

The Encourager

Dave Kistler Family Ministries & H.O.P.E. Crusades Newsletter
May – July 2005

Ministries Update...

By
Dave Kistler

Rarely in a lifetime does one get the opportunity to realize a passionate dream once, much less twice. June 14-18, 2004, I was able to fulfill a dream for a second time. We were, again, privileged to proclaim the gospel on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

The timing of our second Washington Crusade was all the more critical because of the passing of former President Ronald Reagan, the week prior to the crusade. We were able to be in town to witness the grandeur and majesty of the Reagan funeral. As a result of that solemn event, the city was more open than ever to the gospel.

The week prior to the crusade, eight men representing H.O.P.E. Ministries converged on Capitol Hill to participate in Operation Good News. This evangelistic outreach consisted of making visits to the offices of our U.S. Senators and Congressmen to present each of them a copy of the Bible. We were overwhelmed by the favorable response that we received. Over and over, we heard the comment, "I can't believe that you've come here with no other agenda than to give us a beautiful Bible and to pray for us." Because of the openness of our elected officials, we are praying about an annual outreach to our elected officials.

On Tuesday of the crusade week, I had the opportunity to serve as Chaplain for the Day at the U.S. Senate. My heart was greatly encouraged as I met with the Senate Chaplain and his assistant prior to opening that day's session of the Senate in prayer. Both the Assistant Chaplain and Dr. Black, the Senate Chaplain, were overwhelmed with our generosity in giving them a leather bound Bible. It is amazing how open those in DC are, if they are approached in a kind, but direct way with the gospel.

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On Wednesday afternoon of the crusade, we were approached by a European film crew (who had been in town filming the National Gay Pride Parade) requesting permission to film our crusade for a documentary they were producing on American life. They ended up filming over two hours of the services and doing an hour interview with me. I was able to clearly explain how America blends patriotism and faith, but more importantly, I was able to clearly present the gospel message, all of it on camera.

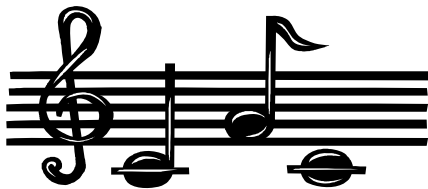
Throughout the week, over 350 teens from across the nation, as well as several hundred adults helped us pass out 40,000 John/Romans booklets throughout the city of Washington. One teen handed a booklet to a Pentagon official, which resulted in a call to our office requesting hundreds of our John/Romans for distribution at the Pentagon. In addition, the Pentagon Chaplain has asked us to come to the Pentagon June 8-9 for crusade services in the Pentagon courtyard. I will speak on Wednesday, June 8, at the Pentagon Prayer breakfast. On Thursday, June 9, we will hold two services in the courtyard. Pray earnestly for these meetings that many will be saved.

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Ministries Update... Cont.

Approximately 1,000 attended the DC crusade each night. We saw scores saved and sensed the city begin to open up to us by weeks end. Though we did not plan to go back to DC again, because of the friendships that we have made in the city, we do now plan to go back to Washington in 2007. We now have a DVD of the DC Crusade available entitled "Taking Christ to the Capitol." We have also just completed a professional DVD for distribution at the Pentagon, in June, called FOR FREEDOM'S DREAM--A Tribute to American Military Service and Sacrifice. This DVD includes patriotic and military imagery and is 22 minutes in length. The last 5 minutes of the DVD is a gospel presentation by Colonel Brad Lapiska, a veteran of both Gulf Wars. We plan to distribute 4,000 of these at the Pentagon during our time there. I have already begun receiving request for these from military bases in Iraq as well as here in the U.S.. We earnestly desire your prayers for a wide distribution of this DVD around the world.

As you can see, we have many doors open to us. Never have I seen such a wide-open opportunity to reach people with the gospel. Pray for God's power and blessing on all He has called us to do. For further details on the DC Crusade and Pentagon Outreach, visit our website www.hopeministriesonline.com.



