



thirst no more.

# The Gospel Ringing Out

by Jon Shah

*For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. —1 Thessalonians 1:4-8*

As we shared in the Fall, our theme passage for this school year comes from the book of 1 Thessalonians. It describes the mighty work of the Spirit that took place in that city almost 2000 years ago, a work we would LOVE to see repeated in our midst. In this passage we see three dreams for God's work at The Ohio State University....

**We pray that we would be a part of the Good News of Jesus Christ being shared with students ALL OVER this campus.**

This fall we have once again tried to creatively engage the campus with the love of Christ. We have started giving away morning coffee on the Oval,

planted a new "Greek" h2o team to reach that part of campus, and begun a workshop on sex and relationships that is hosted in the residence halls. These and other new endeavors all have one simple purpose, to love students and connect them with the Gospel. And it is happening! We had our first baptism service of the school year (we have 5-6 annually) and had the joy of baptizing 13 students. There is nothing more inspiring than hearing men and women talk about how God has interceded and redeemed their lives!

**We pray that we would see a generation of students who would be imitators of the Lord!**

We often talk about our "h2o teams" being where discipleship, life transformation and leadership development takes place within h2o. These are "house-churches" of 20-40 individuals, spread throughout the campus and city, attempting to live in community, grow in their walk with Christ and be a light to their "neighborhood"...be it a residence hall, or a section of campus or the city. Last year we started praying that over the next 5 years we would see 25 healthy teams existing within h2o. Already this year we have grown to see 18 (15 on campus and 3 in the city) teams with two more expected to be planted in

the next couple months. Not only does this mean that the community is growing, but each new team is led by fresh young leaders who are growing up in our midst.

**We pray that the Word of the Lord would ring out from this place and have an impact on the world!**

Already this year we are seeing the Word of the Lord ring out from this place. Our missions pastor, Mike Malone, has led the charge of h2o into Columbus and abroad, serving and connecting the Gospel to a world in desperate need of hope. This year we expect to see greater participation in community service and missions than ever before in our history. Along with that, we have recently seen "h2o city" take root. It is a ever-growing group of recent graduates, singles and families, members of h2o, who now desire to continue to our values of discipleship, community and living on mission, all in this new context of life they find themselves in. In response to that, and to continue building strong multi-generational ties within h2o church, we have launched a city-focused (campus-friendly) worship gathering that meets on the fringe of campus. It is another exciting step of seeing the Word of God echo out from this University! ★

# Fall Retreat

*by Whitney Kindell*

Fall Retreat was weekend filled with breezy weather, competition, and plenty of God sightings. This year, students didn't just forget sleeping bags, they forgot insecurities as they built deeply with their teams.

God was on the move at Camp Cotubic. After months of preparation, over 300 students pulled into the rocky driveway and made their way to check-in.

Anticipation surrounds fall retreat- Will there be enough food? Will students actually show up? Will students come to know Jesus? God answered all of our prayers above with a yes beyond our imaginations.

There WAS enough food as students packed around picnic tables and shared meals with their teams (just like Acts 2:42!). Students DID show up as we witnessed new friendships develop and old ones grown. And students DID come to know Jesus as men and women

literally threw their insecurities into a blazing bonfire after Friday night's message delivered by Rob Warren from Bowling Green.

Over the course of the weekend, speakers from Bowling Green State University taught our students "UNPLUG" from campus life. We had the privilege of watching students come to know Jesus deeper and more intimately through interacting with their campus teams after each session. Games, s'mores, discussions, and all-nighters gave students a chance to build community in a variety of ways.

One of our favorite fall-retreat traditions is the annual "h2-Olympics." On Saturday afternoon, our teams compete in "minute-2-win-it" games in hopes of becoming the "h2-Olympics Champion." There's something about goofy games that builds community in unforeseeable ways. After dinner and a final session,

students sent paper lanterns floating through the sky in memory of the weekend. It was beautiful as we worshipped together and watched glowing lights drift away.

