# The Encourager

H.O.P.E. Ministries International Newsletter December 2006 - March 2007

### Washington DC Update... By Dave Kistler

Though very small in land area (if it were a state, it would rank last behind Rhode Island), Washington DC is one of the busiest, most densely populated and highest crime areas in the world. It has two international airports and more museums than almost any metropolitan city. Indeed, the "city" of Washington DC is many things to many people. What do you think of when you hear "Washington DC" or see a picture of one of its many landmark monuments? Most people, when they think of Washington, think of one of three things.

First, many people think INFLUENCE when they think of DC. Washington is, without doubt, one of the most influential cities in the world. From the White House to Embassy Row, DC is alive and buzzing with movers, shakers and "influence peddlers." A number of years ago, as we were planning for our first DC Crusade, Betsy and I had the privilege of eating in a small cafeteria in the basement of the Capitol building. All around us were people whose faces I'd seen on T.V. I commented to Betsy that I could "understand how someone could come to this city with the highest of ideals, only to be corrupted by the awesome aura of power that permeates everything here." Many have done exactly that. One has to look only casually at the political scene to see men and women who have sold their soul in exchange for temporary influence.

Second, some, when considering Washington DC, think INTIMIDATION. With its high profile buildings and even higher profile people, DC can most definitely be an intimidating place. I will never forget the dazed look on the faces of teens, during past crusades, as we've challenged them to pass out tracts



and witness in our nation's capital. The nervous excitement of seeing some politician "on the street" has caused teens to initially feel like they were totally out of place. Yet, by week's end the same teens are infused with boldness and confidence as they've seen God work in life changing power, saving those they've spoken to and invited to the crusade services.

While DC is both an influential and intimidating place, it is, first and foremost, a place of INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY. Tourists from around our nation and various parts of the world flock to DC in June. If the weather is good, the streets and sidewalks around the National Mall are teeming with enthusiastic visitors eager to experience all that DC has to offer. That is why we conduct our crusades at that time of the year. It affords us unparalleled exposure with the gospel of Christ. I urge you to set aside the week of JUNE 10-15, and join us for an absolutely awesome six days of ministry that will leave you forever changed.

Our ministry team will be in DC two weeks this summer. In addition to the crusade week, we will be

# Washington DC Update (continued)

conducting meetings the week prior (June 6-7) inside the Pentagon (our second invitation to minister there). We believe that the two weeks together will provide unprecedented opportunity for gospel impact. We earnestly need your prayers for power as we will present the gospel many times throughout the two weeks. Our entire ministry team (Kistler Family, Daybreak Quartet, Jose' Young, Bill and Janet Saunders, Fred and Flo Stoll) and others will all be participating.

Many across the nation, in churches where we've ministered over the last year and a half, have signed up to help as ushers, counselors, security personnel, choir members. distributors tracts, orchestra of members, etc. If you have not yet signed-up to come may do so via our websitehelp, you www.hopeministriesonline.com. Without those of you who labor so faithfully with us, a DC event would never be possible. Our website will feature periodic updates regarding all the crusade events including the exact location of our tent for the week. Although we have requested the National Mall, 7th Street intersection (the same location as our 2004 crusade), as of this writing we are awaiting the final crusade location assignment from the National Park Service. Pray for definite direction as to location. We desire to be not only where God wants us to be, but also where there will be the highest traffic flow.

If you have any questions regarding the crusade, please feel free to call at 828-302-2060. We look forward to seeing you in DC and to an incredibly exciting week of ministry together. "*O magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together.*" (Ps. 34:3)

### A Sobering Equation By Dave Kistler

"Pride goeth before (precedes) destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

I must confess that in high school, math was not one of my strong points. In fact, algebra, trigonometry, and the like seemed like a total waste of my time. The only math course that made sense to me and seemed even remotely relevant to my future was Continued Next Column



Business Math, which I could understand and really "get into."

The most simple of math equations is the addition equation. One number "plus" another number "equals" the end result. Well, the Bible presents a simple, yet sobering addition equation.

#### That equation is:

Pride + Time = Judgment.

