



Block Parties

In September, we challenged church members to host a Block Party in an effort to connect with their neighbors and build bridges for the Gospel to be shared. We had two Block Parties that were scheduled for September 29, but because of the rain, one was moved to Sunday the 30th and the other was moved to October 6. Both were a huge success even though they were moved from their original date.

Jon and Jonni Meredith, along with Danny and Abby

McReynolds, hosted their block party on Sunday, September 30. They used the community email group to invite everyone to their morning Pancake Block Party, as well as personally inviting neighbors. They had over 20 neighbors show up despite changing the day and time at the last minute. They had a great time connecting with their neighbors and enjoying pancakes. They also had a special visit from a parakeet that had somehow gotten loose from someone's home. All-in-all, it was

a great afternoon; they met some new neighbors and strengthened relationships with others.

Jill and I hosted our Block Party on October 6. Reagan, (continued on page 3)

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Verse of the Month:

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER WITH THESE WORDS

“13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Missions Team Testimonies

We asked the Missions Team members, “In one sentence, share what you have learned or how your faith has increased through the UPG initiative”. Here are their responses:

- Uli Behrends: “God can use even the littlest bit of faith to further His kingdom; sometimes all it takes from me is to show up.”
- Nora Evans: “My faith has been grounded through this process because over a year ago I really didn’t believe that a clear choice was possible from over 5000 different groups. God clearly led us to our people, and the impact that Milwood can have in the world is amazing.”
- Cory Ratzlaff: “I have learned that God has shown me unimaginable grace to be who I am where I am, and I am indebted to Him to be His messenger to the ends of the earth in any way I am called to, in an effort to share that which I could never earn.
- Lynelle Evans: “It has been so exciting to be a part of God’s trimming down the UPGs from 6000 to 2. Simply amazing!”
- Brittany Burkman: “I’ve learned that God can and will, if He wants to, make Milwood a church that not only reaches out to the local community, but gives us the ability to spread the gospel across the world as well. I know so many members are focused on local discipleship, which is great, but He has the power to allow Milwood to do both.”

Spotlight on JD Swiger

Longhorn BSM Outreach Coordinator

My name is JD Swiger and I am so excited to be a part of Milwood! I heard of Milwood by way of another pastor telling me about Nathan’s heart for missions; that is one big thing that drew me here. Over the past few months, while visiting, I have seen it in person, block parties, adopting a UPG...all things that are done in hopes of turning people’s attention to worship the one true God. What an exciting time for the church! Thank you for letting me be a part of it with you all.

Pastor Nathan also wanted me to share with you guys what I do in Austin. I work for the Longhorn Baptist Student Ministry as the “Outreach Coordinator” or missionary to UT students. I am not sure if you guys are aware, but UT is one of the most diverse campuses in the nation. Literally, the nations are in our backyard. How great is that! So my job is to train and equip our student leaders to share Christ with their peers and other students.

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Ella and I went door-to-door with printed invites to about 50 homes in our neighborhood. We also posted a large sign on our mailbox to alert the neighbors to the change of date and to let them know that everyone was welcome. We had a hamburger cookout with a bouncy house from 11am-2pm. For awhile, it was just Jill and I. Needless to say we were nervous that no one would show up. At 11:45, people started coming...and coming and coming. We had over 50 neighbors stop by to eat a burger and get to know each other. Some stayed for 20-30 minutes, but most stayed until almost 3pm. We were able to connect with several families in the area that we had not met before. We are extremely excited at the connections we were able to make and wondered why we hadn't done this sooner. We started a neighborhood email group and are looking forward to planning a movie night in our neighborhood in the coming weeks.

I hope you are encouraged by these testimonies and that you will be looking for ways to intentionally connect with your neighbors. Some people just need a nudge to get out of their comfort zone, and your invitation to a neighborhood gathering might be all they need. We look forward to having several of our neighbors to our house in the next few months. When was the last time you had a neighbor over for dinner? Maybe it's time

for you to knock on your neighbor's door...

-Randy Moore
Student Pastor

D6 Conference

I recently had the opportunity to attend the D6 conference for Family and Children's Ministries. The whole idea behind the conference was making parents, families, and ministry leaders aware of the importance of worship in the home and giving parents the tools to disciple their own families. I started the event thinking that it would be a great opportunity to meet other children's ministry leaders (which it was) and to get a few ideas for Family Worship events at Milwood. As usual, God took everything I was expecting to come away with and amplified it.

Deuteronomy 6: "6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Family Worship was a big key issue in most of the sessions I attended. I kept getting excited about all the great tools that I could bring back and use with the families here and how great it would be to use them in my own

home if ever I was blessed to have children. But God kept placing on my heart that I didn't need to have children of my own to start focusing on having a D6 home. It became evident that I needed to start putting into practice the things that I wanted my children and others to see when in my presence. The big focus of the weekend was that children will not learn what they do not see. We need to be more intentional about what we are showing our kids. We should be reflecting Christ through how we respond to our spouses in the home, reflecting Christ through how we deal with problems and situations in daily life. We need to be more intentional about using Scripture during teachable moments with our kids and using prayer as a verbal tool that shows our children that God is in control of everything. Kids reflect what they see and hear, which makes it that much more important that we make sure they are hearing the Gospel in the home and hearing Scripture throughout their day.

