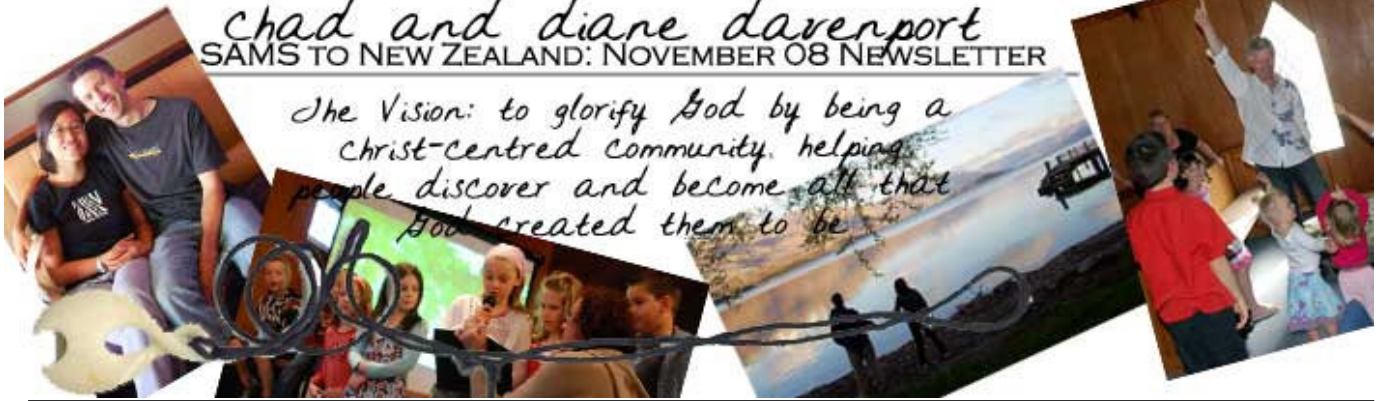


chad and diane davenport  
SAMS TO NEW ZEALAND: NOVEMBER 08 NEWSLETTER

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



Just as the New Zealand weather seems to vary from day to day, so does the ministry "landscape" seem to change from month to month here in Auckland. Here are just a few of the things that have been happening around here lately:

**Lending Some Muscle:** We had the opportunity to work with "Habitat for Humanity" to help build a house for a less-fortunate family. Being the first time that Diane had ever done anything like this, this proved to be somewhat of an adventure for her (many of the nails seemed to have "a mind of their own"). Fortunately, Chad and the others in the group fared much better and by the end of the day, we were able to admire our handiwork.



The wall goes up!



Chad gets all dressed up as the "host" of the service.

**Dr. Seuss visits WCF:** The new creative arts team has been busy the past few months. Recently we've presented some special outreach Sunday services that would connect with young unchurched families.

Our first "family service" was entitled, "The Mythbusters Challenge". Children were given the opportunity to pose some questions to a panel of somewhat-dubious 'experts'. After hearing the answers, the children were then asked to pick the right answer. Although there was plenty of humorous moments, this helped to crack some common misconceptions about Christianity even among some of the visiting adults who do not attend church.

Last month, the team also produced a dramatic show called "The Gospel (According



The cast of the family service.

to 'Horton Hears a Who') complete with puppets, a Who-Hunt and a Who-Feast. Using scenes from the book and movie, the puppets explained how we can all be friends with God even when we can't see, hear or touch Him. The youth group also led the worship time.

Both these family services have helped to draw larger attendances of between 50-80 people. Increasingly, WCF feels like it is starting to take shape as church of the community. We often find that our new visitors already know several members of the congregation as a result of just living in the area.

**The Marriage Course:** We are nearly finished hosting our third season of the Marriage Course. This has been an effective tool in getting to know couples in the community and sharing Bible-based principles that promote healthy marriages. Because of our wonderful leaders (ok, maybe we're biased) and the great content, we already have people in the community wanting to do the next course in February.

