

SEPTEMBER 2012



NORTH AMERICAN REGION NEWS

The Sword of the Spirit



May 25-28, 380 coordinators and Kairos leaders from Sword of the Spirit communities around the world gathered for the third International Coordinators Meeting (ICM). This international gathering takes place every four years and provides a time of fellowship, inspiration, and training. This year's conference took place at Caldwell college in New Jersey and was generously hosted by the People of Hope Community. Following the ICM, Kairos leaders held another two days of meetings.

Each morning began with prayer and a meditation. After a break, talks were given on the conference theme:

International Coordinator Conference



“Saints, Missionaries, and Martyrs,” followed by discussion groups. Brothers were assigned to these groups across regional lines, so there was opportunity to build new relationships. The afternoons were devoted to practical presentations and workshops. In the evenings, brothers gathered for prayer. On Saturday evening, five communities signed the covenant of full membership in the Sword of the Spirit: Community of Christ the Redeemer (St Paul, Minnesota, USA); Jesús es el Señor (Quito, Ecuador); Community of Good Shepherd (Vasai, India); Nazareth (Dublin, Ireland); and La Nueva Jeruslen (Miami, Florida, USA).





UCO Soccer Tournament

The annual University Christian Outreach (UCO) soccer tournament continues to grow. It provides an opportunity for UCO members to get together during the summer, and for members of various chapters to get to know one another better. This year's tournament included teams from UCO Grand Rapids, UCO Lansing, the Work of Christ Community, UCO Ann Arbor (summer household and non-household teams), the Word of Life Community, Detroit Summer Outreach, and UCO Pittsburgh. The Word of Life team took home the trophy.

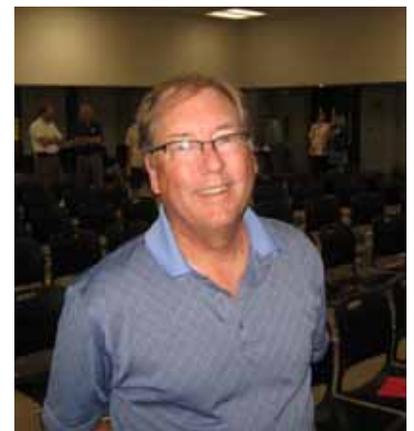


John DeWitt and Kairos Fundraising

What holds Kairos back from doing all the work the Lord is calling us to? A major hindrance is the lack of finances.

A while back I sensed the Lord saying to me, "John, you can do something about this. I have given you the gifts, talents and abilities to tell the Kairos story and boldly ask people to support our mission financially."

I had retired from a twenty-eight year sales and marketing career with AT&T. The thought of me being able to do something to help raise money for the Sword of the Spirit just wouldn't go away. Was this an "open door" that the Lord is calling me to walk through? I was becoming more and more convinced that this was certainly the case. I talked to Mike Shaughnessy (director of Kairos North America) and shortly thereafter became a full-time fundraiser for Kairos.



While I have extensive sales and marketing experience, I am totally new to fundraising. I spent my first weeks learning the trade: attending conferences and seminars, reading, doing research, and talking with people who have experience. More recently I have begun to meet with people, present to them the Kairos story, and ask them to support our work. I have had some success, but there is still much to learn, and a long road ahead. As I move forward, I strongly sense the Lord is with me and has given me a fire and passion to see this through.

There is so much more we could be doing in Kairos than we already are. I believe the Lord wants me to do something about this. I ask for your prayers.



Girls Boundary Waters Trip

Eighteen junior high girls and adult staff embarked on a Boundary Waters Canoe Adventure July 7-15. Participants included members of the Work of Christ Community (both Lansing and Grand Rapids), the Word of Life Community, and the Huntington, Indiana, prayer group. The trip was challenging (it always is) but also provided abundant opportunities for fellowship and growing closer to Jesus Christ.

Word of Life, Ann Arbor, Michigan



Change and creativity have been the theme for the Word of Life Community in Ann Arbor.

