future. Even with the current economic situation, we've been able to get over halfway towards that goal so far. Pray with us that we can finish the year strong and be ready to go at all that God has for us. Thanks!

Church Planting/Mission Corner



Guist Family



We received this update from our friends, John and Paige Guist, lead pastors of Middle Creek Vineyard Church in Farmington, MN. Enjoy this update on their public launch of church services and ways we can be praying for them.

Greetings from Farmington! Just a quick note to say thanks to all of you for your prayers and encouragement. We did our launch Sunday 10/4/2009. It was a good day. God and 52 people showed up for our first official public service! We worshiped, preached, and ministry happened. Then all but three stayed for lunch, they cleaned us out. A little boy told one of our Kids' Church people "I'm not sure I know Jesus?!" So she told him who he was... isn't that something? We get to serve our great God and tell the people in our town about him.

We have a fantabulos team of people who made it happen, they are awesome, and Paige and I love them.

Fast Five Prayer List

- Please continue to pray for our outreach into this community
- For our team to stay connected to Jesus Christ I believe this will cause people to be drawn to the presence of the Holy Spirit/Jesus in us. That's really the best we can offer them anyway:)
- For each team member (Marriages, children, health, power encounters, and finances): Michael, John, Paige, Zach, Belle, Lij, Sharrilynn & David, Lydia, Mark, Beth, Kaitlynn, Daniel, Mom & Pops Guist, Becky, & Jenny
- For our Hosts - The Dakota County Fairgrounds
- For 20 more people to disciple by January 2010

Many Kingdom moments are happen outside and inside of church for all of us. I won't take the time to tell you about them here, but I will ask you to go before our Father in heaven on our behalf and ask him to help us be faithful and vigilant.

Thank you very, very much for your prayers!

John & Paige Guist

"Seven Simple Words" by Dianne Leman

This past Sunday, I referenced a story told by our friend Dianne Leman, one of the pastors at the Vineyard Church in Champaign/Urbana, IL. I thought you might enjoy the whole article, and the insight it gives on some of our core values. - Brian

On a recent Sunday, I was hurrying down the building corridor when I passed an older gentleman and said a brief hello. He stopped and began to earnestly tell me how his very ill four-month-old grandson was in a large children's hospital, where doctors were unable to diagnose his condition. As he finished sharing, I said simply, "Can I pray for you right now?" It only took a moment to pray, but God's presence with us was powerful. We parted ways, trusting God to move in this baby's life.

Can I pray for you right now? These seven words--seven simply supernatural words--capture the essence of the five core values of the Vineyard movement:

The Theology and Practice of the Kingdom of God
Experiencing God
Reconciling Community
Compassionate Ministry
Culturally Relevant Mission

At the Vineyard of Champaign-Urbana, where I pastor, we encourage everyone to be attentive and ready to speak these seven words wherever the opportunity arises--whether in the church building, on the street, or in our homes or workplaces. And in this practice of praying for others, we express the Vineyard's five core values.

We offer to pray because we believe the kingdom of God has come, and we trust that at any moment the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit may break in and bring healing to our broken world.

We experience God when we respond to the Holy Spirit's nudges and ask, "Can I pray for you right now?" As we pray, we sense God's heart, we share his love, and we receive his guidance. We are actually partnering with God! His empowering presence fills us and flows through us.

We make a regular practice of meeting together in small groups where, as a reconciling community, we not only practice praying for each other, but also share stories, failures, and successes. We humbly bear one another's burdens. We are reconciled to one another and to God as we confess our sins and receive forgiveness. We part, freshly empowered to continue the work of the kingdom, bringing reconciliation wherever we go.

Because we are equipped and ready to pray, we often find ourselves engaged in compassionate ministry outside the church service. A young man from our congregation was on the campus of the University of Illinois when he stopped to talk to a distraught student and ended up asking, "Can I pray for you right now?" A new mom from our church was pushing her stroller through the neighborhood when she met another new mom. When her neighbor shared some struggles, she asked, "Can I pray for you right now?" And sometimes, miracles happen as the future invades the present. Other times, we don't see any change but we have still shared the love and mercy of Jesus with another person.

When we pray for someone, we are careful to use language that is familiar and meaningful to the person receiving prayer. We meet people in places and situations in which they are comfortable, not waiting for them to come to prayer meetings or Bible studies or church services. Most often, we take part in culturally relevant mission as we go about our everyday lives, living among our neighbors and engaging in the same culture our they engage in, instead of giving into the urge to hide away in the Christian subculture.

Being ready to speak these seven simply supernatural words "Can I pray for you right now?" will help all of us live out the foundational values of the Vineyard. Five core values, seven simple words.

Original Source:
Vineyard USA Online. Nov 2008

Our desire as a church and body of Christ is for individuals from our community to share their gifts with one another. Therefore, if you are interested in sharing a personal devotion, poem, or reflection in an upcoming newsletter, e-mail Amanda Rezac at arezac09@gmail.com and submit a piece of writing. We would love to hear what is on your heart.