

SEPTEMBER 2011



The Sword
of the Spirit



NORTH AMERICAN REGION NEWS



Vancouver Summer Household

During the month of June, 9 men and 8 women a 120-year- old Victorian duplex in historic New Westminster, British Columbia. The men lived on one side, the women lived on the other. Each side had 3 bedrooms—and one bathroom. This was the first shot at a summer household program in the Vancouver metro area, a result of the Lord's work in our university outreach there.

Like the living accommodations, the house schedules were packed. Mornings began at 6:00 a.m. for breakfast and morning prayers. The two houses had regular meals throughout the week. On Monday nights, the guys and girls gathered

together for a teaching night. They took some time to pray and to hear a four-part series: 'Character Traits of a Disciple.' On Wednesdays, they hosted UCO meetings, which alternated between prayer meetings and social events.

Thursday nights were outreach nights. The guys played street hockey, which was appropriate given that the city was hosting the Stanley Cup finals. Quite a few guests joined the men's house for the games. The girls did various events at their house to which the members invited their friends: movie nights, games nights, and even a 'bubble tea' night.



On Saturday evenings, the men and the women celebrated the Lord's Day Ceremony together. The night consisted of a mini-course (looking at the characteristics of God), a time of worship, excellent food, and a lot of fun together.

The month was excellent! The Lord worked powerfully; the students grew closer to Him and to each other. We are excited to see what long-lasting fruit this house will bear throughout the coming year.

"The household has truly been a great experience. It has allowed me to see the brotherhood that we share in UCO. I think the relationships that we have strengthened this summer will greatly help our young outreach grow. We've also had numbers of guests to the house; they always say how much they liked the household." Jon Lee, summer household member





International Leaders Meetings

In May twenty-five key leaders from across the Sword of the Spirit met for six days at a retreat center in DeWitt, Michigan. The meetings fostered internal strength and unity in our international community of communities and help communities in reaching others for Christ. Working groups met to address their particular responsibilities. They also met all together for a day and a half to work on the key questions of how to bring new people into the life of the Sword of the Spirit and how best to identify and train new leaders.



Servants of the Word 40th Anniversary

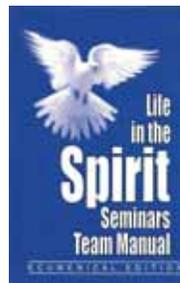
The Servants of the Word, an ecumenical, international brotherhood of celibate men is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. In 1971, 8 men made an initial, one-year commitment to live single for the Lord. Forty years later, the Servants of the Word have ten households scattered around the world. They are integral to the life of the Sword of the Spirit and its ministries, especially outreach to youth and young adults.

As God's servants, we attend on Him in prayer, giving Him the honor and glory that is His due, the honor and glory that the whole world owes Him, but that we, his servants, make our special concern. As His servants we work for Him at whatever He gives us, and when we have done everything we are told to do, no matter how unreasonable it may seem, we say, "We have only done our duty." (From the Servants of the Word Covenant)



Life in the Spirit Books

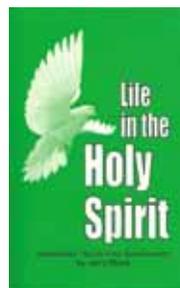
Tabor House, the NAR book-publisher and book-seller, carries a number of books that help communities, parishes, and other groups to put on successful Life in the Spirit Seminars. Here is a quick review of the materials available. Visit www.TaborPub.com.



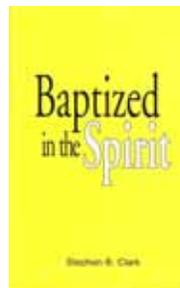
Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual is available in both ecumenical and Catholic editions. It provides step by step guidance including detailed talk outlines. These are essentially reprints of the 1979 edition. Cost is \$10 each.



Life in the Holy Spirit is based on the Life in the Spirit Seminars, but is written for very small groups: one or two people working closely with a mentor in the context of a community of Spirit-filled Christians. A valuable new resource. Cost is \$5.50 each.



Finding New Life in the Spirit is the companion booklet for the Life in the Spirit Seminars. It contains seven weeks of Bible readings, commentary, and meditations specifically designed for people going through the seminar. Cost is \$10.00 for a set of 5 booklets.