Change: After many years of faithful service Chris Birk (left photo) stepped down as Presiding Coordinator at the end of August. Dave Hughes (right photo) was elected to a four year term as Presiding Coordinator. The Community is grateful for the service of these gifted men.

Creativity: the UCO Women's Summer Household (see page 8) was on the verge of homelessness when the Lord provided a way for the household to take over the upstairs of our Community Office. Miraculously the landlord graciously allowed the household to use the facility at an extremely low rent. The Holy Spirit fell in power on these ladies as they sought him this summer.



CADA, Detroit, MI Life in the Spirit for Children

“If we want our children to engage in the life of the community fully, we should pray with them to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.” These words from Jerry Munk’s book, *Life in the Spirit Seminar for Children*, inspired the CADA (Christ’s Ardent Disciples in Action) Children’s Ministry to initiate its first the Life in the Spirit Seminar for Children. Sixteen children ranging from 8 years old to 16 years old completed the seminar, which started on March 18, 2012. The program, a series of 6 talks and discussions, also included games and activities that were related to the teachings. In each session, the children were given a take-home prayer packet to encourage them with their prayer time. In addition, a scripture magnet for each talk was given to use for reflection. The highlight of the seminar, praying for the children to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, was well attended by the whole CADA community. During the prayer session, the children witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit. Some of them were overwhelmed with joy and started crying, some spoke in tongues, and some children experienced the deep love that God has for them. It was an amazing and Spirit-filled experience not just for our children but adults as well.

Living a life in a Christian community means to always stay connected to Jesus. The Life in the Spirit Seminar is a first step towards inspiring our children to a community way of life. To practice what they learned, CADA’s Children’s Ministry is providing opportunities for our children to grow in their faith. The children participate in various community ministries, serve at the food bank,



take their part in the praise and worship during prayer meetings, attend the Michigan summer camp, share their testimonies with other children, and in many other ways reach out to others with the love of Jesus Christ.



YouthWorks-Detroit is an outreach associated with the Sword of the Spirit serving the inner-city youth of Detroit, Michigan. Over the summer, YouthWorks-Detroit operates Detroit Summer Outreach. This year 25 staff and interns (the most ever) worked to make Detroit Summer Outreach a reality. They supervised and mentored young people in the StreetTeam Leadership Program; taught classes at Cornerstone School through the EdifyYouth Program; served with Bezalel Project, the YW-D academic and arts program for grades 2-8; and helped to conduct vacation Bible school retreats throughout the city.

Our interns' first opportunity to do summer youth work occurred at the annual Cornerstone School 8th grade re-

Detroit Summer Outreach



treat. Many lives were touched by the Lord. About 50 kids participated in the retreat and most of them recommitted their lives to Jesus Christ. (The top two photos are of the Cornerstone 8th grade retreat.)

John Prost (third photo: far right), one of our interns, describes his experience of Detroit Summer Outreach.

John Prost

My path to Detroit Summer Outreach started at Benedictine College, the university I attend. At Benedictine, I am involved with Saint Paul's Outreach (SPO), a charismatic ministry organization connected with the Sword of the Spirit. SPO provided numerous opportunities to grow in my relationship with the Lord through retreats, fellowship, and prayer meetings. SPO at Benedictine is my Christian community and it was where I was first introduced to DSO. After applying to DSO and interviewing, I found myself on a sixteen-hour bus ride to a place I had never been before. I had no idea what to expect.

Now that I am here in Detroit, I can say with full confidence that DSO is rapidly forming me into a better Christian man. The challenges I experience here continually push me to trust in the Lord. DSO has taught me to rely on the Lord every moment of the day and I continually find myself asking for God's help or praising him through the day.

Household life (bottom photo) and work with the kids has been a blessing. Living with other Christian men keeps me accountable and provides inspiration to grow. Working with StreetTeam provides opportunities to spread the gospel, teach practical work skills, and learn about myself in a deeper way. While my main goal was to help the kids on StreetTeam grow in their relationship with God, I quickly found the Lord working in my life as well.





