

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

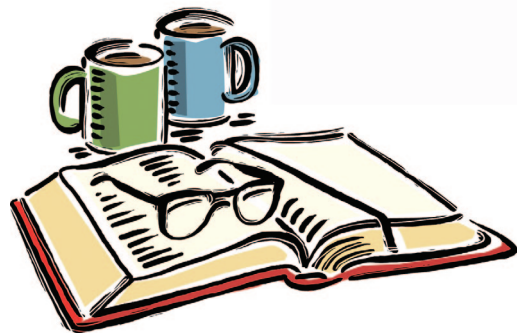
Men's Ministry

A Home and a Mission in the Marketplace

The mission of Young Business Leaders (YBL) is "introducing men in the marketplace to Jesus Christ and helping them grow in their faith." Thus, YBL allows men at NCCC to be "a home and a mission" in their relationships with other men. This fall we are encouraging men to join a small group. The focus of these groups at NCCC is life-on-life discipleship. The elements of accountability to spiritual disciplines and encouragement to live out your faith are central.

Some groups have utilized YBL events as a way to live out their mission and engage nonbelievers. This is a great strategy! Invite a co-worker with whom you've never had a spiritual discussion. It's a natural progression in friendship to "do something together" and it helps you move beyond small talk. YBL provides regular opportunities – quarterly forums, outreach banquets, and special events like our Sporting Clays Challenge on Saturday, October 16. Plan to attend and then follow up with your friends. We'll gladly plug them into an introductory Bible study, or perhaps they would be open to joining a group with you!

If you have any questions, contact Gordon Anaple (Gordon@northcincy.org) or Bill Michels (cmichels@cinci.rr.com).



— Bill Michels & Gordon Anaple

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NCCC NEWS



A New Ministry Year

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words



My summer sabbatical was great, but it's great to be back with you again. Thanks for your prayers, support, and warm welcome back. I'm looking forward to another year of serving with you. I want to take this opportunity to present a clear rationale for our fall Sunday morning schedule. As you know, we went to one worship service this summer on my recommendation. This was done for a number of reasons, including that I was going to be gone and many folks are away during the summer. I wanted to continue our momentum and morale, not lose any, and I sense that objective was accomplished. I heard many good things about our summer services, which was encouraging for me as I returned.

We have decided to continue with one service at 10 a.m. for the fall, with Wee Worship for children ages 3-K during the sermon time and Sunday School for all ages at 11:15 a.m. We hope this schedule will continue to lead to better worship with a room full of enthusiastic worshippers, and better fellowship as we are all together and have the opportunity to meet and worship with many whom we would not otherwise get to know. We hope this arrangement will also lead to better adult education, as our pastors will be available to teach during the Sunday School hour.

I recognize there are a few potential down sides to this arrangement: We will be more crowded in both the auditorium and the parking lot, which could be a deterrent to new growth. Standing-room-only crowds are exciting, but not always welcoming for newcomers. For our Children's Ministry volunteers, there is no alternate service to attend when they are serving at 10 a.m. There are no options for parents who wish to have their school-age children

in Sunday School as they worship.

What's my perspective on all of this? I think the positives outweigh the negatives for the short term. I think we could use a shot of momentum, enthusiasm, and growth after four years of starting new churches, giving away staff and members to those churches, and losing leadership and income in the process. It sounds depressing, but these are all good "problems" to have. I rejoice in the giving ourselves away and the new church "births." I also believe that we will grow this year, and will eventually have to return to two services and increase our Sunday morning options for worship and learning once again. I'm not a prophet, but I am hopeful that this will be our future.

I want you to understand that our move to one worship service was not a calculated incremental plan to have all children worshipping with their parents. We have never held that as a philosophical commitment. Here's a statement I made in a sermon last March 27, during which I addressed the issue of children in worship:

"I believe that in most cases, children ought to worship with their parents. The atmosphere of spiritual songs, hymns and prayers, testimonies, preaching, and sacraments are powerful influencers of our children. This influence grows over time, as the children mature. It gives the parents an opportunity to explain what is going on in a worship service, a fulfillment of their responsibilities to teach their children and the children's responsibilities to learn from their parents. It often creates a desire on the part of the children to partake of the Lord's Supper, and gives the parents the opportunity

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to lead them to faith and thus prepare them to do so. However, we understand that there are parents who are at the place in their spiritual journeys where it may be more helpful to have their children in Wee Worship or Sunday School while they focus on their worship. In that case, we provide age-appropriate worship and learning for those children, and allow their parents to worship the Lord and learn from Him undistracted."

Am I saying that children should always be with their parents in worship? No. Am I saying that we will always have alternate worship opportunities for all ages of children? No. It's somewhere in the middle. From a personnel standpoint, we are currently limited to providing Wee Worship for children ages 3-K. I am hopeful that sometime in the future we can expand that to

The Big Picture & the Small Pieces

The key to completing any puzzle is understanding how the small things relate to the big picture. These days I have first-hand experience in understanding this truth. At 19 months, our son Ezra has reached the age where he has begun to work on his first puzzles. They are the large wooden puzzles with the most obvious of solves, the kind he will find boring in less than a year. However, for now he is learning how puzzles work as we help him match the bright colors and curves of the wooden blocks in his hand with those of the holes on the puzzle boards before him.