Consider the following examples of this serious principle of simple math.

In Daniel 4, Nebuchadnezzar has a troubling dream of a tree whose height reached into the heavens. Once the tree had grown to great significance, it was suddenly cut down to the Daniel, in his interpretation ground. to Nebuchadnezzar, tells the king that the tree is him, and that God will judge his pride and selfsufficiency. Rather than repent of his sin (Daniel 4:27) Nebuchadnezzar struts through his palatial residence saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built...by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?" Twelve months after his dream, Nebuchadnezzar is driven from power by a strange disease (called by many "boanthropy") which caused him to act like an ox. living outdoors, sleeping under the stars and functioning like the basest of animals. His arrogance had brought him low. He was a living, breathing example of the simple, yet profound equation,

# A Sobering Equation (continued)

#### Pride + Time = Judgment.

Belshazzar, the grandson In Daniel 5, of Nebuchadnezzar, is lifted up in pride, to the point of having the sacred vessels from the Jewish Temple brought into his drunken party. Wine is poured into these precious instruments without any regard for their sacredness in the sight of God. Suddenly, the fingers of a man's hand appear on the wall behind Belshazzar. MENE MENE TEKEL UPHARSIN are the words etched into the plaster. Once again, Daniel is brought in to interpret these strange words. "You have been weighed in the balance and have come up short," Daniel tells the arrogant king. That night, Belshazzar's kingdom and life are taken from him. Once again, he is a glaring example of the equation, Pride + Time = Judgment.

If there is anything that God despises, it is pride. "Him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer" (Ps. 101:5). In a day where it is, not only accepted, but encouraged in the business world, to live arrogantly, may we understand that God views pride differently? For the purpose of this article, may I address the sin of SPIRITUAL PRIDE? Years ago, when commenting on a certain Christian organization, my dad said, "They reek with pride, because of all the talent, resources and people they possess. It may take awhile, but, if things don't change, God will bring them low." That prophetic statement was made well over twenty years ago. Only now is it being proven true. While I tremble at the thought and desire nothing but the best for that organization, I must confess that they have had nothing but difficulty and reduction because of their pride.

Dear friends, may we not yield to the subtle temptation of thinking that we are somebody because of what we have accomplished or because of what we Our separation from the world, don't do. ecclesiastically and personally, is no reason for being lifted up in pride. The size or influence of our churches is no reason for us to respond pride-fully. The significance of our training institutions, their excellent music programs and vast fields of study, are no reason for arrogance. "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Gal. 6:14) Jesus is our All in All. It is because of Him that we ARE or HAVE anything. He is our Salvation, Security and Future. As Paul said, "I am what I am by the grace of God."

The prophet Micah stated it clearly. May we follow his clear admonition, "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to WALK HUMBLY with thy God." (Micah 6:8)

# Mission Trip To England Update...

By Dave Kistler



During the first part of December, 2006, it was our privilege to minister for ten days in the country of England. This was our ninth visit to that spiritually desolate country. The trip was all the more special because we were ministering in the church of my dear friend Larry Curtis, a veteran missionary in England for seventeen years.

In 1987, I met Brother Curtis, who at the time was finishing deputation, sensed a kindred spirit with him and began meeting weekly with he and Pastor Eddie Sapoch for prayer. Those Saturday evening prayer meetings were a source of inspiration, edification and much encouragement to the three of us. When Brother Larry assumed the pastorate of Bethel Free Baptist Church in Birmingham, England, the first two men he invited over to preach were Brother Sapoch and myself. Never will I forget the first prayer meeting I attended with a handful of elderly believers in a tiny Sunday

### Mission Trip To England Update (continued)

school room at Bethel. Two hours of intercession seemed like mere moments as we lifted our praise and petitions to heaven. At the end of that prayer meeting, I vividly remember Brother Sapoch asking, "Do we have to leave now?" Never had I been in such a gathering where I sensed the very breath of heaven. It was on that same trip that Bethel's auditorium, a building that would seat approximately 1000, was reopened and rededicated (for 12 years, the congregation had held services in that small Sunday school room). The Lord knit my heart with that body of believers and began a relationship that has continued to this day.

