

Magnifying God
by Mobilizing & Multiplying
a Growing Family
of Healthy Churches!

**GOD AT
WORK IN
IOWA!**

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IBC Family News

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THE PEOPLE HAD A MIND TO WORK

by Pastor Jim Mead

I believe that in every life there occurs several significant, life changing events. Whether that is a wedding day, the birth of a child or the death of a loved one, these events are of such magnitude that they continue to affect us for several years.

For many of the residents of Stratford, one of those events occurred on November 12, 2005 as a deadly F-3 tornado tore through our town; ripping through lives. No doubt for many of our residents, life will never be the same.

However, as tragic as was this tornado, and as devastating as was the damage, there also were



many lessons learned and hearts touched.

As I walked through the town in the days following the tornado; moving rubble in one place, consoling a victim in another and salvaging property in others, I was struck by the number of people that were helping

others with their homes.

By late Monday, most of Stratford had been successfully cleaned; trees had been removed from the streets, debris had been cleaned from the fields, and homes had been cleared of salvageable belongings.

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IBC CHURCHES RESPONDED TO HURRICANE DAMAGE...

Ironridge Church Plant in Waukon sent a semi-load



of supplies, including water, diapers, food items, paper products, and personal hygiene items.

Fourteen 'travel trailers' were purchased from Ace Fogdall in Cedar Falls... and



Prairie Lakes Church took on the task of filling them with all the essentials, including towels, soap, can goods, coffee makers, toasters, silverware, place settings, etc. Several teams from the

church also went down to help with clean up and repairs.



Don Swanson, pastor at First Baptist in Muscatine, recently spent several days helping repair/replace a church roof. He described literally *hundred's of miles of unbelievable total devastation.*

These and others truly responded to Paul's admonition to, "Share with God's people who are in need" Rom 12:13.

A WORD FROM OUR BGC DISTRICT REP...

Jarol Duerksen

We have been praying that 5 new churches would be planted or church planters identified for the Orlando, Florida area by the end of 2005.

FACT: It now looks like there will be TEN - PTL!!!!

PRAY: In the next two weeks, a group of people will be deciding if they want to commit 10 acres of prime land in the planned Disney community of *CELEBRATION* for one of these 10 churches.

My prayer is that we not wait for the next tragedy to speak to our neighbors about the Lord Jesus Christ.

BREAKAWAY 2005: CELEBRATING THE PAST, THE PRESENT, & THE FUTURE

by Ted & Jan Houser

The 50th Anniversary of Breakaway/Sports Weekend was celebrated November 4-6 in Des Moines. A total of 491 students and staff attended from 17 IBC churches and 3 non-conference churches including Elim Baptist from Chicago, Spirit Lake Faith E-V-Free and Faith Community from Maquoketa.

Breakaway had it's beginning as Sports Weekend in Des Moines in 1955 with basketball and volleyball competition just for college age men, and students stayed in homes in the beginning years. Later, high school

competition was added along with speech and music.

This year students participated in over 40 sports, drama, music, and fine arts competition events on Friday night and all day Saturday at Hoover High School, and they stayed at the *Embassy Suites* on the river.

Nationally known youth speaker, Greg Speck, challenged the students to celebrate the future by becoming what Christ wants them to be.

There were 13 first time decisions to follow Jesus.

Over 100 students rededicated their lives to Christ; 97 wanted to seek out God's purpose, and 175 wanted to depend more on Jesus in their everyday life.

God continues to use this event to influence young people, and we are grateful for all who helped make it another successful year!

The church accumulating the most points this year was Union Park Baptist in Des Moines, and the church receiving the Sportsmanship award was Spirit Lake Faith Evangelical Free.

You will find ALL the results on the back page.

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As I watched, I was reminded of Nehemiah chapter 4, verses 2 and 6. *"What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they make an end in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned? So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together...for the people had a mind to work."*

Within minutes of the tornado's impact, emergency workers from surrounding communities, together with Stratford's fire and rescue, had already arrived on the scene to begin treating injuries, assessing damage and clearing damaged homes.

Within hours of the tornado's impact, the Red Cross, Salvation Army and local churches had established shelters for those affected. Food was purchased and donated by local people who just wanted to help.

By early Sunday morning tractors and dump trucks could be heard rumbling

through the streets of Stratford as chains saws roared throughout town, removing trees and rubble.

Volunteers poured into Stratford from surrounding communities in the days following and it has been estimated that on Monday, as many as 1000 volunteers had arrived to help with the cleanup.

Many lessons had indeed been learned and despite the damage, Stratford has much to be thankful for. We can be thankful for residents who understand that "neighbor" means more than just the person living next door, but means someone who is available to lend a hand.

We can be thankful for neighboring towns that understand that "community" means more than just residing in the same town, but has impact that extends beyond the limits of our incorporation.

