

# Relevance

## The Annual Report

### 2007

When you look upon the face of God, you will never be the same. God transforms people when they understand the relevance He alone holds. The 2007 year saw Relevance transformed from infancy to adolescence. Through this awkward stage, however, God used this ministry to reach souls.

The first quarter of the year was filled with unanswered questions of where God would open doors. Through this time, Kim and Walt Griffiths were asked to lead the Loving Corvallis movement to reach people for Christ in the community by mobilizing the evangelical pastors and church bodies through a prayer, care, share strategy. Over half of the churches participated, later in the year, with a 'Go Fish' 6-week thrust. Many came to Christ.

The second quarter was extremely active as discussion with Young Life had opened a door to acquire the Courtyard Inn, a building that was a former sorority, converted in 1992 to a B & B and then was vacant for 2 ½ years. Fund raising, due diligence, marketing, planning, budgeting, and then on June 26, 2007, occupancy. Relevance would operate Christian student housing for college age men and women with a focus on leadership and discipleship with an outreach to the community. The building, however, had years of deferred maintenance issues to be dealt with before the September 17<sup>th</sup> student return. There was also the matter that most of the students for OSU and LBCC were locked into their housing arrangements for fall. Current students left town without knowing of the Courtyard's availability.

The third quarter was all work and no play. Twelve to fourteen hour days were not uncommon for the weeks that followed. Volunteers came to the rescue from all over Oregon. Speaking engagements, a Young Life broadcast e-mail and one volunteer, Susan Triplett, calling 900 evangelical churches in Oregon, made all the difference. God used the commitment and gave great power as student applications to live at the Courtyard started to roll in. A Courtyard Director, Chris Zauner, was hired from a number of applicants. Chris is growing everyday in his role and is gifted by God in resident life activities. Interviews continued as a Chef was needed and again God was gracious and good with our hire of Stephanie Volbeda.

The labor involved was dirty, sweaty and hard, but a 20,000 sq. ft. facility and a half a city block were transformed by more than 70 volunteers providing over 1884 hours in this year's quarter alone! These hours were donated by an electrician, building contractors, painting contractors and crew, facility managers, students, many others and even one woman who took a week's vacation to paint. Complete strangers to us came and "laid hands to the plow" ripping up and replacing floors, stripping walls, scrubbing toilets (one woman cleaned the 21 toilets and bathrooms and emerged with a smile)! Board member, Pastor Reid Smith came and sorted through 25 bunk bed parts and put half the beds together by himself. It is all the little things that make a difference. Professionals were hired to paint the exterior, upgrade electrical & plumbing needs, and

install carpet and a new kitchen floor. New carpet, new paint and effort were spent on the necessary renovation.

The last quarter took on a new chapter for Relevance and the Courtyard. Furnishings, beds, mattresses, desks, chairs, kitchen equipment and food stocking, coffee shop equipment and living room furniture; tables and a hundred chairs; what couldn't be found by donation, was purchased new or used. Over \$50,000 was spent to renovate and furnish the facility which translated into a value four times that with all of the volunteer labor and donations.

Just in time for the students to arrive, Relevance was ready to open the Courtyard with twelve students. The fall brought in several ministry groups along with the students. A local church group used the Courtyard on Sunday nights for a number of weeks; Navigators holds Greekside principally targeting students in sorority and fraternity houses near by on Tuesday nights with about 50 each meeting. Thursday nights about 45 meet for a city-wide Bible study and Young Life leaders meet every other week. 'Open Mic' nights bring in as many as 80 guests and 15 different acts from 8:30-12 midnight on a Friday or Thursday night. Concerts, movie nights, and other events draw people to the Courtyard and the significance of the relevance of Christ.

Our twelve resident students grew to fifteen to start 2008. Monday night discipleship and Bible study, worship and accountability takes place along with a men's group meeting, and a breakfast club. The Courtyard is alive within, used by those outside, and enjoyed as a place of purpose in touching people.

The year ends with only a quick breath of air before students return from break and much is required before the summer comes. Although God looks at the heart, men look at the figures; hundreds and hundreds have utilized the Courtyard in just a few months of open operation. Over \$330,000 of cash was donated and thousands more given of 'gifts in kind' including a vehicle and a great deal of furniture. We are grateful to the Lord and His people who have given of their time, talents and treasures to bring the Lord's Living Room to Corvallis, Oregon in the Courtyard. Now you know why our tagline is 'Where Life Is Found' ...