



Mission Alive
Newsletter



LIVING IN PRAYER

by Hobby Chapin

Last May, I was reading Acts 6; I was struck by the apostle's saying, "We can't be distracted from prayer." I remembered a couple of resources on my shelf that speak of modern day church planting movements in which the leaders pray for hours a day. **I upended my normal routine and set out to pray for 3 hours a day.**



Hobby speaks weekly to the children's morning assembly at his son Jayden's school.

As the school year began, I committed myself to praying two mornings a week through my son's elementary school—a secular charter school—from 8 to 9 AM. **I was committed not to assert myself, but to only do what I felt the Lord gave me to do.** The Lord has allowed me to pray for people who later reported healing from earaches, wrist pain, knee injuries, as well as receiving jobs, or deepening their relationship with God.

A house church of 17 adults and over 20 children spontaneously formed. I meet with the principal weekly and he has invited me to speak in the children's morning assembly on a weekly basis. Many other significant relationships with people of peace have formed. The Lord promotes his people and the kingdom becomes leaven when His leaders live in prayer.

Hobby Chapin is a missionary with the Aspen Network in the Greater Denver, CO area. He can be reached at clayformation@gmail.com.



SNEAK ATTACK

by Jackie Rizo

"Sneak Attack" is a practical way that we are teaching our children how to bless others. It all began one evening when Sergio mentioned a certain family's financial need. With a little bit of cash on hand, we dressed all in



Jackie and Sergio with their children at the recent Easter Sneak Attack.

black and headed out the door. Once we were near the home, Sergio turned on the Mission Impossible theme song and our plan was decided. Sergio and Josiah (7 yrs) jumped out of the van, taped a money envelope to the door, knocked,

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JULY 20-21

DFW COACH TRAINING

Learn to equip others for ministry

Register at www.missionalive.org

Helping others discover their God-given calling.



JULY 26-28

DISCOVERY LAB

Let's go on mission together!

Register at www.missionalive.org

What dreams for God's mission do you have?



SEPTEMBER 17th @ 5pm

CELEBRATION @ SUMMIT

Register at www.missionalive.org

Come celebrate God's work in the mission with us!

Tickets are Complimentary!

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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Celebrating God's Work

“As I looked around the room at the men and women who had been impacted by Mission Alive I was struck by the diversity that was present in the room. The group was represented by a diversity of age, background, gender and ethnicity. Normally, groups this heterogeneous do not have such a united cause. But tonight, these men and women all shared a love of the Lord and a love for planting churches. It was wonderful knowing that Mission Alive has played such a key role in the development of this church planting network.” — Frank Stepp, Mission Alive Board Member

“God provided a glimpse of tangible evidence of his presence among us. Scattered throughout the room were not only supporters who believe in and support the mission of Mission Alive, but it was extremely encouraging to see the results of God's work in the numerous church plantings represented at table after table. Across the room were real people who are pursuing faith in Christ as a result of God's presence and work among us in many different locations!” — Jerry Browder, Mission Alive Board Member

More than 200 people joined together to celebrate God's work in church planting and renewal at the DFW Celebration on February 10, 2012. Participants contributed over \$21,000 toward the mission.

We thank God for our Event Partners who funded the cost of the event so that all gifts went toward the mission. The Vision Partners were Tommy & Melinda Ballard. The Story Partners were Scott & Vickie Ferguson, Leslie Fry, Terry & Vicky Penn, Signet Health Corporation, and Frank & Nancy Stepp.

Corey Rose, a member of ONEcommunity Church of Christ in Mesquite, TX, shares his journey from darkness to light in a Mission Alive church plant.



Leesa Black (l) and Lisa Gould (r) with one of Mission Alive's newest Board Members, Arlene Kasselmann (c).



2012 DFW Celebration at the Riverside Church of Christ building in Coppell, TX

SNEAK ATTACK (continued from page 1)

and sprinted back to the hidden van. The night was filled with laughter and joy as the kids experienced that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

This past Easter, we decided to strike again. We dressed all in black, loaded up the Easter eggs, and headed to three different destinations. Once we arrived, the boys jumped out of the van and deposited 12 eggs in each yard. Sergio taped a sign to each front door that read:

“You've been egged! The Rizo kids have hidden 12 eggs in your yard. Enjoy the hunt, but don't be discouraged when you find the empty egg. It is a simple reminder of Jesus' empty tomb-For He is RISEN!”

They rang the doorbell and dashed to the van. Afterwards, we were blessed with calls and texts from each family who had enjoyed being “egged”.

Sneak Attack has become our family's tradition. Whether it is giving monetary gifts, groceries, or a fun game to play, we do this to show our children a fun way to put Philippians 2:3-4 into practice.

Jackie Rizo, her husband Sergio and four children live in Nashville, TN, and work with Reunion Christian Community (www.reunion.cc), a Mission Alive church plant. Jackie blogs at www.livingredeemedlife.blogspot.com.

God is Up to Something!

by Micah Lewis



Over the last several months River City Christian Community has been participating in a research project for a Ph.D. candidate studying the role of neighbors

in the formation of new congregations. We decided to join this project for several reasons. Primarily this would be a chance to further our knowledge and understanding about Wichita and to learn more about how God is at work here in our city. Secondly, we hoped it would build and strengthen some of our friendships with our neighbors.

We spent the first phase of research as a church reading scripture, reflecting on our locale, and asking the question “What is God up to in Wichita?” During the

second phase we have invited our neighbors into a similar process. Our neighbors in this project consist of believers, people disconnected from church, and people with no relationship with God.

We are currently in the midst of this process, but it has been really exciting to see how Scripture and deep, open conversation is opening us all up to see fresh ways in which God is at work in Wichita. **Our disconnected friends have confessed that God has delivered family members from addiction. They have inquired about how one becomes a part of River City. They have spoken of us as their spiritual leaders.** We do not know where



Micah Lewis (left) explores what God is up to in Wichita with his neighbors.

God is going to take us through this process, but after our last meeting it was not hard to imagine this group becoming a church. God certainly is up to something in Wichita!

Micah Lewis is a Church Planter with River City Christian Community (www.rivercitycommunity.org) in Wichita, KS. He blogs at www.micahlewis.wordpress.com.

Where Darkness and Light Collide

by Allen Close



Thirty to forty young adults in my living room are too many. We don't have enough chairs and the air conditioner can't keep up in the summer. Young people want food and something to drink so that becomes part of the routine. Because they are young, I guess they don't need to sleep so they stay long after the Bible study and they are noisy even though my wife gets up at five. More than once I have had to turn out the lights to get them to go home. I thought about turning the hose on them but since it is my house I decided against that.

When I tell them to turn to some book of the Bible most of them turn to the index to get a page number. If I mention Moses – or someone like that – I get a blank stare, but they do want

to hear about this guy, whoever he is.

I am talking about the college group at our Church. We have had this group for about five years and for the last two we have had Keke Brooks to work with them. It has been an explosion. **We have baptized more from this group than any other group. The conversions have been from the world since most have no real religious background.** All of the issues I mentioned at the beginning are real, but despite that, this is the most thrilling ministry in which I have been involved.

This is ministry on the frontline - where darkness and light collide. It is where you cannot survive without



A group of young men from the Lexington Church college group celebrate a baptism together.

the Holy Spirit but you can thrive with Him. I praise God that he chose to drop this in our laps. It is a lot of fun.

Allen Close is the Preaching Minister for the Lexington Church of Christ (www.lexingtonchurch.net) in Lexington, South Carolina, which has participated in Mission Alive's ReVision Ministry. He can be reached at allenclose@cnoevil.com