

A HOME, A MISSION, A WAY OF LIFE. COME BE PART OF IT.

Small Steps Toward Being a Marketplace Missionary

"Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life." (Isaiah 43:4) What a great verse! We are reminded that the Lord loves us, created us, and continues to form us more into His image.

Spend a little time with my wife and I, and you'll soon hear all about our children. We are proud of them, and we are excited to see them develop and impact those around them. If this is true of we earthly parents, how much more does our Father in heaven take pleasure in us? As we grow in Christlikeness, understanding that we are loved by God, we realize the Lord wants to use us to direct men to Him. We do not tell others about Jesus in order to earn His love and approval, but as an overflow of our love for Him and for them. We share the love of Jesus through an "incarnational proclamation," that is, with our lives. Translated, you are missionaries cleverly disguised as engineers, teachers, doctors, coaches, lawyers and more. What is most important is that you are Christ's ambassador (II Corin 5:20) serving in a role that gives you a voice in the lives of those around you.

How can you be effective in this dual role of professional and missionary?

1. Pray for one or two men where you work and expect the Lord to open doors.
2. Invite these men to lunch or to a YBL outing and expect the Lord to work on their hearts.
3. Invest in relationships with them and expect the Lord to give you opportunities to do this.

If you take these steps and share the experience with someone in your small group, you will be encouraged to see what the Lord is doing. Challenge your MDN group leader to join you in this plan. If you're not plugged into a MDN group or YBL group, contact us and we can assist you in getting connected!

- Gordon Anaple & Bill Michels

The NCCC Newsletter

Editor: Noelle Oedy

Design: Lou Ann Thesing

If you have story ideas
email the editor at
noelle@northcincy.org

**North Cincinnati
Community Church**
6170 Irwin-Simpson Road
Mason, OH 45040

Phone: 229-0190

Fax: 229-8212

email:
info@northcincy.org

Web:
www.northcincy.org

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Sabbatical Epilogue

The sabbatical worked! It's now been three months since I returned, and the good effects have not worn off. When I came back to work, I wasn't sure how I would be affected in the day-to-day responsibilities to which God has called me. Perhaps the refreshment I enjoyed during the summer and felt as I returned would be short-lived. I was pretty worn out physically, mentally and spiritually when I left. It took me about five weeks to begin to unwind and start to feel the effects of the time off. Gradually and eventually the books, travel, new experiences, sleep (I did not set an alarm for 90 days, except for a few early morning travel connections) and occasional solitude all combined to truly refresh me - mind, body, and soul.

Since I have been back, one area where I can tell a marked difference is in my preparation for preaching. For the last few years this has been a rather draining ordeal. It would begin on Tuesday and come to a head on Saturday night, where I often felt in the throes of real spiritual battle. I'd preach and God would bless, in spite of how I might have felt, and then Tuesday it would start again. Ever since I have returned, the preparation and delivery of God's Word has been MUCH more peaceful and enjoyable. I can't explain it, other than to say that the Lord has done a

work. Praise God! People have told me that I look and seem more at peace and refreshed. I've been afraid to ask what the "before" picture looked like, but I have a good idea. Praise God! He has done a work by His Spirit and through the sabbatical time away. It certainly affirms the biblical principle of Sabbath rest, which is designed to refresh us on a weekly basis. The longer sabbatical after 16 years doesn't hurt either!

It's good to be back, serving with you in the work of the Kingdom of God. My passion for the health of the church, discipleship and evangelism has been renewed. My desire to see us become a "City on a Hill" proclaiming the gospel in word and deed; making mature disciples of Christ; reaching the world through missions, evangelism, and church planting is as fresh as ever. So, let's keep going! Let's all renew our commitment to the vision of the church. Let's use our time, talents and treasure to help us become a church for others and not ourselves, a church that is more about giving than consuming, a church that lives for Christ, a church that is passionate to see people around us have their real needs met and come to Christ. I'm a 60's guy, with a vision for changing the world. I believe we can change the world from Mason, Ohio.

-Walter



Advent Sermon Series

Unwrapping the Gifts of Christmas

Sunday, November 28 "The Gift of Worship"

Sunday, December 5 "The Gift of Hope"

Sunday, December 12 "The Gift of Truth"

Sunday, December 19 "The Gift Love"

Friday, December 24 "The Gift of the Son"

Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 and 10:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Share your blessings with others in our community who are not able to provide their families with a traditional Thanksgiving meal. We will assemble Thanksgiving baskets again this year, including a turkey and all the trimmings, to distribute to our neighbors in the Yorktowne mobile home community.



On Sundays, November 7 & 14, we will distribute grocery bags and turkey commitment cards after church. We ask that you take a turkey card or a grocery bag with an attached list of items to buy. Purchase your assigned items and bring them back to the church on Sunday, November 21. One of our LIFE groups will be here to collect your items and assemble the baskets. Our goal is to provide an excellent meal for 40 families, which means we need your generous help!

In addition to donating items, you can also help us distribute the baskets at Yorktowne. We'll meet back at the church at 2:45 p.m. on November 21, and take the baskets to our neighbors in need. This is a great family project! If you would like to help deliver baskets, please contact Marc Champagne (marc@northcincy.org). Let's give others a tangible reason to give thanks this holiday season!