Our trip this past December was our first to Bethel in ten years. What a delight it was to see dear friends whom we have grown to love dearly. In the last five years, Bethel has seen its share of difficulties and blessings. The church is now a wonderful mix of believers of all age groups and nationalities. There is a warmth in the congregation that most American churches would envy. Those who were saved during our past meetings there have grown tremendously and are vibrant Christians. Many others have been added, especially a significant number of college age youth, a real novelty in England. I cannot say enough about the dedication of Brother Curtis, his wife and dear family. The have invested their lives in the people and immersed themselves in the culture so that they can minister effectively.

In addition to many decisions made in the meetings, we were privileged to meet some dedicated Muslim missionaries, from India, who have invited us to minister in east India next year. Pray for God's wisdom and direction on this and two other opportunities to preach the gospel in Muslim countries in the next several years. These are open doors for which I have earnestly prayed in the last few months.

I encourage you, if you have never done so, to take at least one mission trip a year. It is lifechanging to visit another culture, get outside your comfort zone, and give of yourself to proclaim the gospel to people in desperate need of a Savior. "Lift up your eyes and look out onto the fields, for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35

### Why Evangelism? By Doug Allen St. Petersburg, Fl



There is a disturbing trend occurring in the Church in the west. With many parallels to the first century church in Corinth, some churches are focused on seeking God's power for healing, prosperity, and dramatic displays of spiritual gifts. I believe God still heals, blesses, and gives spiritual gifts, but how does God want his power used? For this answer I believe we must seek His Word. The last words spoken by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ just prior to be "taken up" are recorded in the first chapter of Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

I believe that Jesus was very clear that we can receive His power to be a witness. The thought of sharing the "Good News" with a friend, coworker, or family member can cause apprehension and even fear. What causes this fear that often leads to our inaction in sharing our faith? I believe that the Apostle Paul addressed one reason in the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter of his letter to that first century Church in Corinth: "1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. 4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord."

# Why Evangelism? (continued)

The Apostle Paul points out three courts of judgment. I will speak of only one of these courts to which he gives the least of importance, the court of "public opinion". This court is supposed to be of least importance, but often times we let this court rule our actions. We fear rejection and what others are going to think of us when it comes to witnessing. We must strive to be "stewards of the mysteries of God". This June many of you will be attending the Washington D.C. tent crusade to be held on the mall in the downtown area. What a wonderful opportunity to share the "Good News" of our Lord Jesus Christ. Even though Brother Dave Kistler will be clearly proclaiming the Gospel each day, only so many people will hear those messages.

Can we be used by God during this week in sharing the Gospel? Can we seek God's power for such a task? These questions answer themselves. During this week we will be offering training on sharing the Gospel. This training will also include "on-the-job-training" where we will be going out in small teams to seek "divine appointments" in downtown Washington D.C. The thought of teams of saints hitting the mall excites me. Please begin to pray for this endeavor. Also pray for your participation in the training. You may already be comfortable in sharing your faith. Good! We need your input and assistance in training others. I can think of no greater privilege we are given on this planet than being present when one comes to faith in our Lord. I look forward to seeing and working with you in June.

# My DC Crusade Experience

By Barry Burleson Lexington, NC



Continued Next Column

# Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. (Psalms 100:2)

In the summer of 2004, my family and I had a phenomenal opportunity to do just that. To serve the Lord - to sow the seeds of His word and to watch the Holy Spirit as He manifested Himself in the lives of those willing to accept God's saving grace. How wonderful to be able to see immediate results of the seeds sown. Lives were changed. Souls were saved. God was truly in the midst of it all. For me, the Washington D.C. crusade, organized by H.O.P.E. Ministries, was a life-changing event that ministered to me, my family, and thousands of people at the nation's capital.