Betsy's Notes

Since the recent stirring of Mt. St. Helens, I have been reminded of my experience on that mountain several years ago. On August 5, 1999, Dave and I awakened at about 4:00 am after getting only three hours of sleep. We met a group of friends from a church in Portland at 4:45 am in

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order to drive to the base of the mountain to start our ascent at 8:00 am. Our guide led us up the mountain through the heavily wooded trail. From there we climbed over large boulders to the final part of the mountain—a grueling section of volcanic ash. After six hours of rigorous hiking, we reached the summit of Mt. St. Helens. We spent about 30 minutes at the summit looking for miles in every direction as well as below us at the lower peaks of the Pacific Northwest. We felt like we were on top of the world. Finally, reality set in as we realized that we now had to hike down the treacherous mountain path.

As we began our descent, one of the adult ladies in our group collapsed because of exhaustion and could go no further. Because our cell phones would not work on the mountain, we had to send two teenage boys ahead of us to bring help. Dave and I knew that it would take about four hours until help would arrive, so we decided to start down the obscurely marked trail alone. To complicate matters, Dave had volcanic ash blown into his eyes while at the top of St. Helens, making his eyes very painful and his ability to see difficult. In addition, Dave's blood sugar was dropping making him feel weak. The only food items we had left from our lunch were a few almonds.

We began the descent, me leading Dave down the mountain. (May I Add, that is the only time that I

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Betsy's Notes Cont

have had permission to lead him anywhere!) Many times, the path was very clearly marked, but there were several times that we came to a fork in the road. I had to stop and look for the arrow of direction that was usually posted on a tree. The painted arrow was either worn by the weather or covered by some overgrown branches of ivy. On one instance, I led us down a path that appeared to be the correct one, but after about ten minutes of hiking realized that this was a secondary path that led us to the primary path. To make a long story short, after five hours we reached the base of Mt. St. Helens. Dave and I both were physically and mentally exhausted.

In life, there are many paths we can take. Many of them appear to be the right path to take toward God's will for our lives. When I was in college, my mother would always end her letters with Proverbs 3:4-5—*“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct thy paths.”* I still look to those verses to give me direction and comfort as I face difficult decisions in my life and in the lives of our children.

There is no need to worry or fret about the future; if we trust Him and not in our own human ability to make something work. If we trust Him as the omnipotent, omniscient God who delights in caring for His children, God will direct our path. Sometimes in our pride and self-determination, we forget to seek the Lord in many decisions and take a secondary path that may lead us down a rabbit trail for a while. However, in His lovingkindness and mercy, the Lord somehow leads us to the main path of His will when we realize our blunder and turn to Him.

So when you don't see the way ahead of you, just look for that arrow of direction from God's Word and wise counsel. Soon you will find yourself confidently and happily traveling down the path of God's will.

Pentagon Outreach Update...

By Dave Kistler

As many of you know, we have been invited to the Pentagon, June 8-9 this summer for crusade services in the courtyard of the Pentagon. This opportunity came as a result of our military themed

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John/Romans which we distributed this past summer during our Washington, DC Crusade.

I will speak at the Pentagon Prayer Breakfast on Wednesday, June 8. Then on Thursday, June 9, we will hold our services in the Pentagon courtyard. The courtyard is an outdoor five-acre tract of land in the center of the Pentagon complex. We will have direct contact with as many as three to five thousand people during our services. As a gift to all who come to either of the two services, we have prepared a professional DVD entitled FOR FREEDOM'S DREAM--A Tribute to American Military Service and Sacrifice. This DVD is of the highest quality and includes patriotic images, man on the street interviews (ordinary Americans expressing their gratitude to our troops for their service and sacrifice), and a powerful gospel presentation by Colonel Brad Lapiska. We have already received numerous requests for this DVD from military personnel both here and abroad. Approximately 4,000 of these DVD's will be distributed at the Pentagon alone. In addition, we are taking thousands of our John/Romans for distribution as well. The entire cost for this event, including the DVD's is \$15,000. Because this opportunity came after the budget year began, we did not budget any funds for this event. We need your prayers and financial partnership with us to accomplish this great evangelistic opportunity.

Our God is so good to allow this, and many other unique outreach opportunities. Pray for God's continued power and direction for us in these incredible days. If you can partner with us financially in the Pentagon Outreach, you may designate your contributions to:

H.O.P.E. Ministries International
(Pentagon Outreach)
P. O. Box 11415
Hickory, NC 28612

Thank you for your sharing with us in reaching one of the greatest mission fields in the world, the United States military.



