



SHOUT!

The Ministry Newsletter of Greg & Shannon Rast

Volume 2, Issue 1

<http://urbancall.org>

February 9, 2005

Happenings

- Growth to 49% of Faith Promise
- First visioning sessions held Jan. 2-6
- 3 churches looking at HFM work teams
- New iLocal team set to help with promotional mailings
- Andrew starts school

Prayer Requests

- Nono is attending community gardening and art classes. Pray for him to stay encouraged as he waits for word from his MP.
- Please pray for our funding to break through the 50% mark. It's coming soon!
- Pray for relationships we are forming with young churches.
- Pray for our first work team to get to Marion!

“Emergent” Directions

Physicist Niels Bohr is quoted as saying “prediction is very difficult, especially about the future.” How true! Today there is a lot of speculation about the future of the church, both here in America and in Western Europe. What will churches look like 20 years from now? This is not a question that we can very well ignore. We have always had a sense from the Lord that our calling is for a lifetime and that means that over the coming years we will have to pay attention to the way the American church is changing. Today churches are spending more and more effort reaching people that have never had a church background. Worship services feature stylistic variety from week to week and speakers make great efforts to explain gospel truths so that un-churched



Picture: a recent worship service at “en gedi”, an emergent church in West Michigan

people can understand. The greatest changes taking place are in terms of community values—the things that people treasure about being the church. Often there are few solid answers, just a lot of hard questions and a direction that headed somewhere. That’s why this movement of young churches has been labeled “emergent.” No one can quite tell where it’s headed yet! But the same things are happening on an exag-

gerated scale in Western Europe and that has prepared us to begin a new chapter in our work in “home ministries.” In the coming months we will be working hard at developing new relationships with emergent churches across North America. Many of them are young enough that they have never thought about how they will “do” global missions. Pray for us as we work to raise the questions, and search for new team members to share the work with us in Western Europe.



William Carey, the "Father of Modern Missions" created the first missions board, then sent himself as its first missionary!

"Our goal will always be to retain the evangelistic spirit of the early pioneers."



Andrew shows off his backpack on his first day of school in January.

Missions and Radical Change

The world of missions in the world. In contrast, the average career missionary today has a "career" of only five years. Travel is easy. Dying on the field seldom enters the picture—even of old age! Those who develop longer careers often run ministries that function like small non profit organizations themselves, complete with advisory panels and large contact bases that run in the thousands. As missions continues to experience radical change, our goal will always be to retain the evangelistic spirit of the early pioneers and the entrepreneurial determination that helped them survive!

January Visioning Yields Results

Visioning sessions held at a local Starbucks (communications and administration). We held a January 2-6 held a number of significant outcomes. Shannon is now responsible for building our "iTeams" (Greg remains responsible for communications and administration). We are also currently forming an iLocal team to pray, encourage and send mail. The decision was also made to boost our promotional contacts by reaching out to emergent churches and local businesses. We will continue a quarterly visioning process and work towards involving our "ATeam" - an advisory panel of visionary supporters.

The Bottom Line

Here are the latest figures:
(Financial year starts in September)

Faith Promise Total: \$52,049
Faith Promise Goal: \$105,750
FP Needed: \$53,702
FP % of Goal: 49%

Received This Month: \$4,639
Monthly Support Needed: \$8,813
Total Received to Date: \$28,260
Total Needed to Date: \$44,063
% of Support Received: 64%

Like to help?

Your tax deductible gift can be made out to Wesleyan Global Partners and sent to P.O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, IN 46250. Please include account number WM04-0260 on your check. Faith promises can also be registered at the same address or online at urbancall.org. Copies of the Rast's field budget are available upon request.