Life is just such a puzzle, where the small things come together to compose a much bigger picture. However, we often feel "puzzled" because we live in a world where we lose sight of how things fit together. How does Algebra 1 relate to graduation? And more than that, how does Algebra 1 relate to the paycheck I someday hope to earn from the occupation I'm still not sure I want? How do the two-a-days of football practice in the dead heat of summer relate to the championship ring I hope to have at the end of the season? Small details, big picture. Great leaders – coaches, teachers, employers, parents, pastors – are able to make these connections, and it makes all the difference.

In ministry, as in everything else, it is easy to lose perspective. This semester our goal is to help students understand the big picture of what we believe God is doing through their years of involvement in True North Student Ministries. Our mission statement is: "True North exists to make disciples by leading students into a vital relationship with Jesus Christ, and by equipping them with Biblical world and life views." This articulates the "big picture" of what we're doing (making disciples), who we're doing

include 1st and 2nd graders, but that will need to be thoroughly discussed by the staff and elders.

I am optimistic that we will grow and have to return to two services sometime this year, which will increase our options for adults and children. We are already thinking it through so as to be ready. We sow, plant, cultivate, water, and God provides the growth. We will pray and trust Him in the days ahead for a new period of spiritual renewal and numerical growth for the extension of Christ's kingdom in North Cincinnati. If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact any of the staff and we will be happy to talk with you. We hope you'll attend the Vision Banquet on Sunday, Sept. 12, at 5 p.m. to find out more about our plans for the new ministry year.

–Walter



2010-2011 True North Youth leaders

it with (students), and how we're doing it (by leading and equipping). Our mission is not our own idea, but comes from Christ's own commission for us (Matt. 28:18-20). We summarize what a disciple is using the acronym H.A.B.I.T.S.:

- H** – Hang out with God (regular time in the Word & prayer)
- A** – Accountable relationships
- B** – Biblical literacy
- I** – Involved in church
- T** – Tithes (support of the kingdom through material/monetary resources)
- S** – Shares and serves (the gospel in words/testimony and works using our gifts)

This is the "big picture" to which all the small pieces – every email, weekly meeting, game, song, picture, and service project – relate. This fall we are focusing on the big picture. Each week we will talk about one of these six subjects. Students will have the opportunity to hear from their leaders as they share what the Bible says, and their own failures and success in their own journey as a disciple of Christ. Join us this fall and be part of a community who gets in the H.A.B.I.T. of relating the small things to the big picture of living as a disciple of Christ.



Interfaith Hospitality Network

After a summer respite, we as a church community will open our doors to IHN guests the week of October 3-9. This is a great opportunity to practice hospitality for those in our county who are in need.

We're always looking for people to make dinners, host dinners, lead activities, and stay overnight. Look for sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center in the lobby. Looking to the future, there are critical needs on the IHN leadership team. Contact Jeff Bingham (jpbingham5@aol.com) for more information.

Yorktowne Ministries

There are many opportunities to serve our neighbors at the nearby Yorktowne mobile home community. Contact Marc Champagne (marc@northcincy.org) to find out more about any of these outreach programs.



Grace and Molly McKay enjoying the July block party

Block Party

Join us for the next family-friendly and relationship-building block party with our Yorktowne neighbors on Saturday, Sept. 18, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Fun, fellowship, food... something for

everyone is on hand! There are plenty of opportunities for service, conversation, and in some cases even prayer.

Tutoring

The Homework Club, an after-school tutoring ministry that serves Yorktowne's school-aged children, begins its ninth year this fall. The club meets most Wednesdays during the school year from 4-5 p.m. at the Yorktowne clubhouse. As you tutor these great kids, you have the opportunity to form long-term relationships that can have a lasting impact. Tutoring training and materials are provided. We also are looking for leaders to start high school clubs (one for young men, one for young women) for the students who "outgrow" the Homework Club.

Mentoring

The One2One Youth Mentoring Team needs men and women to befriend middle school/high school youth who would benefit from an older Christian role model. A mentor spends time with a child every other week having fun, offering support and encouragement, and being a good listener.



Soraya Anaple helping with games at the July Yorktowne block party

The ELL Experience

"English Language Learners" (ELL) is the modern lingo for those endeavoring to learn English as a foreign language. We are opening up an ELL school very soon. The growing Latino population in Yorktowne provides a ready place to minister by sharing a gift we all possess naturally: speaking our own language. An eager team is in place and trained, but we need more individuals to explore becoming teachers. Contact our school director Cecil New (cecil.new@gmail.com) to learn more.

Yorktowne Works

Yorktowne Works is in the works, so to speak. We are hoping to launch this exciting new ministry in January 2011. In a nutshell, it is a one-year life skills, gospel-centered series of workshops designed to equip individuals with a biblical approach to all of life. The ministry is available to those who are struggling to make ends meet and are open to change. We'll need facilitators and mentors.