My initial thought was, when considering attending and helping with the crusade, that this would be a wonderful vacation for our family. It would be an opportunity to see our nation's capital and enjoy the surrounding sites. Since my family and I had not been to Washington D.C. before, we were all very excited to go. I knew it would be interesting to see people from all over the United States - those from various backgrounds, religions, and ethnicities - but I never expected to experience what I did. Instead of being bored, I was continually being used by the Holy Spirit to reach others for Christ. Unlike other vacations, after a few days we didn't become homesick. It was the feeling of being with God's people and doing His work that made us not miss home at all. I became a crucial part of a unique outreach program that truly made a difference in the lives of hundreds of people that summer. To say the least, my experience far exceeded my expectations.

One word is all you need to describe my experience with the tent ministry – AWESOME. There is no doubt about it. You could feel God's presence there. A non-intrusive, non-inhibiting setting, the DC crusade allowed open and easy access for hundreds of people simply passing by. And, to say the least, the response was tremendous. That year, we were privileged to witness hundreds of people coming to know Christ as their Lord and Savior. Praise God! It was a genuine ministry where real people were doing God's work and demonstrating their sincere love for the Lord. Everyone there was focused on the ultimate goal – to reach the lost.

### My DC Crusade Experience (Continued)

For me, it was a great chance to serve the Lord in a very unique capacity. As I spent the week handling security, which I enjoyed tremendously, it became quite evident that even the smallest job was an essential part of the crusade. All acts of service, no matter how seemingly insignificant, played an important role in the tent ministry. Volunteers, ranging in age and talents, were eager to help and anxious to witness God's work among the variety of people in the D.C. area. It was, indeed, my honor and privilege to participate and serve in this role. It was a pleasure to participate and my soul was truly blessed.

Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things He hath done for you. (1 Sam 12:24)

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Now, you might be wondering where you fit in this picture. You might be saying, "What can I do? I can't sing and I don't know anything about handling security." Remember, God has gifted each one of us to serve by blessing us with the heart, the ability, the personality, and the experience to help others. And there really is a job for everybody. For those who can make the trip to the DC area, you can be sure we will put you right to work doing various jobs - ranging from singing in the choir to handing out water and tracts to passersby. But don't worry; you will have plenty of free time to see the sites as there are only two services each day. Aside from being busy and seeing the tents filled every service, you will have plenty of time to see our nation's capital and its surrounding sites while doing the work of the Lord.

On the other hand, if you are unable to make the journey, you can help by providing financial support to H.O.P.E. Ministries in order to continue and expand their ministry. With the support of God's people, anything is possible. Everything that God has done through H.O.P.E. Ministries is because He has worked through the prayers, finances, and participation of His people.

This entire event has given me a new look on life; it has given me the desire to tell everyone about God and how much He has done in my life. It has truly challenged and changed me as I am sure it will challenge and change you. Please don't miss out on this amazing, rewarding opportunity to serve our Lord.



#### Hello everyone,

It has been awhile since you've heard from me. A lot has happened in my life since I last wrote. The biggest thing is that I am, at present, not at Cleveland Institute of Music. I was not content with the teacher who was assigned to me and requested a change. The teacher I really want is much in demand. However, the switch could not be made, so I have transferred, temporarily, to Appalachian State University in Boone, NC to study with Dr. Nancy Bargerstock, my teacher from high school. I am really enjoying her instruction. I am also playing in two symphonies (Asheville Symphony and Western Piedmont Symphony). With a full class schedule and my two jobs, I am quite busy. Mom and Dad are not complaining at all that I am home. Occasionally, I am able to be in meetings with them.

Please pray for God's direction in my life as far as my future instruction. I am auditioning at several other conservatories as well as, possibly, returning to CIM if the teacher change works out. For now, I am waiting on the Lord, working hard with much practice, enjoying my time at home, and playing with my new cat, Zeus. But that's another story that will have to wait for another time.

#### Keep Looking Up!

Rachael

# Racing to give Hope - "It's all about God"

What an exciting time of year as we rejoice in our Saviors birth! As we anticipate the New Year there is much excitement here at Hope Ministries International (HMI). Much preparation is being done for the 2007 "Proclaiming His Name to the Nation" Tent crusade in Washington D.C. Do not delay in contacting the home office or by going online for information on how you and your church can have a part in this monumental event.