Baptized in the Spirit is a helpful book both for those working on the seminar team and for participants. It defines clearly what is meant by being baptized in

the Spirit and helps people to better understand the work of the Holy Spirit in their life. Cost is \$5.50 each.



A Letter from Detroit

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am one of a small but tenacious group of Sword of the Spirit members living and doing outreach in Detroit. For eleven years, we have been praying for, working with, and reaching out to the people of Detroit.

I believe that Jesus hides out in places of great need. I am in Detroit, because God showed me that He did not have a place in my comfortable life. For much of my life, I rarely knew need, only abundance. Every time I would try to fit God into my suburban world, I would find distraction instead. I needed to live someplace whose emptiness cried out for a Messiah.

Some of us are missing out. Our children are missing out if they don't visit, if they don't walk into the ruins of hundred-year-old houses and work to make them whole again. Our college students are missing out if they don't spend time relating with young people in places like Detroit, discovering the things they do (and don't) have in common. We are all missing out if we are not dealing with the specter of poverty and racism on a regular basis.

I write to ask your help. I know many of you have sent your money and your prayers – even your children! – to aid the mission in Detroit, but I am asking you to consider something more. I am asking you to prayerfully consider moving to Detroit and joining our community outreach. This would be a major step, I realize, but it does not mean that you would be going into full-time missionary work (unless you want to!). Priscilla and I play a relatively small role in the activities of our community, since we are largely occupied (read: overwhelmed) by the responsibility of paying the bills and raising our children. Yet, we have the blessing of serving in little ways, little ways that help allow our outreach in Detroit to succeed.

This call is not for everyone, but I believe it is for someone reading these words. All I'm asking is that you be open to the Lord: is that person is you.

Blessings, Daniel Propson

This is an excerpt of a longer letter that can be found at risefromashes.wordpress.com/sos/

Work of Christ, Lansing, MI

Over the summer, the Work of Christ high-school group, Christian Youth in Action, came three hours before the community prayer meeting every week for "Voll-Abe-Ball." "Voll" stands for a game of volley ball, played on the community's sandy court. "Abe" stands for a Bible study on Abraham, who said yes when the Lord called his name. The event included a BBQ dinner.

Photo below: Not a typical volleyball arrangement, but trying to get one ball out of the tree by hitting it with another ball. And then, two balls were in the tree.



In April, CYA sponsored "24-7," a week of around-the-clock intercession for youth outreach. Held in the basement of the Servants of the Word house in Lansing, teens and community members prayed night and day for evangelistic fruit in the youth group.



House of the Lord, D.C.

The House of the Lord Community, whose members live in and around the city of Washington, D.C., have become an affiliated community in the Sword of the Spirit. This decision was reached after a formal SOS visitation in April. The community has about 35 full members, many children, and a number of regular visitors. The picture above was taken following the visitation report given at a community gathering. Welcome, House of the Lord! What a blessing to share life with you.



Kairos Fellowship

Kairos Fellowship (the Sword of the Spirit's regional youth program for adolescent young men) celebrated its fourth year with a summer full of wilderness adventure. In all, these trips involved 63 seventh to ninth graders, 13 junior staff high school students, and 15 fathers and adult staff: 91 people in all! Events included a trip to Pictured Rocks on Lake Superior (for a group of ten 9th grade boys from The Potter's House, a Christian school in Grand Rapids that we have begun to serve) the state of Maine (an especially convenient location for a growing number of boys in our communities in the Eastern United States) and in Algonquin Park in Canada. These trips are great relationship builders for our boys within and across community lines. In the wilderness boys are forced to disconnect from technology and modern convenience to reconnect with the Lord and each other. It is awesome!!

Kairos Fellowship will also be running Preparing for Adolescence Weekends in Michigan and Toronto this fall. These weekends for boys in the 6th and 7th grades are meant to prepare boys and their dads for the issues soon to be faced in the teen years, and to help set the stage for a positive season of life for them in the years to come.

For more information about Kairos Fellowship, the wilderness adventure program, and PAW Weekends, contact Stan Mathay @ stanmathay@gmail.com.

Photos: (top left) New Jersey guys who climbed Mt. Katahdin, the highest peak in Maine and the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail; (second left) our group from Potter's House High School in GR for our Pictured Rocks Exploration trip in late May; (third left) the Maine Adventure Group on Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park. This is the highest point on the Atlantic Seaboard of the US; (bottom left) morning prayer on the coast of Maine; (below) participants in the Algonquin Adventure around the campfire.