We can be thankful for Christians that understand that "church" means more than just a meeting place for worship, but identifies us as

those who have been called out to make a difference in our world, reaching out to people in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

My prayer for our town, my prayer for the surrounding communities, and my prayer for the body of Christ is that we not wait for the next tornado to display these traits again. My prayer is that we not wait for the next tragedy to speak to our neighbors about the Lord Jesus Christ. My desire is that we not wait for the next catastrophe to enter the communities that surround us, offering assistance to those in need. My hope is that Christians not wait for tragedy to strike before taking the church outside the buildings and into the streets.

Can tragedy be turned into triumph? It certainly can if we will allow this event to be one of life changing significance; if we will live our lives from this day forward the way we lived in the days immediately following the tornado. For in those days we saw great things done because the people had a mind to work.

FRUIT FROM THE TEA!

Compiled by Martha Hansen, Prairie Lakes, Cedar Falls

The ladies of Prairie Lakes Church, Cedar Falls, hosted a 'Tea-licious' outreach event, with 40 decorated tables and 320 women—maxing out the worship center!

The intent of the event was to bring together women of the church with women who are not walking with Christ.

There were obstacles. There were trials. There were times when it was tempting to be discouraged. But God was at work, as the following testimonies reveal.

"I invited my daughter to join us

for the tea. I knew that she was seeking, and I also knew it would be a miracle if she came... but... she DID. And... not only that, but she was in tears during the dramas and thanked me three times for inviting her. BEST OF ALL, she, her husband and our grandson came to church yesterday! She said 'After yesterday, I just felt like I had to be here today.' Praise God!"

"My friend was overwhelmed by the welcome she received at the tea. She was really touched by Nancy's ministry in song, by the drama, and by the fellowship. Once again, I invited her to church,

and Sunday morning, as I was standing at the door greeting... my friend and her entire family walked up and went in to worship! Her husband had a big smile on his face when we wished them a great week as they left! Praise God!"

"A young woman came to the tea and then also came back on Sunday morning. She told me, 'The tea was so fantastic that I had to come see if church would be as good... and it was awesome!' Praise God!"

We could hardly believe how God worked in so many lives! Praise God!

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THE POWER OF RELATIONSHIPS

by Pam Wymore, First Baptist, Algona

In January of 2003, when the Mission Board asked why I wanted to go on First Baptist's first short term mission trip to Ukraine, I answered, "I feel a tug in my heart and I'm available".

Later in April, Jerry Sheveland was giving a message on missions, and he read from Jonah 4, "But the Lord said, Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left... Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

I knew right then that God wanted me to go to Chernigiv, Ukraine, a city of 300,000 people struggling to dig out of 70 years

of religious persecution by the former Soviet Union.

I have since learned that Chernigiv is truly a great city with an old and rich cultural history. But it is also a city where few know who Jesus Christ is and what he has done for them, and I am commanded to be concerned about them.

On my return trip in the summer of 2004, it felt like a family reunion where I hadn't seen anyone for a year. At the village church, our bus was greeted with shouts of, "You came back, you came back," followed by tears and kisses—mine and theirs.

And this year, my third trip, was like a homecoming. I no longer feel like a guest but someone known—a family member. As I sat beside Ira on the bus trip back to the church, she confided in me that it might sound strange but she felt as if she had known me her whole life. I feel the same.

I believe that they also understand that this is about building relationships and our commitment to return.

I better understand their wonderful sense of humor, their love and caring for each other and their commitment to sharing the news of Jesus Christ.

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RENEWED COMPASSION FOR THE LOST

by Pastor Larry Kidwell,
First Baptist, Forest City

Since returning from Poland with our mission team I have found it challenging to adequately represent the total experience. First and foremost it was a most marvelous opportunity to be used of God to share the Gospel of Christ in the context of some very warm relationships. It seemed unlikely to me and to Dawn that we would actually be forming friendships in such a short period of time with people of another culture and language.

I went there wondering how in the world I would begin or carry on a conversation at a

dinner table without sharing a common language. But very soon we discovered anew that the language of love removes all kinds of perceived barriers.

During our brief experience in Poland, I often perceived a strange synthesis of unimaginable beauty and deep inner sadness. In the midst of classic old-world charm there was the heaviness of their history that still seems present in the eyes of these dear people.

God filled my heart with a great compassion for these people and I feel connected to

them in a unique way. And so we came home fulfilled but also focused on the needy people right here at home.

Immediately upon our return I was given a fresh burden for the lost people in our own neighborhoods. And so I also came home with a renewed seriousness about how responsible we, at FBC, are for the eternal destinies of our neighbors and friends.

Will God put such compassion in our hearts for them that we will no longer be able to contain the words they desperately need to hear?