I must first say a big thank you to all the Pastors and individuals who have called (as well as spoken to us directly) offering words of encouragement and prayer support for "Racing to Give HOPE", HMI's new racing outreach ministry. Frankly, the response has been over-whelming! The prayers are so vital and mean so much! I look forward to sharing in more detail what God is doing, and several pastors have already expressed interest in me sharing the vision with their church members.

We continue to make good progress on the new HMI race car. Here are a few pictures of the new chassis my Dad is fabricating! It is our earnest prayer to build a beautiful car that will point people to the Savior. Another big thanks goes to my Dad who has been faithfully working on the car despite 40 plus radiation treatments. Several have asked what are the needs and how can we better pray? In the coming weeks I will expand on those questions in the coming "Racing to Give HOPE" section of <u>www.hopeministriesonline.com</u> and in future editions of The Encourager. In closing, make sure you take time and read Bro. Dave's "Presidents Perspective" periodic columns on the website, which will be of great encouragement... and remember... Race to give someone Hope today!

*Ron Brindisi Racing to Give HOPE* 









# **2007 DC Crusade News**



H.O.P.E. Ministries International is pleased to announce the gracious participation by EE International in our 2007 Washington DC Crusade. Certified trainers from EE will be conducting a Share Your Faith Workshop at the tent site Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the

Crusade week, followed by small groups going out to share the gospel on the streets of DC on Thursday and Friday.

Further details regarding the schedule and sign-up information will be posted on our website **www.hopeministriesonline.com** beginning in March.



For the last five years, Walter Johnson has acted as Event Coordinator for HOPE Ministries International. He has served with distinction in that capacity.

Due to the desire for more time with his children during their formative years (he has a six year old and a two year old), the demands on him as a deacon in his church, and the necessity of giving the needed attention to his full-time job with Columbia Beauty Supply, Walter felt it necessary to step down from his responsibilities with H.O.P.E.

Though he will be greatly missed, others on the HOPE team have already taken up the necessary responsibilities, allowing us to continue to serve our Wonderful Savior with the excellence of which He is worthy.

### Dave Kistler

President H.O.P.E. Ministries International

# Sign Up for DC 2007!

We still need helpers in the following areas...

- Ushers
- Counselors
- Security
- Distribution
- Choir
- Orchestra
- Youth Ministries
- And more!

Won't you prayerfully consider being part of our 2007 outreach? Make your plans **now!** 

Sign up via...

www.hopeministriesonline.com



Visited the website lately? New look and new features for 2007!

# www.hopeministriesonline.com





Future Events Mark Your Calendar! Pray!!!

June 6 – 7, 2007 Pentagon Outreach

June 10 – 15, 2007 3<sup>rd</sup> Washington, DC Tent Crusade

June 24 – 29, 2007, Clayton, GA NW Georgia Tent Crusade

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Festival on the Fourth, Valdese, NC

August 20 – 31 Cambodia Missionary Outreach

**December 2007** (tentative) India Missionary Outreach

**February 17 – 22, 2008** St. Vincent, Caribbean Crusade

June 22 – 27, 2008 Greenbrier, WV Tent Crusade

July 13 – 18, 2008 Pikeville, KY Tent Crusade

# Are YOU on our list? Sign up – Today!

#### www.hopeministriesonline.com

will begin offering electronic notification of key news and events to any who wish to subscribe. By going to the "Are YOU on our list?" section of the website, you can sign up to be notified by **email** of new *Encourager* editions available for download, updates about H.O.P.E. Crusades and other events, and other future communications. Begin signing up March 1, 2007 and "get in the loop".

## A Matter of Prayer

As of this writing, we are awaiting a final decision by the Park Service on the location of the DC Crusade. It will either be on 7<sup>th</sup> St. (where we were in 2004) or across from the Washington Monument (where we were in 2002).