God more than used our mustard seeds of faith at the retreat as students publicly declared their faith at baptisms the following weekend and referenced fall retreat as a turning point. We continue to hear stories of how the Lord transformed lives during our weekend at Camp Cotubic and we're excited to see how He exceeds our expectations next year. ★



# The Well

*by Kyle Riesenberg*

One great thing about h2o is that we have new people getting involved all the time. Whether they are from the incoming freshman class or have been on campus for a while, we have students that want to learn what h2o is all about. The Well is a seven week program that we run once in the Fall and once in the Spring to introduce newer students to h2o's core values and help them learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The Well also gives newer students to h2o the opportunity to meet some of

their peers and some of our pastors and staff team. In addition to meeting new people within The Well, it also gives participants a chance to connect with older members of h2o through what we call 1:12 partners (named after Romans 1:12). Well participants meet with 1:12 partner each week with the goal of encouraging each other in their faith!

During the fall semester we had 49 students commit to come to The Well! These are 49 individuals who heard the gospel preached, learned about what it is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, and were

taught how to practically engage in their community. At The Well closing ceremonies we heard story after story of how God is transforming lives. It was another reminder of how God is continuing his redeeming work here on campus! ★





# New “City” Service

*by Dave Drweller*

God has been faithful to bless and grow h2o! As a result there's been a growing group of h2o grad students and young professionals within h2o. The last couple of years we have been caring for them and helping them grow spiritually through a small group community specifically geared toward these folks.

As time has gone on, we realized that these folks had unique needs and opportunities that our current campus model wasn't addressing. Because of the on-campus location, it was difficult for anyone not living on campus to get to, we don't have a children's ministry, and since the service was almost entirely undergrad college students, it made it somewhat awkward for them to invite their adult coworkers to church service. So, after lots of prayer and planning, we felt God leading us to start up a Sunday service that was geared specifically for them, one that's off campus, with parking, an excellent children's ministry, and where they can invite their friends and co-workers without asking them to come back to college again.

This summer we started focusing our time and attention on finding a location that was close to campus, and yet off campus, that we would be able to use for this new worship service. We hoped to have a location nailed down by our fall kickoff. So we talked with several churches that we had relationships with, local recreation centers, and even a few local schools to find a place we could meet, but really struggled to find a place. At one point, it looked like one potential option would work, but then it fell through, and we were left without a place to meet heading into the fall.

This really helped us see that we needed God to move to help us find a place. So we asked all of our “City” people to pray, and that's when we made a connection with Neil Avenue Baptist Church (NABC). One of our pastors was at a conference here in town and he ran into Pastor Bill from NABC. They caught up a little bit and our pastor mentioned that we were looking for a location for our h2o City people to worship. They met back up later, and to make a long story short, they offered to let us have a Sunday morning service at

9:15am in their sanctuary before they have their own in their service at 11am.

It's already been almost a month now since we've kicked off our h2o City-focused service, and it's been so encouraging to see how God has blessed this whole process. NABC has been so generous and hospitable to us. Our partnership is an awesome testimony to the body of Christ at work for something greater than our individual churches. And honestly, this whole process has been a testimony to God's amazing work among us. We had no idea there was a possibility to partner with NABC, but it's clear that He led us to this place and that He has provided for us all along the way. I find it funny that none of the work we did to find a location yielded any fruit in terms of finding us a place, but all the while God had a place picked out for us! Psalm 127:1 says, “Unless the Lord builds the house, the workers labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.” This journey is a thrilling testimony that God continues to build his church! ★

# Leadership Training

*by Kevin Cody*

Imagine a generation of college students investing an entire summer in growing in their relationships with Jesus. Next, imagine they spend that summer in a tight-knit community of their peers who are pursuing Jesus, too. Finally, imagine they could do all of that on the campus where they go to school and in the city where they live, so they can keep the

relationships they make going and keep up the work they began of shining Jesus' light to their community.

