

Chapter 14 The Road We Travel

It has been far too long since we last reported our progress in Corvallis. It is not for lack of things to tell, but so much to do. The Courtyard residents are now in their rhythm with classes, serving in the community, and maturing. Let's look at the map where we have been and where we are headed.

A number of people have asked if we thought the Courtyard was a better place of ministry than the Whiteside Theatre. Without doubt, yes, it is. The Whiteside Theatre after we bowed out in December, 11 months ago, went on to be challenged by a preservation group and in August it went before LUBA, the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeal. As of November 17, 2007, they have not released a decision. God's plan for us was to be obedient to originally try for the theatre; however, God also honored us by releasing us and waiting. Our wait was soon answered by the Courtyard.



Relevance has the great fortune to have two wonderful staff people; Chris Zauner, the Courtyard Director; and Stephanie Volbeda, our Chef. There are no finer people for these positions and the Lord has crafted them in unique ways. Chris not only has the Spiritual Gifts to create a resident life that is nurturing, he is passionate about his faith. Stephanie makes every meal with its most important ingredient, love. The residents and all who dine at the



Courtyard are always pleased and satisfied with the fine cuisine and care placed in every meal.



Our first group of residents is twelve students (some from Oregon State "OSU" and some from Linn-Benton Community College "LBCC") who come from all over Oregon, from different

Front Left to Right: Jesse, Becky, Missy, Brittney, Cambrie, Teddy
Rear Left to Right: Adam, David, Matt K. Andrew, Matt Y. Josh

churches and different backgrounds. There will be more students coming in for winter term in January; probably a few more in spring, but the greatest increase will come this next fall as a number of freshmen and upper classmen fill the house probably to its capacity of 42.

We have been through many trials this first season; not insurmountable, but not necessarily planned. We have been tested as a team and have grown closer because of it. We have some things that we are required to upgrade within the next year and many we have upgraded already. An exhaustive list of all the things would be exhaustive to write or read. Daily the Lord gives us all strength to fix another toilet (there are 24 in the house), mend another broken whatever, change another light, or clean up more leaves. But what is so powerful is not the physical transformation of the Courtyard but the Spirit of God that exudes to all that enter the doors.



Chris tearing out the old linoleum in the main kitchen

The schedule is busy for Jesus. Sunday nights there is a Bible study from a local church that has no building.

Monday nights is the resident house study where last week we all took two Spiritual Gifts inventories and discussed the different gifts and what each of us has been given; every other Monday night that time is followed by a Young Life Leaders' meeting. Tuesday nights is Greekside; a ministry by Navigators especially focused on the sorority and fraternity members (about 50). They come to the Courtyard because it is neutral space and so proximitous to their houses and the campus. Thursday night is the Citywide Bible Study (about 50) of all ages.



Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights are coffee house like last night which offered an Open Mic night for residents and local musicians to come, sing and/or play. The house fills for hours during

these traditional heavy alcoholic drinking nights. The coffee house has fine specialty teas, great coffee and Pepsi products. You can even find a power drink or healthy juice.

None of this could have been achieved without the financial support of many folks. Some are very heavily invested in seeing the Kingdom come to Corvallis and the campus setting. We have been blessed with donated couches, new carpet in the



Matt² – Matt Young & Matt Kanter

entry, two large living rooms, the library and a meeting room. We were given a 1992 Previa van to haul equipment and students. Time and talents have been given to clean by many but Susan Triplett volunteers almost daily in the kitchen, or cleaning carpets and couches, or mopping floors. Volunteers are God's blessing; a blessing we receive as they give.

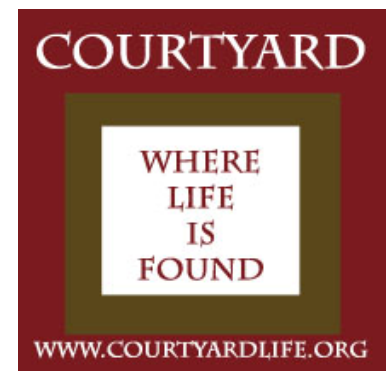
The residents have had a number of successful events including a Halloween party on October 27th with over 200 attending during the evening and a great Dad's weekend. They will be decorating for Christmas with a special emphasis – it is Christ's Birthday. Where OSU professors and staff are warned in writing that they can not say "Merry Christmas" but can say Happy Kwanza, Christ is being railroaded out of our higher institutions of learning. How far we have come in 200 years in America? I am reminded as I read through *America's God and Country* highlighting America's noble heritage with profound quotes from founding fathers, Presidents, statesmen, scientists, constitutions, and much more. Here is an example as stated in Delaware's state constitution, '*Article XXII Every person who shall be chosen a member of either house, or appointed to any office or place of trust...shall... make and subscribe the following declaration, to wit: "I, _____, do profess faith in God the father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed for evermore; and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration."*'

Where we are going with Relevance and the Courtyard is always for our Lord to reveal. We desire to run the Alpha Course for we have seen this tool for Jesus Christ bring many to a knowledge of Who He is and where they are in their life's journey. We have decided that we are not ready with strength or resources to start yet. We need to purchase a quality sound system and projector/screen for all of the video driven ministry including films, and teaching like Nooma, the Truth Project, Quest virtual tour of the Holy Land, and others. We could seat 228 for films, but we will wait.

With hundreds using the facility every week we are not resting on the progress of the Lord's message going out, but desire for hundreds more each week to be affected for Him. The team here has been and is experiencing spiritual warfare in overt areas as Satan does not want our roots to grow deep and our branches to spread throughout the city. If you do not think such demonic warfare exists, come to Corvallis and commit yourself to Kingdom work. We do not fear it, but we acknowledge it knowing, praying and committed to Christ that He will overcome. Your prayers are always most appreciated.

It is now time for getting the word out to everyone you know; letting all the students, moms and dads, youth pastors, college pastors, etc. know about the Courtyard as a place to keep Christ in your life while at LBCC or OSU. Students should register now for this fall online at www.courtyardlife.org. Come and see, then you will believe.

We are thankful for you and your prayers, support and friendship. At this Thanksgiving time we praise the Lord for His rich blessings of ministry opportunity. The end of the year will rapidly come and as you reflect on what God has blessed you with, we pray that you will share it with others. We would like to share it with you and invite you to come to the Courtyard, Where Life Is Found.



Praise be to our Lord, Jesus Christ, for we give our lives to Him and His service, for He has redeemed us, purchasing our life with His. All that we have is His for He has given us what no man or death can take away.

Walt & Kim Griffiths
Relevance

The Road We Travel



Apartment 4 Living, Kitchen & Bath,
Bedroom not seen

