



March Madness

There was much more to cheer about in March than just basketball championships. Starting with WCF's 1-year anniversary on March 2, there have been a series of special events and "divine appointments" that have made this an exciting season of growth. Besides the usual events surrounding the Easter season, we held a Sedar (Passover) meal and footwashing service for our church and community. For some, this was a meaningful encounter with their Saviour, the sacrificial Lamb of God. For others, this was their first introduction to Christ. Chad could only smile as he overheard Helen, one of our visitors who was already a Christian, answering question after question from one of our Chinese friends who was just learning about God. On Easter morning, we headed out to a local park long before sunrise to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. We were surprised as we were met with more than 50 people from all walks of life who had seen our signs and come for the Sunrise Service. Together, we sang, prayed and refreshed our hope in the One to come. To see pictures and the video from this event, please visit WCF's website (www.westside.org.nz).



Easter: Dan setting out one element of the traditional Passover meal.

A "Real" Pastor at last!

Before Chad arrived in New Zealand seven years ago, ordination was not something he had ever considered (let alone being a pastor). However, through the encouragement of Pastor David Ravell and God's intervention, he began the licensing process in 2005. After nearly a three-year process, Chad was ordained on 30 March. Nathan and Tammy Nielson, pastors from Town Center Community Church in Georgia, flew to Auckland to conduct this special service. Pastors, teachers and many significant friends packed out the church to encourage us that day. Malama and her extended Niuean family presented songs and adorned both Chad and Diane with special gifts to acknowledge this special occasion. Thanks to the Nielsons and everyone who made this such a memorable day.



Chad receives a plaque – an ordination gift from Town Center Community Church in Marietta, GA.

Matthew 28:19 – Just GO.

Since the launch of WCF, God has emphasized a clear message to us: Jesus didn't tell us to wait around for people to enter the church doors. Instead he said, "Go." Last year, the leadership team began several intentional ministries in our community. As a result, we've started to notice many of our members also witnessing to their neighbours and workmates. Some have begun to create interest groups to reach those who would not typically go to church. For instance, Kathrin has a great interest in the outdoors. Five months ago, she began to arrange hiking events for both church members and anyone outside the church. This has resulted in the formation of several new friendships and a number of fruitful conversations about Christ and faith. We are excited to see where these things will lead. For multimedia on these outdoor events, please visit www.westside.org.nz.

WCF has continued to offer events to meet felt needs in the community. In April, the Nielsons stayed for an extra 2 weeks to lead our second parenting workshop entitled "Growing Great Kids" while several volunteers worked in the back providing childcare. Dan is currently teaching a class on budgeting that particularly targets the Kiwi mentality of living from paycheck to paycheck. In addition, Chad and Dan have also found a great opportunity to minister through chaplaincy at a local university. This has brought the opportunities to speak to classes on topics like "Death, Dying and Spirituality." They recently hosted a free morning tea where students could meet and ask questions. The event proved so successful that they were nearly out of food halfway through the morning. Hardly a week goes by that we do not have a significant conversation with someone there about Christ, something which we have been praying for a long time. God is at work!



One of the many outdoor events initiated by Kathrin.

The Life of Diane

Diane continues to blossom in her work as a worship leader and administrator (*not to mention holding down the fort behind the scenes*). There have been some changes though. Due to the recent death of an ex-colleague, Diane was offered a part-time position at her previous workplace of Shine TV, New Zealand's Christian television station – a position which she readily accepted. Her new responsibilities allow her to impact many people through her input on programming decisions and conversations with viewers on a one-on-one basis. The job is also a blessing as the number of hours spent there balances perfectly with the number of hours that she needs to work for WCF.



The guys head out for "rugby ministry" watching the all-time favourite Kiwi sport with people who would never step into a church.

Her career in dog training has not been put on hold. She (and Missy) participate every Friday at a dog club where she has been able to meet many like-minded animal enthusiasts. Many of these have had very little contact with Christianity and Diane's constant prayer is that she would be able to make a positive impact there as well.

Praises

- Praise God for the formation of several new ministry teams at WCF (eg. Greeters, Creative Arts, "clean-up" crew)
- The Beisleys have raised enough funding to be allowed to return for a second term in September. They still have a lot of travelling to do this summer (and funds to raise), so please keep them in your prayers.
- Praise God for the open doors we have found among staff and students at the local university.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for wisdom for our team over the coming months as we restructure leadership and staffing for future growth.
- Pray that our members would be raised up as workers in the harvest field so that many will come to know Him.

Financial Support

Thank you to all our supporters! Because of your contributions, we have had the freedom to minister in New Zealand full-time in spite of the changes in the exchange rate. If you are able 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

Chad and Diane Davenport: www.chaddavenport.org