



Renew

Campus Outreach Minneapolis
2009 Annual Report

3 campuses... 29 staff... 1 God supplying for it all

Administrative Staff

Ken Currie ... COM Director
Charlie Brooks - Communications and Web Design
Brienne Schroeder - Office Manager
Nick Stromwall - Director of Administration
Jared and Amy Wass - Mobilization Staff

University of Minnesota

Paul and Samm Poteat ... Campus Director
Brittany Hayes
Eric and Holly Lonergan
Erin Martin
Matt and Lisa Reagan
Nick and Katie Stromwall

Contingent Staff

Reid Jilek
Mike Polley
Lydia Schlicht
Dylan Schumacher
Curt Szabo
Emilie Toll

Bethel University

Andrew and Sara Knight ... North Area Director
Colby and Lindsey Williamson ... Campus Director

Northwestern College

Elliot Stokes ... Campus Director
Charlie and Jennifer Brooks
Karyn Tomlinson
Laura Watkins



Renewed Hearts

Update from Ken Currie
COM Director

Each year at this time millions of people determine to 'do life better.' This, of course, comes in the form of New Year's Resolutions (NYRs). NYRs can be physical (get to the gym 5X's a week), mental (read 100 books in 2010), educational (make progress on my college degree, get an 'A' in algebra), etc. The NYRs that I find the most telling of the human condition are the moral ones. "This year I want to be a kinder person," "this year I want to be more generous and patient." While there is nothing obviously wrong with that kind of talk, I suspect that it rarely produces anything of lasting value or change. NYRs do illustrate that most of us sense that we are not quite what we could or ought to be. One could say that we all want to be renewed in some way or another. God's Word speaks to this specifically in Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." This verse illustrates several important points:

- 1) We live our lives in a context that fights against us. The world offers a counterfeit that cannot deliver and, in fact, takes us away from the life we seek.
- 2) Transformation is important to God and good for us. We should pursue it.
- 3) This transformation happens when something happens in our minds; namely, renewal.

In another text, the same author illustrates the connection between our minds and the gospel of Jesus Christ, "In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" 2 Cor. 4:4.

So, it seems that renewal is a big deal to God and a work that he does. He does it first in our minds (with what we believe about things) and he roots it in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Although this phrase is probably overused, it is true that renewal comes from the inside out. All of the activity in the world is not going to transform or renew us in the way that we most desperately need. That is to be right with God. I think this is why that same author later tells



one of his followers, "for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come," 1 Tim. 4:8.

Thank you, supporters of Campus Outreach Minneapolis with prayer and finances for enabling us to share this message with students. I hope what you find in this update encourages you that God is at work renewing hearts and minds on campuses in the Twin Cities.

Renewed Ministry...

Campus Reports

University of Minnesota

In May around 15 seniors graduated from our ministry at the U of M. These were students, many of whom became believers in college through Campus Outreach, and were leaders on the campus. They had been instrumental in raising up the next generation of laborers in our ministry and now they are transitioning into the working world and into the life of our church, Bethlehem Baptist.

Our staff team saw the addition of two babies and two new staff. There are currently eleven staff ministering at the U. When we began our ministry in Minneapolis in 2003 there were only four. Through these staff hundreds of students are being shown the unbelievable grace of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, there are still thousands of students at a school of 55,000 who need the gospel. Thank you for your partnership in this venture. Ministry often feels like an uphill battle and knowing that hundreds of people are partnered together in this is an encouraging reality. There is a greater reality at work here and a student at the U named Ann put it well when she said, "God doesn't work because of me but because of himself." God is jealous for His glory and we are thrilled to be a part of this vision.

– Paul Poteat (University of Minnesota Campus Director)

Northwestern College

A number of encouraging things have happened at NWC over the past year. One exciting mark of growth is the large number of student-led Bible studies that started meeting this year. For guys, there are weekly Bible studies on the basketball team, the football team, and the soccer team. The girls also have a bi-weekly Bible study. These Bible studies have been one of the primary ways for us to minister to freshman over the fall semester and we plan on continuing them during the winter term.

Our weekly Sunday school class theme was "Heroes of the Faith," and we spoke about the faith, lives, and ministries of missionaries from the past. This was directed toward older students already involved in the ministry and the goal was to help stir up evangelistic vision for the campus and the lost world.

– Elliot Stokes (Northwestern College Campus Director)

Bethel University

This past year has been an exciting season for ministry at Bethel. We started the year with the most disappointing news. My wife, Lindsey and I had to leave campus for the majority of the spring semester to raise support. This left Bethel without a fulltime staff person. However, this challenge presented great opportunity for God to work. Despite not having staff at Bethel our student leaders took ownership of the ministry there and initiated weekly prayer times for their campus and classmates. They also recruited to retreats and the Summer Training Project and created contexts (weekend events) to bring students.