One of the greatest transitions happened in a separated couple that had almost given up. On the opening night, we watched the wife practically drag her atheist husband in the door. On the second week, he smiled a lot more and engaged with others around the dinner table. As the weeks passed by, he began to put his arm around his wife and take much greater interest in the teaching.

While we are on the topic of marriage, Chad has had the opportunity to officiate three weddings this year. Being involved with the weddings has sparked some deeper conversations with couples and guests about God. The most recent wedding was particularly encouraging as we also see the wife taking conscious steps toward Christ. We pray that God will continue working miracles among couples like these.

**Music vs. Worship:** We are now in the midst of a sermon series on worship. The series kicked off with guest speaker, David Lyle Morris who is a well-travelled New Zealand Christian musician. Speaking on the topic of trusting God in the midst of suffering, David was able to set the scene for more candid discussions on what true worship is. As we continue the series, we've been able to begin each service with a time in which the congregation discuss the following questions:

- What do we expect from our worship?
- What does God expect from our worship?

It seems that doing this has allowed members to prepare themselves for worshipping God in a way that transcends music, presentation, the band and even their present circumstances – a goal that is sometimes very difficult for even the most seasoned Christians to attain!



David Lyle Morris at WCF.

**On the Personal Front:** After months of research and visiting open homes, we have finally purchased our first home! We could hardly believe that we found a place that matched our "Top 14" criteria list or the way the right people came to help at the right time. In fact, the whole process became more about learning the ways God confirms his word to both of us than about the house itself. Now that the boxes are unpacked, the paintbrushes are put away and the garden is underway, we often sit back and admire all that God has done for us. If you would like to send mail to us at our new address, you can find us at 62 Allington Road, Massey, Waitakere City 0614, New Zealand.

**Coming to a Church Near You:** We have confirmed that we will be visiting the States in 2009. Chad will be travelling to Atlanta on April 24 and hopes to visit as many supporting churches and contacts as possible until July 15. Diane will be visiting for a shorter period, but her schedule is still to be confirmed. We are beginning to form our schedule now, so please let us know if there is a particular weekend or special event that you would like for us to attend. We look forward to sharing more with you about what God has been doing here in New Zealand.

**Future Plans:** Plans are underway for a *Prayer Summit* weekend Dec 31, 2009 – January 3, 2010 here in Auckland. This will be an intensive time of worship and prayer focussing on God's work in the South Pacific. There will be opportunities for outreach and for experiencing some of the culture and natural beauty of New Zealand. There will be an arranged itinerary from December 30, 2009 – January 11, 2010. Once the airlines release their special rates in January, we will provide an estimated cost and further details for those who are interested. Would you prayerfully consider coming to New Zealand for this event? Please email Doug at [beisley@westside.org.nz](mailto:beisley@westside.org.nz) if you are interested.

#### **Praises and Prayer Requests:**

- Praise God for the safe return of the Beisley family. They continue to contribute much to the ministry here.
- Praise God for the 9 months Dan Blanton spent with us. He did much to promote the children/youth and men's ministries. Dan continues to work in a boating ministry here in New Zealand with Pacific Link.
- Praise God for the baptism of two WCF members (including Diane's dad). We will be baptizing one more teen this month.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for the leadership team as they plan strategic goals for WCF. We are looking for specific targets that will help unify the church's effort and help everyone understand why we exist. Please pray for Chad specifically on December 9-10 as he prepares.
- Pray that God would bring together a strong leadership team that would oversee the discipleship of our growing number of youth and university-age students.

#### **Financial Support**

Thank you to all our supporters! Because of your contributions, we have been able to put our energies fully into the calling we feel from the Lord. As you might guess, raising support will be an increasing challenge as everyone weathers the current economic downturn. If you would like to contribute financially, please send support to: *Church of God Ministry, P.O. Box 2420, Anderson, IN 46018 (Memo: Chad Davenport, Project #42.11235)*



We hope to see you soon through our new front door!

#### **Websites**

Westside Christian Fellowship: [www.westside.org.nz](http://www.westside.org.nz)  
Chad and Diane Davenport: [www.chaddavenport.org](http://www.chaddavenport.org)