Without doubt, the week of April 10 – 17 was an incredible one for the Kistler family. On Wednesday, April 13th, Rachael was privileged to solo with the Charlotte Symphony, a reward for winning the Young Artists Competition in Charlotte several months ago. Rachael did an awesome job and received a standing ovation for her performance. About 18 friends of ours attended the concert with us.

On Sunday, April 17th, Rachael performed her Senior recital which was combined with her graduation ceremony. Rachael did a 45-minute concert which was followed by a moving ceremony with numerous touching sections. Two photo montage segments brought many tears as we traced Rachael's life from childhood to the present. Pastor Gary Dull of Faith Baptist Church, Altoona, PA, brought an excellent challenge to all who attended titled "A Prescription for a Life Full of Potential." Brother Dull stressed the absolute importance of the Word of God in our lives. The entire ceremony was followed by a wonderful reception.

It hardly seems possible that Rachael is now graduated. It's as if it was yesterday that she was a baby in our arms. Parents, cherish the moments that you have with your children. They are great

days, but very short ones. Numerous times yesterday, I was told, "You are a blessed man, Dave, to have such a great family." Indeed, I am blessed and thankful for God's blessing in the form of a wonderful family.

God's word says that "*children are an heritage of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is His reward. As arrows in the hands of a mighty man, so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them.*" Today, we passed another milestone in launching Rachael into the next stage of life. We pray that she hits the mark that God has for her and that she is greatly used of Him in some strategic place of service. If that occurs, we, as parents, will be blessed beyond measure.



Rachael Elizabeth Kistler was born in Tampa, FL in 1987 and began studying the violin with Suzuki teacher, Paula Zimmerman of Hickory, NC, at the age of two. At the age of nine, she began her studies with Concertmaster Brian Reagin of the North Carolina Symphony. Rachael has also studied with Concertmaster Xiao-qing Yu (Greenville, SC Symphony), Concertmaster John Fadial (Greensboro, NC Symphony) and currently studies with Dr. Nancy Bargerstock at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC.

Rachael has participated in many competitions over the years, and has recently won first place in the college division at Gardner-Webb University, the strings division of the Symphony Guild 2004 Young Artists Competition, the strings division of the Hayes Music Scholarship competition at Appalachian State University, and most recently a Grand Prize in the Symphony Guild 2005 Young Artists Competition, granting her a solo performance with the Charlotte Symphony. She attended the Eastern Music Festival in 2004 as a scholarship recipient, where she had the opportunity to play under conductors Jose-Luis Novo (former Asst. Music Director of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra) and Scott Sandmeier (Director of orchestral studies at the State Music Conservatory in Freiburg, Germany). While at EMF, she also had the

Rachael Bio Cont

opportunity to participate in master classes given by the EMF faculty, Jeffrey Multer, Julia Fischer, and Eastman pedagogue Charles Castleman.

Rachael lives in Hickory, NC, but also travels extensively with her family and father, who is an evangelist. Because of her frequent travels, she was enrolled as a senior in the Texas-Tech Extended Studies Program and graduated in April with honors. Rachael is a substitute player with the Western Piedmont Symphony in Hickory, NC, and performs frequently as a soloist and chamber musician. In the future, Rachael hopes to obtain a performance degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, devote her life to being a full-time soloist and orchestral musician, as well as teach privately.



Rachael is about to fulfill a long-time dream of furthering her violin training. She has been accepted for fall 2005 to the finest strings conservatory in the nation, The Cleveland Institute of Music. The Lord has given Rachael an exceptional talent and she feels that the Lord is leading her to attend this fine institution in order to continue to develop this talent for God's glory.

Rachael has received almost \$24,000 of scholarship money, grants and federal aid. However, the total for tuition, room and board for one year is approximately \$36,000. (*Yes, you can put your teeth back in now!!!!*) Please pray with us that the Lord would meet this need in Rachael's life. If you as an individual would like to make a donation to Rachael's college fund, you may send your donation to :

Rachael Kistler College Fund
2872 Knob Mtn. Dr.
Connelly Springs, NC 28612

We do thank you for your earnest prayer about this matter.