I would like to close with a brief story about one of the students involved with our ministry. Meghan is a sophomore at Bethel who has been leading a Bible study on campus for some freshmen girls. She grew up in the church and reports that her involvement with COM is the first time she has ever heard anything about having a relationship with Christ. Meghan's desire is to pass this newfound love and knowledge onto the freshmen she has been meeting with over the fall semester.

– Colby Williamson (Bethel University Campus Director)

Campus Events

Retreats

University of Minnesota

The ministry at the U of M this fall began with a Leader's Retreat that 50 student leaders attended. These students are in discipleship groups back on the campus and the students themselves are intentionally looking to impact others with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Over the fall we had close to 55 U of M students in roughly 12 discipleship groups.

Northwestern College

Some of the highlights from this past semester included the annual fall retreats: the Burly Man and the women's retreat. The women's retreat had 60 girls attend and the Burly Man's had 43 guys. The girls spoke on "Loneliness in Community" and the guys talked about "Masculinity and the Gospel." Following the Burly Man retreat one freshman basketball player said, "This is great! How can I get more involved with this ministry?" We are hoping that the Lord would continue to use the relationships started on the retreats to raise up future laborers at NWC.

Bethel University

The 2009 winter retreat seemed to be a real turning point for the movement on our campus. It not only brought in a lot of new faces to hear the gospel, it also connected those students with our student leaders. Recently, we held our annual fall men's and women's retreats. 40 guys attended the men's retreat, the majority were freshmen and we focused on two subjects: "Biblical manhood" and "Gospel maturity." More than 30 girls attended the women's retreat. They studied "Gospel identity" and "authenticity."



Meetings

University of Minnesota

Every semester at the U of M there is a campus meeting every other week called COW (Campus Outreach Wednesdays). This semester's theme was "The Pursuit of Happiness." Each week the focus was on a different route that people look to in order to be fulfilled. Some of the topics were security, approval, sex, marriage, image, and escape. The goal was to show that everyone is made with a longing for happiness that can only be met in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Bethel University

Over the fall semester we had weekly prayer meetings with our student leaders, where we prayed for specific students we are ministering to. We prayed for the campus and gave updates on conversations we had been having with students and on things we are trusting God to do. We also began hosting our first campus meeting (COW or Campus Outreach Wednesday). We met monthly, studying "Hard Sayings of Jesus." This meeting served our event recruitment and helped to develop our leaders.

Renewed Missions

Cross Cultural Project 2009



Campus Outreach Minneapolis had the privilege of sending 10 students and 2 staff (Elliot Stokes and me) to Delhi India this summer to minister at St. Stephen's college, in partnership with Delhi Bible Fellowship (DBF).

This was the second summer we've sent a team to St. Stephens, and Lord-willing we will continue to send them in the future. St. Stephens College is a unique school that has Christian minority administration (which gives us blessing to move around freely on campus). It also attracts the top students from all over India because of its prestigious academic reputation.

Our time in India consisted of spending time on the campus meeting students at the café, through sports classes, and other activities. As we got to know Indian students, it was easy to ask about their spiritual background and share our own testimonies. Once we got an idea of where different students were spiritually, we met in groups for bible study. Because St. Stephens specifically attracts Christian minorities within India, we were able to meet some believers and help equip them to minister to their friends and classmates.

Through our partnership with DBF, we connected students we met to people at the church who had a vision to impact St. Stephens for Christ. We were excited that a few interns from DBF joined us on campus so they could follow up with students we met.

While the CCP did impact Indian students, another priority of the trip was developing some of our key students, growing their vision for the world, and giving them an experience of what pioneering a campus ministry looks like.

I loved the opportunity to live and minister with five girls for a summer and influence their lives. It was a discipleship dream! We praise God for the great summer in India and pray that He gives COM many more there!

– Laura Watkins (Northwestern College Campus Staff)

Student Testimonies

"I learned that I love myself a whole lot more than anything or anyone else. When heat and discomfort come into play, or getting annoyed with the team, my love for others dies."

"God's working and sovereign over India! People love the gospel here too. I want my eyes to be open to his work throughout the world – it's REAL!"



"I see long term missions as a lot more necessary than I used to... I can imagine more of what long term missions is like, what it's for, and the good in it. Before CCP, I didn't have such a clear picture."

"I'm so much more excited to go on campus this year and do ministry... I have skills and tools for leading girls."