A challenge of the September news-
letter is that many
of our summer
mission trips and
Kairos Fellowship
trips are still in the

field as we go to press. The photo at right is from the Kairos Fellowship (junior high boys) Rocky Mountain Jamboree, which took place June 28- July 16. Kairos Fellowship also sponsored Algonquin Adventure and Appalachian Rendezvous trips. Look for more pictures and a full report in the next SOS-NAR Newsletter.

UCO Senior Staff Changes

University Christian Outreach in North America is pleased to announce that our regional leadership team is growing. Over the last several years Brian Laba, Rosemary Thornton, and Nico Angleys were the main members of the senior staff that supported UCO chapters in the North American Region. This coming year, the team will double in size. Andrew Davignon who oversees the UCO Ann Arbor chapter will join this team. Andrew will help support Maryland’s UCO chapter and sort out some of our regional administration. His creativity and financial acumen are a source of strength for our university development. Bonnie King has been on the senior leadership team in Lansing for many years. She will help our chapter in Pittsburg and handle some staff training. Ruth Gryniewicz was a UCO mission leader a number of years ago and has been on the senior team in Ann Arbor for several years. She will do regional women’s work and chapter support in Maryland. Both Ruth and Bonnie are also on the Kairos women's advisory team.



Ruth Gryniewicz



Bonnie King



Andrew Davignon



Montréal, Canada

This fall, UCO Montréal will be celebrating its fourth anniversary. The past few months have been a time of growth as members of our UCO formation program have attended the Michigan Pastoral Training Institute and Campus Outreach Academy. In September we will also be hosting our second Fan Into Flame Retreat with guests from the Lebanon UCO chapter.

A new initiative for the community in Montréal has gathered eight married couples for monthly Bible studies. After meeting together for almost two years they will be taking the Life in the Spirit Seminar this fall.



People of God, Pittsburgh, PA

The coordinators of the People of God felt led by the Lord to begin the community's June retreat with a "solemn assembly." Taken from Joel chapter 2, the idea was to gather the people and spend significant time in the presence of God confessing our sins publicly and privately. Our purpose was two-fold: get right with the Lord and our brothers and sisters and to prepare our hearts for whatever the Lord has in store for us.

We began the retreat with a trumpet sound and the lighting of a candle. After a brief explanation and exhortation, people were encouraged to seek the Lord in silence for forgiveness for any way they have failed to do that which the Lord required of them. People were free to express their sorrow publicly at the microphone as long as it would not embarrass them or scandalize others. On Sunday the retreat concluded with a time of anointed prayer ministry.



Triumph of the Cross Community, Frederick, MD

In April, the Triumph of the Cross community had a visitation: an evaluation for the purpose of moving from Affiliate to Underway membership status in the Sword of the Spirit. The visitation team met with members of the community, we celebrated the Lord's Day together, and their initial report was presented at our Sunday gathering on Sunday. We are grateful to have brothers and sisters in the Sword of the Spirit encouraging us as we build Christian community in Maryland.

In July, ten of our children attended the People of God Camp in Pennsylvania, and they had a great time getting to know children from other communities in the North American region.

Youth Work in India:

From the April 16 to May 8, Kairos Program Director James Munk visited our Sword of the Spirit communities in India, spending time in Bangalore, Pune, and Vasai (a village just outside Mumbai). James went to assist as the communities establish youth and university programs. James also attended a youth camp run jointly by the communities in India. The 4-day camp had 100 participants: young adults ranging in age from 15 to 28. Brian Laba, Director of UCO Grand Rapids, made a similar visit to our community in new Zealand. All around the world, the Lord is joining communities that want to know Him and make His name great!

People of Hope, Warren, NJ

On May 6, we held a Festival of Praise, co-sponsored by the Family of Faith (the other Sword of the Spirit community in New Jersey). It was an old-fashioned prayer meeting with great music, worship, preaching, witnessing, and spiritual ministry. To our delight, we had, in addition to our two communities, almost 300 guests! Young and old, different races and nationalities, we were all united in the Holy Spirit. We had a fellowship hour afterward, which went on for almost two hours. People were asking "When is the next one?" and we were happy to tell them we will be hosting another Festival of Praise in September. It was great to be able to work on an evangelistic event together with another community. It was also a blessing to be an oasis for many faithful brothers and sisters in the Lord who often lack the kind of daily and weekly support we find in our life together.