Hannah's Happenings

I had a fun time last summer. We got to go to a canyon in Utah. We took a trail that led us to a 1600 year-old tree. The trail was dangerous because there were many drop offs and no fences to keep you from falling off. Many times, we had to stay on one side of the trail because you could slip and fall. Along the trail, we saw cute little chipmunks and chubby little ground hogs. Finally, we arrived at the old tree. It had a lot of cracks in it and we were able to pull a piece of the bark off of the 1600 year old tree as a souvenir.

I have two friends that really mean a lot to me. One of them is Lindsey Debored. She lives in Mountain City, TN. She is about my age. I don't get to see her very often, but when we do get together, we have a great time. My other good friend is Ashley Weberg. She is from Seattle, WA area. I usually get to see her every summer when we go to the Northwest for meetings. Ashley has a brother named Tate, who is a special friend, too. We talk on the cell phone at least once a month. I wish I could see my friends more often.

I have been busy with school. It's hard to believe that it's already 2005 and I am almost done with school. I have also been practicing piano a lot. My mom and I are playing duets together now. It is fun to play together.

I look forward to seeing many of you this year. I hope you've had a great year!

Love,
Hannah



Nathan's Notes

The year 2004 was a wonderful year in many blessed and eventful ways. My family and H.O.P.E. Ministries had the opportunity to return to Washington, DC to conduct a National Tent Crusade for the second time. Not only was D.C. a blast (as I got to see many friends from approximately 65 churches), but it was a time of spiritual enrichment for all who attended.

After the D.C. crusade, my family and I were able to spend the whole summer at home with our five Labrador retrievers and FAT cat (Butterscotch). After much relaxation, we left for the Pacific Northwest and spent three weeks at my favorite camp, Camp Northwest, and two of my favorite churches: Open Door, and Harvest Baptist. While in Oregon, I was able to spend quality time with my friends Ben, Ramona, Lori, and Nichole.

After we returned from the Northwest, we traveled to Texas for yet another tent crusade. While in Texas, we visited Crawford, Texas (home of President Bush), spent time with friends, and, most importantly, ate World-famous Bush's chicken (Bush's chicken has NO affiliation with the First Family). After the Texas tent crusade, we traveled to a few more meetings before the start of the Holiday season. Grace Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA was our last meeting before returning home for Thanksgiving. We had a great week in Georgia (in many ways), but it was especially good because I met Amber.

After the Thanksgiving holidays, we began preparing for the Christmas season. It was great to be home at Christmas, the best time of the year. I had a wonderful Christmas and a great new year. On January 9th, I turned 15 and have taken driver's ed! I hope all of you had a great year... See ya'll in 2005!

Love, Nathan



Rachael's Happenings

From June 26 to July 31 of this past summer, I had the privilege to attend the Eastern Music Festival in Greensboro, NC. I was one of among two-hundred four other students ranging in age from 12 – 22, from 49 different states and 12 different countries. The festival invited 57 violins, 22 violas, 21 cellos, 12 double basses, 9 flutes, 8 oboes, 8 clarinets, 8 bassoons, 10 horns, 8 trumpets, 8 trombones, 2 tubas, 6 percussionists, and 3 harpists to comprise two student orchestras, that performed 10 concerts in five weeks. The two orchestras performed major literature such as Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 "Pathetique", Shostakovich Symphony No. 9, Strauss "Death and Transfiguration", Dvorak Symphony No. 8, Maurice Ravel's "Daphnis and Chloe" as well as literature by other composers. The Eastern and Guilford festival student orchestras were conducted by Jose Luis Novo (Cincinnati, OH) and Scott Sandmeier (Solden, Germany).

One of the highlights of my summer was sitting assistant concertmistress for Dvorak's 8th Symphony, beside concertmistress, Elena Graf of Solden, Germany. I had a wonderful time and learned many new things as a result of this challenging experience.