-Christy Bunce
KidCity Director

If you would like to learn more about the different sessions or speakers from the D6 conference, please email Christy Bunce at christy@milwoodbaptist.com



Congratulations to J'Nae Elizabeth Zwaschka & Stephen Lee Cohorn who were married on September 29, 2012!

"In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives in his Spirit."
Ephesians 2:21-22

New Milwood Members

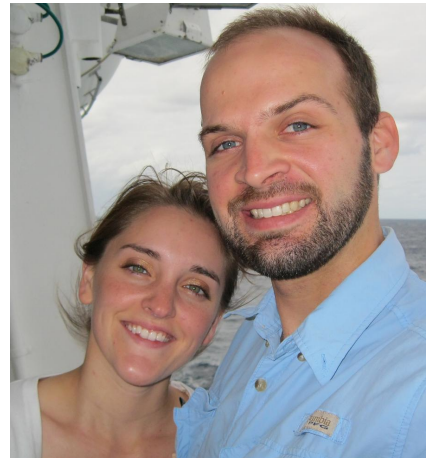
We had several new members join Milwood on October 21, 2012: Daniel and Allison McFarland, JD Swiger, Brandon and Sarah Crawford, and Heather Davis.

Names: Daniel and Allison McFarland

How we met: on a mission trip with First Baptist Church in Port Lavaca, Texas

Jobs: Daniel is a bus driver for Pflugerville ISD and Allison is a NICU nurse at St. David's hospital

Hobbies: Daniel is passionate about biblical studies and the translation of scripture. In his free time, he bicycles with anyone and everyone. Allison is passionate about trapeze, and she was recently accepted into Texas Christian University in Fort Worth for a doctoral program in Nurse Anesthesia



Name: JD Swiger

Job: Outreach Coordinator with Longhorn Baptist Student Ministry

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

How I came to Austin: I moved here after a semi long-term mission trip from China

Hobbies: learning other languages, reading deep books that are challenging, spending time with international students, photography
Interesting fact: I studied Finance at Texas A&M but really feel called to be in ministry in some form

Brandon and Sarah Crawford have a son named Nolan. Here is a photo of Brandon being baptized in October 2012.



9 Months and the Adoption of a UPG

Today (October 17, 2012) I had a great moment. I emailed the Missions Team the UPG Affirmation Ballot for final approval based on our meeting on Sunday, October 14. It turned out to be a moment worth sharing.

As we prepare to present a people group to you, our church, it all seems surreal. We have gone from "Who are the Emirati people?" to sitting in a missions team meeting and thinking "How can we not adopt them?". How long does that change in mentality take? Apparently, 9 months.

It took me about 9 months to move from, "What? We're having a baby?" to "I can't wait to meet my daughter, Jaya." I think God has this timing thing down. I remember people asking me around the time Jaya was due, "Nathan, are you ready?" My answer was, "I am now, but it has taken me 9 months." Perhaps all along God knew that it would take 9 months for the missions team and our church to get ready to adopt a UPG, just as it takes parents 9 months to get ready for their children to be born. Not ready for this UPG yet? Well, this baby is ready to be born!

I kid, of course, in that last sentence. But I am thankful that in our last missions meeting on October 14 there was little discussion over where God has led our church in terms of UPG adoption. Several months ago, we were saying things like, "How in the world will we choose one people group from among 6,700?" It's the type of questions parents ask when they think about adopting. "Can we do this?" "How is this going to work?" "How much will this cost?" "Are we crazy?" We agreed early on that God would have to guide us, because we did not know where to start. He did, and in an amazing way!

Adoption is not always easy. In fact, there are unique challenges that come with adoption. We will surely face them. But with a Father like ours, we can be at peace.

The Lord did not lead me, or the missions team, or our church, to choose a people group in an instant. He did it in 9 months. Now it is the time for us to sign the adoption papers, so to speak. It

is time for us to affirm God's plan to adopt the people of Haiti and the United Arab Emirates. But this is a family choice. Adoption is a choice that a family makes together. Milwood must make this decision together.

As I was emailing the missions team a draft of our Adoption Affirmation Ballot (the adoption papers), a song came on. I was listening to the version sung by Michael Gungor. The song is "My Father's World". The third verse goes like this: "This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad? The Lord is King; let the heavens ring! **God reigns; let the earth be glad.**"

The last phrase brought Psalm 67 to mind. "Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!" As I emailed the missions team the draft of the UPG Affirmation Ballot, and "My Father's World" was playing, there was the sense that something new had been born in our church. Something that has been growing and developing for the last 9 months.

Look for the Missions Team to present the people of Haiti and the United Arab Emirates to our church family in the coming weeks.

-Nathan Loudin
Senior Pastor