That picture is exactly what we felt God put on our hearts for h2o, and we're thankful to announce that we're moving forward with Columbus LT 2015 (“LT” is for Leadership Training). During LT,

students will live in close community, by living together, studying the Bible together, shopping for food together, and serving Columbus together. They'll also be investing in their relationships with Jesus through weekly Bible-based teaching and worship and high-commitment discipleship.

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# Slice of Life

by Robby

Growing up, I don't remember going to church. I couldn't say when my family stopped going. I'm not even sure when the last time I attended a church service was before coming to h2o. But if I had to guess it would've been when I was 14 and going to my grandpa's funeral. I never considered myself to be an atheist. My mom told me my family was non-practicing Catholics. But the most catholic thing I did was watch Notre Dame football, which was only because my grandpa went there and my dad was watching. I was just never sure what I believed, and never gave it much thought.

One of my best friends is a Mormon, and in high school his before-school church group would have bring your friends to breakfast day every once in awhile. I would go, they would tell us some things but I never took it seriously. I would also play in his church basketball league when they needed an extra player. And for two summers I went with him and some of the other guys from his church to go camping in West Virginia. I would ask them questions about their faith occasionally. I felt like I learned some things, but never took their answers seriously.

During my senior year in high school, I began dating a girl who I quickly fell in love with. As young as I was I believed I could be with her the rest of my life. I never told her how I truly felt until one day at the end of last semester. She asked me about our future. So I told her. I had always expected

that her response would be excitement, but she would have to date other people before knowing if she could be with me. I was heartbroken. When I woke up the next morning I didn't want to believe what she had told me. I was hoping it was a dream. But, it wasn't. I soon felt more alone than ever and didn't know where to turn.

The loneliness didn't really hit until I moved back to school. Over the summer I was working my first big boy job, and somehow managed to get by. When we separated I did everything I could to just forget how I felt. I went to see my friends; I visited my aunt and uncle. I started drinking. None of these things helped. And then I came to h2o.

My roommate, Mike Sneddon, had been asking me to go to church with him for a while. I never went, mostly because it was too early for a Sunday. I finally went at the beginning of this year because I thought I might learn something about love, and God in general, because I knew nothing. I still don't know much. I like to think I'm learning, however slow it may be.

I do know that a few weeks ago I stopped feeling lonely. But, I attributed it to the new friends I had been making in the Underground. Then, a few weekends ago at the fall retreat, I felt that I fully accepted Jesus Christ as my savior. I finally opened myself up and realized God loves me, which meant I didn't have to be alone anymore. I

don't know what it was that Rob Warren (pastor from h2o church at Bowling Green) said to us but it made me want to jump into the lake and get baptized as soon as the Friday night service was over. Mikey was the only thing stopping me from doing that; he didn't feel like treating me for hypothermia. I was able to convince him to let me at least put my feet in the water and see if that would hold me over for a week. And then the next morning I knew that what I had felt the night before was true. From that moment on as long as I have God in my heart, I will never be alone again.

Putting my feet into the lake did hold me over for the week until baptism service; Ian Campbell and Mike baptized me. They were both with me, along with Brad Steen that night by the lake.

One thing I've really struggled with the last few years was feeling like I belonged at OSU. It wasn't my first or second choice for school. But, for whatever reason I decided to go here. And when school started I was so caught up in getting good grades that I didn't make any close friends. I grew apart from my high school friends and my family. I thought about transferring or taking time off. Even with all of that, I always told myself that Columbus was where I was supposed to be, for whatever reason. And for the first time, I actually believed that. I don't know the reason, but it doesn't matter. I belong here and with God. ★

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One of the things we're most excited about for this summer, though, is not just the couple of months we'll spend together, but the lifelong fruit we're praying God will bring to the participants in LT. Our goal is that they'll gain lifelong skills and

perspective we believe will serve them for decades to come: How do we share about Jesus in a compelling way? How do I study the Bible? How do I deal with conflict in a healthy, God-honoring way?

As we plan and look ahead to Columbus LT 2015, we covet your prayers! Everything from housing to speakers to who participates, we want God to guide and bless. After all – He's the one who led us here, so we're confident He has great things in store! ★