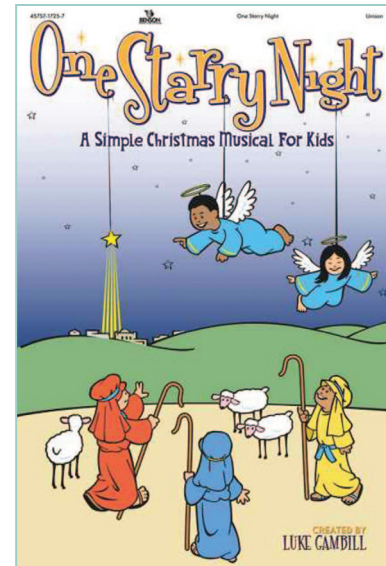
Christmas Store North

For many children in our area, there will be no gifts under the Christmas tree this year. We can change that! The 11th Annual Christmas Store North takes place on Friday, December 10, from 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, December 11, from 1-5 p.m. The Christmas Store is a place where people with limited financial resources can shop for gifts for their children at a greatly reduced price. In order to make that happen, we need your help in several ways:



- ▶ **Gifts!** We need new toys and clothing items for boys and girls ages 0-18. Take a star gift tag from the Christmas tree in the lobby, and return it with your unwrapped gift to the church by Sunday, December 5.
- ▶ **Gift Drives!** You can also get your place of work involved. Take a box with gift stars and Christmas Store flyers to your job and hold a gift drive there.
- ▶ **Volunteers!** There are many opportunities to serve during the Christmas Store by helping with refreshments, gift wrapping, stocking gift tables, escorting shoppers, and playing live music. Look for volunteer registration forms in your bulletin.

Thank you for helping us bless our neighbors in need this Christmas!



"One Starry Night" Christmas Pageant

It seemed to be an unassuming starry night, but that one special starry night changed everything! This simple Christmas musical for kids age 3-Grade 6 is based on the shepherd's journey that first Christmas night. With simple narration and familiar carols, your children will embrace the amazing story of that first Christmas night. If your children would like to participate, please email Jean Berkmeier (northandsouth3@hotmail.com).

We'll have only three rehearsals: Sundays, December 5 and 12 from 1-3 p.m. (Lunch will be provided for \$2 per child immediately following Sunday School.) and a dress rehearsal on Friday, December 17, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. (Children should eat before they arrive.) Each family will receive a CD with very familiar Christmas songs and be asked to have the songs memorized before the first rehearsal. Songs include: *Joy to the World*, *The First Noel/Silent Night*, *One Starry Night*, and *Go Tell It On The Mountain*.

Saturday, December 18, is the Children's Breakfast Theater for our community at 10:30 a.m. There is no cost for the breakfast, however space is limited. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring friends with children. Please visit www.northcincy.org to make reservations. On Sunday, December 19, the performance is at 6:00 p.m. and includes a cookie reception (please bring two dozen cookies to share). Reservations are not necessary for the Sunday performance. We hope you'll join us and get in the Christmas spirit!

Fellowship & Outreach at the Fall Festival

Thanks again to everyone who made this year's Fall Festival a huge success! Though it was impossible to have an exact count, I'd estimate that we served around 500 guests and 50-60% of them were non-NCCC people from the community. Praise the Lord! The event was a great time for all who attended and served, and included such activities as free carnival games and prizes, a hayride, giant inflatables, face painting, a flubber booth, live music and square dancing, and an outdoor movie.

This year's festival was a lot of fun, however fun was not the primary purpose. As you may know, festivals don't save people. But while the event didn't proclaim the gospel, it did provide an opportunity for those who do! One person told me that they loved the hay ride, not just because it was fun to ride around in the fields of our property, but also because it was such a natural context in which to start a conversation with those they didn't know. It certainly gives a new definition to the term "mission field." A remark as simple as "nice costume" can lead to a longer conversation about where you live, where you work, and where you are in your relationship with Christ.

Thanks to all who were used by the Lord in bringing friends, neighbors, and family members to the Fall Festival. Now that we have seen the impact such an event can have on our community, I hope your spirit - like mine - stirs with excitement at the possibilities for next year!



Above: Hannah Shaw, Natalie Davis, and Lizzie Maher.



Right: Alex and Phoebe Fang

Fall Retreat – A Green House Effect



Each November a group of teenagers from our church head off for a weekend for the True North Fall Retreat. Recently when I asked a student who is new to our ministry if they were going, they responded, "What's the Fall Retreat?" Unless you are a student involved in True North or

the parent/relative of a student involved in True North, you have probably asked that same question.

The Fall Retreat is a greenhouse for spiritual growth. When you want to nurture a plant towards health, you take the plant out of its normal environment and put it into a more controlled environment for a period of time. In its temporary home it thrives from the benefits of controlled influences, with the result that it will have increased strength and resiliency when it is returned to its normal habitat. This is the Fall Retreat. Students leave their normal routine of life for a short time, and have a concentrated exposure (much like a good fertilizer!) to God's prescribed means for our spiritual growth – God's Word and God's people.

The keynote speaker for this year's retreat is my friend

and fellow PCA Assistant Pastor and Director of Student Ministries, Robert Cunningham. Aside from hailing from the great state of Kentucky, he is also a gifted speaker and passionate servant of Christ. Robert works with Jr. and Sr. High Students, as well as college students at Tates Creek PCA in Lexington, KY. Having Robert with us is a great opportunity for our students to hear from the larger body of Christ, and for them to see in action what Paul once wrote, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." (1 Cor. 3:6).

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the 56 students and 16 leaders who attended the retreat will have returned home from their greenhouse environment to their normal habitats of everyday life. Of course, the formula for anyone's growth is no different in the greenhouse or the everyday field – the only difference is the concentration with which they are exposed to God's Word and people. As God's family, you can both encourage and be encouraged as you continue to water the growth that God gives. Stop a student next Sunday morning and ask them what they did and learned at the retreat, and how they're living now. As Paul says, "For we are God's fellow workers. God's field, God's building." (1 Cor. 3:9, ESV).

- Michael