"I feel more bold to share the gospel than before."



Summer Training Project 2009 Update



COM's Summer Training Project was a gathering of 132 students and 18 staff in Garden City Beach, SC for an 8 week project where students live, work, and minister in christian community. God blessed our summer by bringing 34 more students than the year before, by giving us ample meeting space, by supplying us with jobs in a struggling economy, and by bringing 10 students to faith in Christ. Our project theme was "Exiles" out of Hebrews 11:13, it tells the

story of faithful believers who change the world, but are living for the next one! The gospel was our foundational message. It repeatedly reminded us of our freedom from self and this world and to share this with others.

– Andrew & Sara Knight
(Staff Project Directors)



Summer training project helped me see that guys quickly pick up what I model—they don't miss anything. So the best way for me to influence guys is to focus on my own walk with the Lord. I'm also reminded that I can't change anyone's heart. The Apostle Paul writes, "I planted, Apollos watered, but it's God who gives growth" (1 Cor. 3:6). What a relief—God doesn't need me to do His job! But he allows me to be part of what He's already doing! It's rewarding to see lives change and help students catch a vision for discipleship.

– Reid
(Summer Team Leader)



Summer Training Project was a hard but sanctifying experience. I went into beach project with an idea of what I thought I would learn and felt very confident in my ability to lead well. The Lord brought me low by showing me how much I fail at loving others and I saw a lot of my sin. Seeing my sin made me realize my need for God's mercy. I was brought to tears thinking about the fact that God loves me enough to 1) show me my sin and my need for Him and 2) to send Jesus to die on behalf of my sins.

– Roseline
(Summer Group Leader)



Training Project helped me define who I would be for the rest of my life. At the project I made my faith 100% my own and I knew without a doubt that this is what I wanted to pursue. It had a major impact on me. Now everything is different. I treat girls better than I did before, I am

more aware of my selfishness and I want to serve others like I haven't wanted to before. It helped me see how sin corrupts me and has helped me fight it.

– Noah
(Summer Disciple)

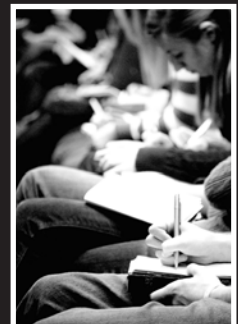


Restless

Milwaukee New Years Conference 2009



The Conference theme this year was, "Restless". It was taken from Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." The main idea behind the theme is that mankind is without rest without the satisfying grace of Jesus Christ. Those who don't know that power are restless. They are frantically and desperately grasping at fulfillment in anything they can get their hands on. They find themselves increasingly miserable. Christ satisfies this feeling with His acceptance, His righteousness, and His hope. Guilt no longer plagues a rested heart, fear of death and the pursuit of safety are put to rest, and the constant need for self-preservation is replaced by restful love.



"We were shown the urgency and need for the Gospel at this conference, I want to step up and labor on my campus this semester." – Student from the University of Minnesota

"I've realized how I need to come back to the foot of the cross and think about what Christ has done for me. I want to remember that this semester."

– Student from Bethel University



Renewed Purpose

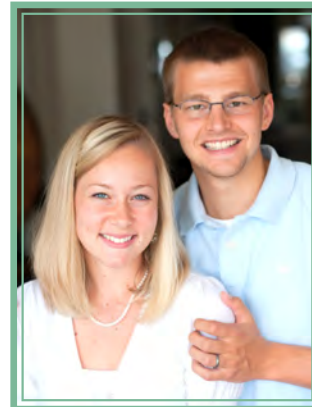
Nick Stromwall
Director of Administration

Administrative Update

Take a moment and praise God for what he did this year.

Major Goals Accomplished in 2009

- Launched new website: www.cominneapolis.org
- Launched Intern Development program for CO students to earn college credit while serving and meeting media needs for the ministry
- Shared Internal Resources within Office team to preserve important data



Technological Projects:

- Implemented a new website design which allows staff to login and view important support and financial data and access resources
- Launched a CO blog that is updated two to three times a week for staff, supporters and students
- Purchased HD Video Camera, and successfully recorded and produced over 50 HD videos
- Student Testimonies and Summer Training Project lessons have been recorded and documented to share with supporters and the Bethlehem Community

COM Budget Update

Praising God for the 1,000 staff donors that have made it possible to minister to students in the Twin Cities

The Numbers:

- 29 Staff in 2009
- 5 Contingent staff raising support
- \$200,000 Bethlehem Baptist Church budget
- \$1.3 million total budget
- 2,763 COM donors (including summer projects donors)



Renewed Focus

Testimonies from COM Graduates



COM was such an anchor in our lives throughout college. After leaving the U of M in 2007, getting married that summer, and moving to Houston for work, Sadaf and I still cherish the experiences and relationships that grew out of our involvement. When Sadaf first became a believer in 2004 from a Muslim background, her relationships, long talks with girls, Bible studies, and worshipping together with others in COM came to be one of the most important aspects of her growth in the Lord. This impact has been extended to making great inroads with our family and friends and with both of our sisters opening up to the gospel in ways we couldn't believe. We learned what real discipleship looks like and developed a vision for pouring into peoples' lives outside of college.

