

The

Vindiclaimer

News Of The Gate Church, North Lima, OH

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Claiming the Hope of Heaven Together | John 10:9-10

February 6, 2007

A Quick Thought

A couple weeks ago, while we were traveling somewhere in the car, Jessica (my 8-yr-old) said to me "What would happen if there were two thousand birds in the sky and God made them all do a trick at the same time?"

I responded with a little chuckle, which didn't go over well with my inquisitive offspring, so it was necessary to give an explanation. My chuckle wasn't a rejection of her statement, but an approval of her ability to imagine. Jessica still has the childlike ability to dream about how God wants to amaze us and make this life more than just bearable. He wants us to dream of what could be, trust Him to make it happen and marvel at the thought that He did it for (and through) us!

Mark 10:15 records that Jesus will only let people enter the Kingdom of Heaven if they accept His message like a child. Jesus is referring to the great faith children have in what Jesus tells them because their young imaginations are not yet corrupted by worldly realities. As we strive to "claim the hope of heaven together", are we in danger of missing the mark because of the stifling of our spiritual imagination?

Let's keep the vision of The Gate Church alive by allowing ourselves to dream about the possibilities and by consistently asking God to lead us in *His* direction. Who knows, maybe two thousand birds will show up at our public launch on September 9, and God will wow us with some unbelievable stunt! I'll bring a hat just in case.



Financial Support

Budget per month	\$9,250
Current raised amount	\$5,331
Needed	\$3,919



Knick Family News

Jessica has improved from a C+ to an A in reading on her most recent report card. She has worked hard for this!

Emma will pay another visit to the doctor to check on her ears Feb. 14 to see if she is still clear of fluid. Emma has struggled with this in the past and needs your prayers. Emma showed improvement on her report card too.

Zach Though Zach's speech is doing much better, his ears are no longer free of fluid. The Doc said that if it doesn't clear up in the next couple weeks he will have to do surgery again to put tubes in. The little guy has been working hard at pre-school to keep up with other kids his age. It looks like only a miracle will keep him from surgery again.

Vanda Things are going well at the library. She loves her work and the friends she has made. Pray that she continues to be a witness for Jesus.

Dave I'm struggling to get back on track staying in shape. It's much harder to avoid snacking now that I work from home! Also, prayer for wisdom on which seminary to choose to begin a Masters of Divinity program in 2008 would be helpful!

Prayer

- The pre-Christians in North Lima
- **Kenny Wehr's** eyes (not **Larry**—last month oops)
- **Miriam Lowther's** job search
- Support Raising
- Launch Team Growth (numerically & spiritually)

Church News

Response for the name "Vindiclaimer" made it apparent that no further name searching would be necessary. The "claim" serves as a continual reminder of our values as a church. Thanks for your input.

The logo you see at the top right of this page is sort of a combination of the two logos on last month's newsletter. Vanda, Kim and I like the design of the Gate logo with the fish as the "a", but with the maroon coloring of the other logo. Nicely done Kim!

Sunday mornings between now and our soft Launch on April first will be filled with visiting new churches as research for ideas for our new church as well as visiting other churches in our district to share our vision with them. Among churches I will be visiting are: **Conneautville (PA) Baptist Church**, **Christ Community Church** (Chardon, OH), **Evangel Baptist** (Boardman) and **Salem Community Fellowship**. **Old North Church** has already allowed me to share on a Sunday morning in December, and the congregation responded generously with prayer, participation (joined the launch team) and purse (financially). All of that on top of the support in all three areas offered by ONC's missions board. What a blessing! Our church would have a very difficult time starting without the support of the churches and the district office team of the **Midwest Baptist Conference** office.

The **Just Walk Across the Room** curriculum went over very well with the launch team. Each of us has at least one pre-Christian person we are focusing our prayer and efforts on bringing into our fellowship of hope. Let's keep this focus alive as our next phase of training begins this Sunday evening with the **Network Course**. We'll be discovering how the Spirit has designed our church to be by learning the gifts, passions and personal styles of those He has called to be part of this vision.