The Saint Paul's Outreach (SPO) chapter of the People of Hope continues to grow in new ways. SPO recently held its annual gala dinner. Our speaker was former US Congressman Mike Ferguson, a faithful Christian and staunch defender of human life, who received the SPO Servant Leadership Award.

"Ignite!" is new evangelistic initiative for high-school age youth. While we have had a youth program in the past, Ignite! has a new format oriented to responsibility and personal choices on the part of the youth, who are challenged to make a decisive commitment to the difficult task of living as a Christian in high-school culture today. The fall retreat this year, with its theme of "thriving" not "surviving" was an important experience for many of the young people who attended.

Photos: top four are the Festival of Praise; bottom is the Ignite! Retreat.



Jacksonville, Florida

The Jacksonville Prayer Community in Jacksonville, Florida, has become an affiliate community in the Sword of the Spirit. The community has about 60 adult members, with new people joining every month. About 100 attend the weekly prayer meetings and monthly Lord's Day celebrations.



In March, the community held a four-day mission outreach. About 250 people came each night and experienced the Lord powerfully. One feature of the outreach was the "prayer tunnel" where people walk through a double line and are prayed with by everyone present.

The Jacksonville Community is starting an outreach to high-school youth and an outreach to university students on the campus of the University of North Florida.



Kairos DC Summer Adventure

The first Kairos DC Summer Adventure was a blast! Six young ladies in the 7th and 8th grades from House of the Lord in DC, People of God in Pittsburgh, and Triumph of the Cross in Maryland participated. Each day was packed with a variety of activities: visiting Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington; hiking Cunningham Falls; touring the Capitol, Natural History Museum, and Martin Luther King Memorial in downtown DC; a trip to Harper's Ferry; and a day at the National Zoo. A highlight of the week was having tea with some older sisters (70 to 90 years old) and finding out what life was like when they were 13 years old. What a blessing to be in trans-generational community!

Summer Households

An important aspect of our University Outreach is summer households. Several Michigan chapters sent us the reports below.



Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nineteen men crammed into two houses on Catherine Street for seven weeks this summer. The men were there to become better disciples, better brothers, and better men (and have a lot of fun). The households had a rigorous life that included daily morning and night prayer, weekly prayer meetings, Bible studies, and small groups. Household member Ben Wulpi says, "I really enjoyed getting to know my brothers and getting to experience the abundant life with them this summer. I fully expect the Lord to use the experiences of this summer in each of our lives—and I look forward to next summer, and seeing more of the same!"

Around the corner from Catherine St, nine women participated in the six-week women's summer household program. Space was tight, and the noise from the construction site next door "helped" us wake up bright and early for morning prayer. Amidst the practical challenges, we built deep relationships with one another as we pursued the Lord together - and the Lord met each of us in our weekly routines and in those relationships old and new. It was one common life, with each woman making unique, personal responses to the Lord's work in her life.



Grand Rapids, Michigan

This summer marked the second University Christian Outreach (UCO) men's summer household in Grand Rapids. Ten brothers shared a rich life of prayer, discipleship, and much laughter from early May through June. The household was a visible expression of the unity between the two UCO chapters in Grand Rapids, and included two Calvin students, five from GVSU, a visiting brother from Miami, and two UCO staff. The brothers hosted the UCO summer course on the fruit of the Holy Spirit.



Lansing, Michigan

A highlight of the summer is our UCO men's summer household. The 12-man household took place mid-May to the end of June and took place at the Servants of the Word house in Lansing. Men grew closer to the Lord and their brothers through seven weeks of prayer, community living and evangelism. The brothers heard some excellent teaching as part of a series on being men of character, including such topics as gaining the character of God, being true, being merciful, and zeal for righteousness. There were also plenty of opportunities to learn skills like how to cook as well as be mentored by resident green thumb Dan Keating in planting and caring for a garden.

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 .

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 USA.

Jerry Munk, Newsletter Editor

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