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SPORTS

CROSS COUNTRY

Girls

1. Sara Faith Washington
2. Melanie Lovis Grandview
3. Sloan Felton Maquoketa

Boys

1. Mitch McDermott Maquoketa
2. Andy Norris Spirit Lake EV Free
3. Noland Hovland Forest City

CHESS

1. Caleb Miller Maquoketa
2. Jared Peterson Forest City
3. David Vettle Hampton
3. Zack Campbell Waterloo

BACKGAMMON

1. Keith Worner Denver
2. Libby Bennett Cornerstone
3. Callie Bauman Forest City
3. Mike Schwanz Cornerstone

PING PONG

Girls

1. Katie Northey Spirit Lake
2. Sarah Jones Knoxville
3. Lauren Hodson Grandview
3. Katie Youngbauer Cornerstone

Boys

1. Daniel Sedam Grandview
2. Jordan Pihoda Washington
3. Josiah Snyder Waverly
3. Mathias Borjesson Spirit Lake

Doubles

1. Carsen Miller/Jordan Pihoda Faith Washington
2. Matt Rydberg/Andy Bernholtz. The Shed (Kiron/Denison)
3. Travis McShane/Dusty Wilson, Waterloo
3. Josiah Snyder/Dane Larson, Waverly

FREE THROWS

Girls

1. Chelsey Creedon Cornerstone
2. Krista Kampton Forest City
3. Kelli Collins Grandview

Boys Free throws

1. Eric Hanson The Shed
2. Dane Larson Waverly
3. Brandon Flug Waverly

Boys 100 yd Free

1. Josh Eaton UPBC
2. Andrew Weston Elim
3. Chris Piatt UPBC

200 yd Medley Relay

1. UPBC
2. Grandview

200 yd Free Relay

1. UPBC
2. Cornerstone

3. Grandview

DRAMA

Monologue

1. Annie Hanrahan Humboldt
2. Tina Lugo Spirit Lake
3. Sara Hess Washington

Drama

1. Washington
2. Bettendorf
3. Washington

Interpretive Reading

1. Jenalee Schwab Hampton
2. Travis Brown Forest City
3. Monica Hanson Hampton

Video

1. Spirit Lake
2. Forest City
3. Grandview

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

1. Cedar Rapids Valley View
2. The Shed
3. Grandview

FINE ARTS

Photography

1. Alley Fuller Cedar Falls
2. Melanie Louis Grandview
3. Monica Johnson Hampton

Drawing and Mixed Media

1. Gianini Fleming Elim Chicago
2. Alex Poppinga Hampton
3. Jennifer Kabel Cornerstone

Painting

1. Felicia Camer Maquoketa
2. Abby Butson Hampton
3. Sean Matthys Cornerstone

Sculpture, Textiles, and Jewelry

1. Natalea Stockdale
2. Tina Lugo Spirit Lake EV Free
3. Krista Brown Grandview

3 POINT

Girls

1. Nelia Olson The Shed
2. Lydia Schafer Hampton
2. Janis Matthys Cornerstone
3. Chelsey Creedon Cornerstone

Boys

1. Marshawn Gibbs Union Park
2. Chad Ball Knoxville
3. Eric Tjarks Forest City
3. Kyle De Boer Hampton

3 on 3

Girls

1. The Shed (Kiron/Denison)
2. Cornerstone # 2
3. Cornerstone # 1
3. Cornerstone #3

Boys

1. Cornerstone #1

2. Hampton #1
3. Denver #1
3. Washington #1

VOLLEYBALL

1. Denver #2
2. The Shed #2
3. Iowa City # 2
3. Spirit Lake EV Free #1

SWIMMING

Girls 50 yd Free

1. Katelyn DeHaan UPBC
1. Alyssa Shilling UPBC
2. Autumn Russell Valley View
3. Andrea Glasgow Grandview

Boys 50 yd Free

1. Andrew Weston Chicago Elim
2. Josh Eaton UPBC
3. Chris Piatt UPBC

Girls 100 yd Free

1. Katelyn DeHaan UPBC
1. Alyssa Schilling UPBC
2. Andrea Glasgow Grandview
3. Cassie Chambers Bettendorf

MUSIC

Woodwind Solo

1. Alex Poppinga Hampton
2. Elizabeth Schreck Washington
3. Brittany Diercks Forest City

Piano Solo

1. Dustin Ayers Hampton
2. Lydia Schafer Hampton
3. Britni Hammond Forest City

Percussion

1. Seantrel Jenkins/Tony
2. Thomas Speake

Instrumental Group

1. Hampton
2. Washington
3. Washington

Male Solo

1. Ryan Sabia Valley View
2. Seth Knickrehon Maquoketa
3. Justin Hayward Maquoketa

Female Solo

1. Christine Wellendorf Forest city
2. Christina Greger Cedar Falls
3. Makenzie Carlisle Cedar Falls

Small Group

1. Cedar Rapids
2. Hampton
3. Forest City

Large Group

1. The Shed (Kiron/Denison)
2. Hampton
3. Maquoketa

Brass Solo

1. Aaron Sedam Grandview
2. Daniel Sedam Grandview

The Iowa Baptist Conference (IBC) is one of thirteen nation-wide districts of the Baptist General Conference (BGC). It is the voluntary relationships of 37 established BGC churches, 3 church plants, and over 70 pastoral staff, and is the home of Pine Lake Christian Camp. We believe...

1. It is **URGENT** to REACH lost people... who are facing eternal separation from God!
2. It is **IMPERATIVE** to MOBILIZE PASTORS and CHURCHES... for greater and more effective service in reaching those people!
3. It is **CRITICAL** to MULTIPLY DISCIPLES & CHURCHES... in order to reach all kinds of people... in all walks of life!