



Claiming the Hope of Heaven Together | John 10:9-10
 March 6, 2007

Pastor Dave & Vanda Knickerbocker — Church Planters
 Kim Wetzl — Worship Leader

Knick Family News

Jessica continues to make great strides in reading and other subjects in school. She often gets 100% on her tests.

Emma's ears are fine. Her hearing is doing much better and we are nearing the end of the ear-infection season. Also, Emma's artwork has been purchased by Akron children's hospital to be displayed there indefinitely (she bagged a \$50 savings bond). We're very proud of her!

Zach The miracle referred to in last month's newsletter has been realized! While progress still needs to be made, Zach's hearing had improved significantly. It now looks likely that Zach will not need surgery for tubes. Praise God!

Vanda has felt the Spirit's urging to become involved in the assimilation process of the Gate. There are others from our launch team that feel the same urge. This is exciting for our church!

Dave The weight thing was going well, but has taken a beating in the last few days. Keep the prayers coming. I need all the help I can get! Also, I've decided to begin courses for Trinity's MDIV program @ their site in Akron in 2008!

Prayer

- The pre-Christians in North Lima
- Kenny Wehr's eyes
- Miriam Lowther's job search
- Support Raising
- Launch Team Growth (numerically & spiritually)

A Quick Thought

During my travels last week there was opportunity to drop by Northside Hospital to check in on some friends. While walking the hallways, the thought came to mind that I was in the very hospital where my life began way back in October of 1970. My family had lived in Boardman for a short time and had moved away while I was still very young. For all I know, this impromptu visit was my first return to the place of my birth! I was back where it all had begun for me.

The pace of my walk slowed considerably, my attention focused on taking in every detail of my surroundings. If Mom and Dad were with me, what stories would they tell about that day? Like Mr. Nezzzer of Veggie Tales said "It's like your telling the story of me."

A few days later Mom and Dad came to our house to visit and we ended up hearing stories about our family that I had never heard before. Stories from before I was born. Stories from before *they* were born. It gave me a stronger sense of identity. As their offspring I inherited their stories. Northside Hospital is not the place where my story started. It is the place where I started to play a role in my story.

We are preparing for the birth of a new church. The story of the Gate church began 2,000 years ago. We are merely beginning to take on our role in that story. My prayer is that our church takes on the identity of the first church with all its triumphs and struggles; that sense of purpose that dominates the book of Acts. In chapter 7, Stephen recounts the story of God's children and declares the church as the continuation of it. Let's keep true to our story!

Years from now it will be a privilege to share with our spiritual offspring the story of the journey they will have become a part of.

Financial Support

Budget per month	\$9,250
Current raised amount	<u>\$5,531</u>
Needed	\$3,719



Church News

We're gearing up for our **soft-launch** to take place on **Palm Sunday, April 1!** A soft-launch is when a church plant begins worship on Sundays but has yet to hold a public launch. These are *inclusive* worship times. It is our hope that both churched and unchurched friends join us from the start! Worship will be held at the Pine Lake Social Hall throughout the Spring and Summer at **10:09 am** (can you guess why?). God willing, our public launch will take place at South Range High School on Sept. 9, where our worship time will be held from then on.

Thanks goes out to our friends at **Evangel Baptist Church** (Boardman, OH) and **Conneautville Baptist Church** in PA, for allowing me to share our vision for The Gate with their congregations. We need all the support we can get (especially prayer)! My next church visit is to **Christ Community Church** in Chardon, OH, on March 18.

Please keep **Kim Wetzl** in your prayers as she seeks support from her family and friends for the role she will play as worship leader for The Gate. A year ago (even before we met her) Vanda and I had dreamed of having Kim on board in this key role. God has called Kim to this vision and she has already given a great deal of her talent and prayers to its success.

Here are some things that we are in need of. If you can help us out in any way, please let me know!

- Sound equipment
- Drum set
- Large Coffee Carafes
- Hot water Kettle
- Tent (covering for kids' church during good weather)
- Nursery toys & Equipment
- Microwave oven
- Nice disposable plates
- Parking cones
- Table coverings
- Kitchen stuff (pans, utensils . . .)
- Grill

Jezknick@sbcglobal.net (330) 726-8767