Kairos Pioneer Challenge



In July five high-school age young men and two Kairos staff members spent ten days on an epic road trip: the first ever Kairos Pioneer Challenge. The trip took them from Middletown, MD to Gettysburg, New York, Boston, and Harvard. Along the way, the guys learned about the American Civil War and the beginnings of the American Revolution. They also learned about the mission of the Sword of the Spirit and visited three communities associated with it: Triumph of the Cross Community in Maryland, People of Hope in New Jersey, and the Brotherhood of Hope in Massachusetts. It was one major summer road trip and a formative time together.

Photos: (top left) creating a 3-D map of the battle at Gettysburg; (top right) camping along the route; (bottom) breakfast in Boston.

Kairos Around the World

Although this newsletter is focused on North America, Kairos is at work in many locations around the world. Here are pictures of some youth events in various places.



New Zealand:
Summer Oasis Conference



Ecuador:
600 attended Kairos
Youth Conference



Malaysia:
Kairos Youth Camp 2011



Mumbai, India:
Vasai Youth Group at
the Kairos Youth Conference.



Emily Ferstle, DSO

In May, I had no idea what charismatic community was. I had never heard of DSO, UCO, SOS, or any other acronym in the community vernacular. I had never been to a prayer meeting or a Lord's Day celebration.

I had been volunteering with my church's youth group, and at a youth minister's retreat I heard Ed Conlin speak. When Ed talked about his life and ministry in Detroit, his testimony resonated within me. God made it clear that He wanted me to be part of Detroit Summer Outreach. His call was clear and direct. However, the sacrifice required scared me.

A big struggle throughout my life has been obedience. The idea of giving up control of my life to some other authority was terrifying—even if that authority was God himself. I had prayed that the resistance to handing over my will be dissolved. So, despite my fear, I agreed to join the DSO staff for the summer.

The cultural adjustment I experienced in the first few weeks was extreme to say the least, but it was nothing compared to the spiritual transformation I have experienced. When I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the internal conflict between my will and my desire for the Lord vanished. The battle within me was won. When the Holy Spirit came upon me, my resistance fled in a tangible way.

This battle, I see now, was never mine to win. I could not overcome my human rebelliousness on my own. Only the grace of the Lord through the Holy Spirit could accomplish this conversion within me. This is true freedom. By allowing the Lord to overcome my delusion of freedom, I better understand the true freedom that Christ promises through life in Him. [See more DSO stories at... youthworksdetroit.tumblr.com]



People of God, Pittsburgh

This year two People of God couples celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries: Bob and Bobbie Tedesco (*photo left*) and Bill and Ann Wilson (*photo below*). Bob and Bobbie are founders of the community. Bill and Ann have been Charismatic Renewal leaders for many years. Both couples have generously shared their unique gifts and have been a huge part of our call and mission.

In other news the POG decided this summer to step up efforts to evangelize others by organizing Life in the Spirit Seminars in three community districts. Geography necessitated spreading out the seminars rather than having just one centrally located. The first seminar took place in the South Hills; it had 25 attendees and has engaged many members as part of the team. Many SOS members have been praying for the Tedesco's grandchild Joseph DuBois who suffered from Leukemia at age 3 1/2, Ewing Sarcoma at age 11, and a brain tumor at age 19. Joseph celebrated his 21st Birthday last December, is doing well physically, and is participating in the Pittsburgh chapter of UCO.



Pastoral Teaching Institute: The Lord

Over the spring and summer of 2011, the North American Region of the Sword of the Spirit held three Pastoral Teaching Institutes (PTI). The three PTIs had the same topic: the Lord Jesus. PTIs took place in Michigan, New Jersey, and Minnesota. Having three PTIs was an experiment, so to speak, to see if we could increase attendance by offering the PTI in various locations. Total attendance at the three PTIs was 430, a 50% increase from last year, when the PTI was held in just one location. We plan to have three PTIs again next year. *Photos: (above left) Paul Dinolfo gives a talk at the Minnesota PTI; (top right) Michigan participants listen to a talk by Steve Clark; (bottom right) prayer during the Minnesota PTI*



Clustering in Columbus

Four couples and three singles (pictured above) have moved into a one-block area in Columbus, Ohio. These are alumni of the Saint Paul's Outreach (SPO) chapter at Ohio State University, and constitute something of a "new community" in Columbus—along side of and increasingly integrated with the Sword of the Spirit Community that has been in Columbus for many years. This past school year saw 20 SPO members in their first year of formation and 40 in in their second year.