Please pray that the Lord directs us (collectively) to the location of His choosing, and look for confirmation of the site on

www.hopeministriesonline.com

Nathan Kistler Solo CD Give Me Jesus Released July 2006

Includes the following songs:



Completely Free Strength of the Lord I Must Tell Jesus Your Grace Still Amazes Me Mary, Did You Know? Via Dolorosa Ten Thousand Angels I'm Free O Bless the Lord Give Me Jesus



### National Tent Crusade Washington, DC June 10 – 15, 2007



Organizing an event like the H.O.P.E. Ministries 2007 Washington, DC Crusade is kind of like putting a puzzle together.

There are many pieces that must fit together, and, without all the pieces, the puzzle just never becomes the complete picture.

YOU are an important piece.

Will YOU join us serving in our Nation's Capitol June 10 – 15, 2007?

Will YOU pray for us as we labor to share the Gospel?

Would **YOU** help with the financial support we need to carry out this mission?

Perhaps you, your church, Sunday School class, youth group, family, or other small group might consider sponsoring one or more of the following selected expenses for our 2007 Washington DC Crusade...

Bibles – 115 to be given to new members in Congress	Total <u>Need</u> \$1,150	Donations <u>Needed</u> 115	@ Cost of <u>Each</u> \$10.00
Invitation Cards – to be given to members of Congress	\$850	85	<mark>\$</mark> 10.00
John/Romans <mark>- 40,000 to be given out in DC</mark>	\$4,000	200	<mark>\$</mark> 20.00
Water Bottles <mark>– to b</mark> e given out wit <mark>h gospel message</mark>	\$2,500	100	<mark>\$</mark> 25.00
Brochures – 4 <mark>,000 di</mark> stributed to churches and individuals	s \$550	5	<mark>\$</mark> 50.00
<i>For Freedom'<mark>s Dream</mark> –</i> DVD video <mark>s for The Pentagon</mark>	\$2,250	15 <mark>0</mark>	<mark>\$</mark> 75.00
Staff Housing – hotel room rental cost for H.O.P.E. staff	\$4,500	6 <mark>0</mark>	<mark>\$</mark> 75.00
Chairs – renta <mark>l of 1500 c</mark> hairs for t <mark>he week</mark>	\$3,000	30	<mark>\$1</mark> 00.00
Port-A-Johns <mark>– rental of</mark> eight (8) fo <mark>r the week</mark>	\$1,600	8	<mark>\$2</mark> 00.00
Generator – q <mark>uiet run di</mark> esel <mark>ge</mark> nera <mark>tor one week rental</mark>	\$1,600	4	<mark>\$</mark> 400.00
Video Project <mark>or – purchase of p</mark> roje <mark>ctor for use with tent</mark>	\$2,500	5	<mark>\$5</mark> 00.00

Want to contribute towards our overall budget of \$38,000? Any Amount will help!

Your tax deductible contribution can be made through our website

www.hopeministriesonline.com or mailed directly to: H.O.P.E. Ministries International PO Box 11415 Hickory, NC 28603 828-327-9015 Thank You!

If you feel led as an individual, family, or church to give to H.O.P.E. Ministries International, please indicate the categories.			
\$20.00\$25.00\$100.00Specified Amount			
Monthly - Quarterly - Yearly - One Time - H.O.P.E. Ministries International (Please circle the appropriate categories)			
H.O.P.E. Ministries International Name:			
Hickory NC 28603-0415 Address:			
Please make checks payable to H.O.P.E. Ministries International * Please cut out along dotted line			

# Kistler Prayer Journal

Praise - Rejoice with us:

- Hundreds saved and lives changed this past year
- A year of great physical health
- Ever expanding open doors across the nation and around the world
- Pastor Vos back in the pulpit and behind the wheel of his new truck (given to him by the church family)
- Outstanding mission trip to England with much fruit

# Prayer - Intercede for us:

- Many to be reached during our June 6-7, Pentagon Outreach and the June 10-15, National Mall Tent Crusade
- The financial needs of both weeks in Washington, DC
- Salvation of many at the North Georgia Tent Crusade, June 24-29
- Significant impact at our Fourth of July Festival in Valdese, NC
- Safety over many miles of travel in coming months
- Wisdom and health for Kistlers, Saunders, Stolls, and rest of H.O.P.E. Team
- Complete recovery of our Pastor (recovering from Leukemia)