"COM has been pivotal in forming our outlook on living missional lives."

As Sadaf is finishing up her biology and nursing degrees and I my M.S. and MBA while working, we continue to seek ways into peoples' lives on our respective campuses. We host a community group at our house each week of about thirty college students and young professionals and have been able to see the gospel work into many new spheres. Doors continue to open for us to extend our love for ministry and missions and we continue to seek further opportunities in these directions after we are done with school in Houston. COM has been pivotal in forming our outlook on living missional lives.

– Brian & Sadaf Lucero

"We made finding and getting plugged into a new church a priority."

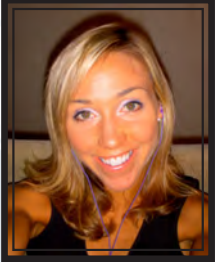
After we graduated from college, we got married and moved to Denver for Travis to attend graduate school. Even though we moved without jobs, God provided! Kathy got a job doing marketing for a non-profit youth ministry focused on evangelism and Travis got a job as a water resources engineer at a consulting firm. Travis enrolled in the graduate program at the University of Colorado in Denver and is currently going to school part-time to earn his master's in civil engineering.



After we moved, we made finding and getting plugged into a new church a priority. We currently attend a bimonthly small group as well as bimonthly men's and women's groups, and we serve in the Children's ministry. We are very thankful for the friendships we have made.

Ministry looks totally different in the "real world" than it did in college and we're still trying to figure it out! But the strong spiritual roots that we developed through our time with CO have been vital. We credit Campus Outreach for training and equipping us to have sound theology, relational intimacy, and practical faith. We are so thankful for everything we learned about living missionally while we were involved with Campus Outreach.

– Travis & Kathy Kluthe



Since graduating from the University of Minnesota, I have been teaching English overseas—first in Korea and then in Japan. I just came home after close to two years in Japan. Ministry there was mainly two things: praying for specific individuals and building friendships with the hope of a deepening relationship and thus an opening for sharing the Gospel. In Japan, the culture tends to be superficial and the people find it difficult to talk about profound issues—they're not used to talking about their personal desires, passions, pains, etc. The country of Japan is one of the most unreached with the Gospel, in the world. I saw that the people there are desperate for a deeper life, love, a living hope—and for freedom. I pray that one day the Japanese will recognize Jesus Christ as Lord.

Walking with Christ abroad is difficult, but so rich. I love seeing His various facets through other cultures. I love seeing more of His creation, more of His people, and more of Him. I love feeling like my heart and mind are being opened, and I love relying only on Him for things that I am otherwise tempted to rely on other Christians for. It's trying, though, and sometimes wearying. The church body is very small and limited in Japan. I had support from a great little church and some amazing missionaries, but throughout the work-week, with no Christians around to share passion with, I often felt myself coming down with some apathy. Nevertheless, I praise God who holds us firm—in all places! I wouldn't trade my experience for anything. I feel very privileged and thankful to God for all I have seen and experienced! Tanoshii desu.

– Melody Storms

"We hope to take the great ministry principles that were taught to us on the campus and apply them (and teach them) off the campus."



Since graduating college in 2005, I have been working as an engineer in the Twin Cities. I am very thankful that I was able to find a job in the area so I could continue attending the same church. For the first year, I remained on campus and was involved with Campus Outreach and was able to continue to build some very lasting and deep relationships with guys on campus. Over time it became more and more difficult to live nights as a college student and days as a career engineer, so I moved off campus and desired to get more involved with small groups at church. A year and a half ago, a few CO grads and I started a small group with the desire to help others transition from college to the working world. It has also been a great opportunity to influence the rest of the church in discipleship and life-on-life ministry. We hope to take the great ministry principles that were taught to us on the campus and apply them (and teach them) off the campus. We have seen great growth in our group, we went from, an average of 14 group members in September 2008, to 58 members this fall, split over 4 groups and each of those groups has continued to grow.

– Richard Martin III



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www.cominneapolis.org