Saint Paul's Outreach, New Jersey

Ed Moccia, the director of Saint Paul's Outreach (SPO) in Newark, New Jersey, filed the following, very-efficient report for the 2010/2011 school year:

- We had 2 households: one men's and one women's
- Stevie Duraney and Lisa Greey began serving as full-time mission leaders for the chapter
- We hosted 2 retreats, one each semester (*the Fan Into Flame retreat is pictured above*)
- We hosted our first fundraising banquet with 235 participants and exceeded our financial goal
- 40 people signed up for our Formation in Christian Living Program

University Christian Outreach-MD

A new University Christian Outreach (UCO) chapter started this past year in Maryland: a ministry of the Triumph of the Cross Community in Frederick, MD. The chapter started with just a few students having dinner together and at the end of the school year about 20 students attended meeting regularly. Seven UCO-MD members attended Campus Outreach Academy in August where they were equipped to be student missionaries.

"Challenges abound," says Brendan Murray, the chapter director. "The outreach is not located on a specific campus and some students have to drive over an hour to attend meetings. We would like to start another outreach at the University of Maryland in the fall and need help and resources to do that. Yet, this is clearly the Lord's work and we have faith and confidence that He will continue to provide all the resources necessary.

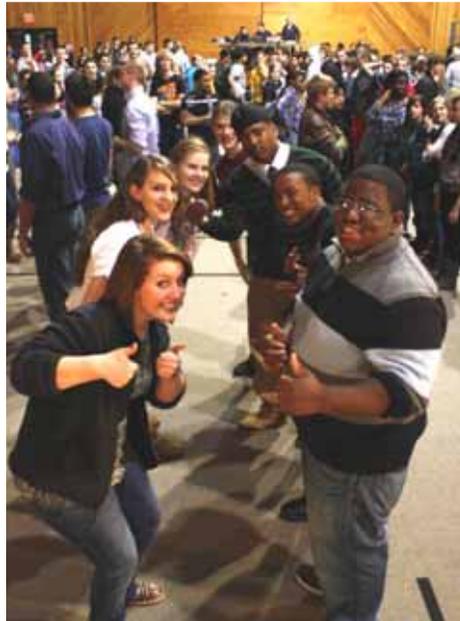


Saint Paul's Outreach, Kansas



This fall marks a new era in the Schoenfeld-er Family. In August we packed our bags and moved to Kansas for 2-4 years or as long as the Lord will have us there. Patrica and I have moved to take over the Saint Paul's Outreach (SPO) work at Benedictine College, a small Catholic college of 1500 students

in Atchison. Our goal: to further the outreach work and begin to institute SPO's Formation in Christian Living Program. We are very excited for all that God is doing and will do. It is hard to leave everything we have here in St. Paul: my family and our friends, the Community of Christ the Redeemer, St. Joseph Church, all that the Lord has done at St. Olaf and the wonderful students there, but we are sure that God has called us to this and are confident that he will supply our every need.



LIVING YES

March 25-27 more than 350 high-school age youth gathered at the Michindoh Conference Center for the annual Kairos YES! Retreat. The theme was "Living YES," a focus on giving our lives completely to the Lord.

The Sword of the Spirit is dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and strengthening Christian people (Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox) through active evangelization and by forming Christian communities.

In our youth outreach and community building work, we encourage men and women to give their lives fully to Jesus Christ, practice daily Christian discipleship, and to zealously proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to others.

The Sword of the Spirit is supported by charitable contributions. Your support is welcome! Contributions to The Sword of the Spirit are tax deductible in the United States.

Jerry Munk, Newsletter Editor

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Campus Outreach Academy

In August, University Christian Outreach chapters in North America got together for a 10-day training program called the Campus Outreach Academy. Its mission is to equip college members with the skills they need to become effective campus missionaries. This year, 90 students and staff participated, they came from 10 different church backgrounds, 5 different countries, and a dozen different universities. The main track was Christian Culture. Optional tracks included Discipleship, Outreach, Student Leadership, and Staff Training. *The photo above is from last year's Academy.*