In September, I started taking lessons with a new teacher, Nancy Bargerstock, at Appalachian State University. A graduate of Juilliard, Nancy has helped me prepare auditions for Appalachian State, Cincinnati Conservatory, and the Cleveland Institute of Music. I have been accepted to Appalachian State, Cincinnati Conservatory, and Cleveland Institute of Music. My first choice is Cleveland Institute of Music. Please pray that everything will go smoothly as I discern what the will of the Lord is for my life. Also, pray for me as I make the adjustment from traveling with my family to being in college this fall.

Love, Rachael

Website Info...

If you haven't visited the H.O.P.E. Ministries website (www.hopeministriesonline.com) in a while, (or ever), now would be a great time to stop by for a visit and see the new features. These include:

- 1) A weekly column called the President's Perspective by Bro. Dave. A new message is posted every Monday. Just click on The President's Perspective at the top right corner of the home page to read the current message. To read previous messages, just click on Messages Online at the left side of the screen.
- 2) The 2005 Itinerary is available to view or download in PDF format by clicking on the HMI Itinerary on the left side of the screen. Use it as a reminder to prayer for our safe travel and fruitful meetings. If you're in the neighborhood of one of our meetings, come see us!
- 3) In the HMI Merchandise section, you can now purchase music tapes and CD's online, subscribe to our newsletter The Encourager, purchase DVD and video tapes, and even donate to H.O.P.E. Ministries should the Lord lead you to do so.
- 4) We have created email addresses so you can correspond with the following individuals:
davekistler@hopeministriesonline.com
betsykistler@hopeministriesonline.com
rachaelkistler@hopeministriesonline.com
nathankistler@hopeministriesonline.com
hannahkistler@hopeministriesonline.com
walterjohnson@hopeministriesonline.com
billsaunders@hopeministriesonline.com

Future updates and enhancements to the website will include:

- Access to additional recorded messages and sermon library online
- Photos from the 2004 DC Crusade
- Video updates
- A new look for the website

Please check back often to keep abreast of breaking news, Bro. Dave's columns, and other new information. Many thanks to Joel Philips in Raleigh for his great work and ministry as webmaster.

New for 2005

Patriotic DVD With Gospel Presentation



4,000 to be given out on June 9th 2005
H.O.P.E. Ministries
Pentagon Outreach

We Are The Reason - CD Produced, Performed, and Recorded by Nathan Kistler

Includes the following songs:



We Are The Reason
The First Noel
Mary Did You Know
Away In A Manger
What Child Is This?
Silent Night
What Gift Can I Bring?
O Holy Night

Christmas will be here before you know it!

New Kistler CD Our Strength, Our Song Released March 2005



Includes the following songs:

'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus
Mary Did You Know
Our Savior' Love
Were It Not For Grace
I Worship You
His Strength Is Perfect
How Beautiful
To Rescue A Sinner Like Me
Near The Cross
God Bless America

If you feel led as an individual, family, or church to give to the Dave Kistler Family Ministries and/or H.O.P.E. Ministries International, please indicate the categories.

___ \$20.00 ___ \$25.00 ___ \$50.00 ___ \$100.00 _____ Specified Amount

Monthly - Quarterly - Yearly - One Time - H.O.P.E. Ministries International - Crusade Ministry
(Please circle the appropriate categories)

Dave Kistler Family Ministries
Tabernacle Baptist Church
1225 29th Ave Dr NE
Hickory NC 28601-9662

Name: _____
Address: _____

Please make checks payable to Dave Kistler Family Ministries or
H.O.P.E. Ministries International for the crusades

* Please cut out along dotted line

Kistler Prayer Journal

Intercede For Us

- Pentagon Outreach – June 8-9 of 2005. (28,000 employees work in the Pentagon; 5,000 visitors each day – 33,000 potential souls to be reached)
- Potential evangelistic outreach to Morocco and Iraq
- Potential New York City Crusade
- Miami Tent Crusade – January 2006
- Wisdom for future expansion of H.O.P.E. Ministries
- Successful local church meetings in 2005 (over 42 scheduled in 2005)
- Direction for Rachael as she seeks God's will regarding college

Rejoice With Us

- Very successful year of meetings (400+ saved)
- Safety over the 50,000 plus miles traveled this year
- Outstanding Washington, D.C. Crusade
- Wide open doors of ongoing ministry to D.C. area
- Growing evangelistic outreach to the U.S. Military