

*chad and diane davenport*  
SAMS TO NEW ZEALAND: AUG/SEPT 07 NEWSLETTER

*The Vision: to glorify God by being a  
Christ-centred community, helping  
people discover and become all that  
God created them to be*



### Kids Holiday Program

In mid-July, we held our second kids holiday program called Sonforce Kids. Many of the 50+ kids that participated were from unchurched families in our community. Chad's responsibility was to tell the Bible story each day and answer questions. One has to be ready for anything. "What kind of vegetables did Daniel have to eat? He's hitting me...Can I go to the bathroom yet?!" However, there was one group of kids who consistently dug deeper. "Who is God? What is he like?" The sincerity behind those questions made all our preparation and work worthwhile.

On the final evening, the parents were invited to see their kids several songs. The youth and a few adults acted out skits as well. Some of the kids and parents returned on Sunday for a second performance. We received great feedback we received throughout the week and it has helped to get a few families more involved in our church. If you or your church is considering a missions trip for July 2008, consider helping WCF in the next kids holiday program.



Some of the Sonforce Kids in their "special agent" T-shirts.



### Good Morning, Vietnam

In August, Chad traveled to Ho Chi Minh to lead a 3-day conference on worship. Although the mention of "Vietnam" may still conjure up pictures of camouflaged soldiers and dangerous jungles, a visit quickly proves otherwise. We found a few traces of what they call the "American occupation" (Chad and Patrick Nachtigall enjoyed trying to climb through the narrow Vietcong tunnels), but the vibrant young generation and booming economy have brought an exciting transformation. Likewise, the Christians that we met there were passionate about transforming their country through Christ. Many of the participants at the conference, most between 15-25 years of age, lay aside their own safety and career interests to spread the

gospel. One Church of God couple is helping to pastor 8 churches in various districts. Vietnam is still a closed country that strictly limits religious freedom, but there are signs that this is changing. Please keep these people in your prayers as God is certainly at work among them.

### Our First Marriage Course

On October 17, Westside Christian Fellowship started hosting an 8-week marriage course for people in our community. The fellowship hall is transformed into a candlelit café, providing a romantic atmosphere to learn and discuss aspects of a strong marriage centered upon God. We are excited that several people who are not yet Christians are participating. This will be a great tool for them to connect to the church and to Christ.



### Survivor Westside

And you thought the new Survivor series was being held in China...! On 29 October, WCF is launching a new series with an event for the whole community. Following the afternoon service, there will be a BBQ complete with activities like outdoor laser tag, scavenger hunts, tug-o-war, and much more. Please pray for our church as they invite friends and reach out to neighbors.

### Vacation to Queenstown, South Island

We (Diane and Chad) celebrated our 2½-year anniversary among pristine ski conditions and breathtaking views. The time together was just what we needed to reenergize and get some much-needed quality time together (pastoring couples will understand)! However we wouldn't say that was what Chad's ribs needed (a little too much confidence going into that last ski jump....but we'll leave that story for another time).

If you are ever coming down to New Zealand and love the outdoors, we'd highly recommend stopping by the South Island. There was so much breathtaking beauty that we saw and even Diane, who doesn't particularly enjoy looking at rocks, couldn't help but gaze in awe at the gorgeous mountainside that our God had created.



Every morning, Chad would draw the curtains from our hotel window and do the "South Island weather forecast". The verdict was always "beautiful".

### Other Praises:

- We have a group of 3 or 4 people who are willing to lead in children's ministry and outreach while the Beisleys are on home assignment.
- Dan Blanton, a member of Town Center Church in Georgia and former missionary to Russia, has been accepted to work at WCF in 2008 in the areas of evangelism and discipleship.
- At least two new members of WCF will be baptized in the next couple of months.
- David Ravell, former pastor at our church, is preparing to start a new church plant in Gold Coast, Australia.

### Prayer requests:

- Please keep the Beisleys in your prayers as they shift house this month. This new house will provide a home for Dan, the church office, and the Beisleys stuff during their home assignment. Also pray for their family as they raise funds in the States for 9 months starting in December.
- Pray for Dan as he has less than 2 months to raise funds and prepare for New Zealand.
- Pray for physical and spiritual protection for our church as many members have struggled through a difficult few months.
- Diane is now 1 month away from graduating as a qualified dog trainer! She is hoping to start applying for jobs soon and prays that she will be able get a job that not only utilises her newfound skills, but will also give her an opportunity to be a positive influence to non-Christians.

### Ways to Help

- 1) Prayer – We would love if you would join us in praying for New Zealand, and particularly the many young unchurched adults of West Auckland.
- 2) Financial Support – Thank you to all our supporters. Because of you, we are able to focus on ministering in New Zealand full-time. If you would like to help us financially, please send support to: *Church of God Ministry, P.O. Box 2420, Anderson, IN 46018 (Memo: Chad Davenport, Project #42.11235)*

**Websites:** Westside Christian Fellowship: [www.westside.org.nz](http://www.westside.org.nz)  
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