

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! - 1 John 3:1

Hey, check me out. If you are reading this, that means we got out a newsletter before Christmas this year. I do not know about you, but does it seem like 2006 and 2007 just ran together somehow? It has been a mad house around here, and I have spent lots of time on the road already in 2007 and it looks like it is not going to slow down anytime soon. I will not bore you with all the details but I do want to share with you a couple of things that are really exciting.

As some of you know, we have been working on a project with the worship band Orman's Floor called "Somewhere, Someone Loves You." The project is a c.d. that contains four worship songs recorded live by the band at our weekly college event called "the Way" and about 20 minutes or so of commentary about the truth and relevance of each song. The heart behind the project is simple. We live in a society where more and more people are turning a deaf ear to the gospel of Jesus. There is a whole generation of young people who are missing from the modern day church, for lots of reasons. This c.d. is a very simple and effective way to get the "good" news in their hands. It challenges people with the simple truth about who God is and how much He loves them, but it only works if the people of God will be diligent in getting it out to those who are in desperate need of it. We are doing our best to get it into the hands of believers that will be faithful to use it as a tool to overwhelm the world with the love of Christ. The c.d.s cost about \$2 each to produce so we need help on that end as well, but because of a recent donation, we were able to produce our first one thousand copies. So, if you have not received a copy please send me an email or come by the Way or just give me a call. If you are a youth pastor or pastor, consider doing what several churches have already done and order a bunch of them to put into the hands of your folks as a tool for them to share with those around them that are in need of some good news.

Speaking of good news, let me share a bit about one of the things that God is teaching us right now. A few months ago, I was asked to speak at a disciple now for a friend of mine in Midland on the topic of IDENTITY. I usually do not do so well when I ask to follow a certain theme, but I felt like God wants me to learn to honor the vision of those that call me to come and share in their ministry. I was not prepared for the incredible things that God was getting ready to teach me through this study. You see, God only sees people in two different categories. The first is those that do not have a relationship with Him through Christ. This group the Bible calls, lost, broken, children of wrath, destined for destruction, deceived, unapproved, and

enemies of the cross. Although in this world, we have come up with all kinds of ways to identify ourselves, the truth remains, without Christ we can be nothing but orphans without a way to change our identity. The other identity that the Bible describes, are those that are found IN CHRIST or those that have a relationship with Jesus. This group the Bible deems as children of God, heirs to the throne of God, adopted, given much authority and power, saved, redeemed, brothers to Christ, more than conquerors, children of light, and approved. Yeah that's right-approved by God. This is a simple truth of the Bible and has been there all along, but the problem comes when those that are IN CHRIST live like they are not. Ask yourself this question. Do you believe in Christ in you? Does your life declare to the world that you are a child

of King, free, given authority and power, and approved? Follow that question with this one. How much of your life are you living to gain the approval of others or God? How many nights has the bondage of this need for approval pushed you to do things you knew you should not or even to not do things that you felt like you should? If you are a follower of Christ, I want you to do me a favor right now. Relax for a second, breathe in and listen. YOU ARE APPROVED. You are approved because you are found to be IN CHRIST. It is certainly time for those of us that are IN CHRIST to begin to live lives of love, joy, passion, freedom, power, and authority over the enemy. If you are reading this today and you are unsure of which of



Kait and Kaiden Kirkland

these identities is truly yours, I challenge you to take some time and get honest before the Lord until you receive an answer.

Please be in prayer for us in this time. We are moving ahead with the work on the Mattaw Children's Village we are building in Kenya and our plate is extremely full with opportunities to preach and share. We are in need of some direction from the Lord on several things and it seems like we are always in need of God's provision financially. We trust Him as we know many of you do, but we ask for you to partner with us in prayer for the next step, one at a time. Kimberly, Kaiden, Kait, and I all send our love and gratitude to each of you. Please send me an email or leave me a voice message as God prompts your heart and please continue to pray for my family as I travel to share the good news. Take some time today, to share with a world that is so burdened by the bad news, the good news that God is still on His throne.

Love Jesus
Love You

Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory - Romans 8:17

On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. - 1 Thessalonians 2:4

JASON ARNOLD

Jason Arnold has been a long time Katalyst team member. We thought you might like to hear his story...

Growing up I knew there was a God. My mother is a devout Catholic so obviously I was raised in that religion. I went through first communion but never did go through confirmation. I never liked going to the CCD classes and church. Well, like is an understatement...I hated to go to church. It was so boring and I never felt like I fit in. But even without the church I was raised with high moral values. My dad is a stand up man. He is honest, fair, and respectful. He has instilled these values in my brother and I ever since we were young. So growing up I knew the difference between right and wrong and good and bad. The consequence of getting in trouble often was the determining factor of my decisions. I didn't want to make Dad mad. Mom was ok but not Dad. I went through school recognized as a good kid. My older brother sort of set the standard. (If anyone reading this has an older sibling you know exactly what I mean.) In eighth grade, my best friend invited me to go to his church on a Sunday. I was like "What the heck, I'm bored out of my mind at my church." We went to church and wow-what a change...I mean people were dancing and clapping their hands and crying. I was so blown away. What was weird is that I wasn't wierded out by it....I wanted to know more and why these people were like that. I kept going to the church and one night in the summer the power team came to town....they gave an invitation and I went down not really knowing what was going on. The next morning I woke up and felt weird. I felt brand new. I used to have a foul mouth and this day I didn't cuss, I mean I didn't even want to, I didn't even think to. One of my friends walked by and said I heard what happened last night. I was like, "What are you talking about?" and she said I got saved. So, still not knowing what she was talking about, I was like that is great. School went on and I was growing in my faith. I found out I was a seasonal follower, in football season I didn't seek, in the summer I sought with all my heart always coming into the next year desiring never to grow cold like the years before. My senior year came around and I thought I knew what I wanted to go to college for....I was wrong, I had no idea. On my senior trip I went to Cancun and the following week I went to church camp. I felt a little weird after the week I just spent in Cancun doing what you can only imagine. Camp was awesome and one of the days I told the Lord that I didn't know what to do with my life and I asked Him what he wanted me to do.....His answer was quick! He showed me it was going to be ministry! I was like whoa heck no, I could never do that. SO I ran.....I ran hard. In college, my goal was to be popular.....And I received my reward in full. I knew hundreds of people



Jason Arnold

and those people knew me. I was drinking about 5 out of the 7 days of the week. I didn't really care about the girl factor, all I really cared about were hanging out with my boys Jack and Jim (in case you don't know that is whiskey not dudes). That was really all I thought about. Then one night I got arrested and spent the night in jail.....All I thought about was this ad in the school newspaper that said "Intermission at 7:00 on Thursdays." I never went because that was the night I would go out.....well now that my nights would be free I went the following week. That wonderful night I heard the gospel again. During the invitation, I heard the Lord speak to me, He said if you don't get up out of the chair and talk to someone you will never come back to me.....SO I GOT UP!!!! The Lord called me back Prodigal Son Style and man it has been a rollercoaster since but I have loved every minute. Looking back, the reason I wanted to party was because I was always looking for the next best thing.....I mean every time I went out had to top the last experience.....every new experience had to some way some how beat the last. The night the Lord called me he showed me that the world could never give me what I wanted.....to be complete, fulfilled, and satisfied. The Lord did this....in a split second. Thank you Jesus!!!!!! It has been three years since that fateful night and everyday is a new day....one that the Lord has made. I know now that everyday that I am given to live on this planet has been ordained for a purpose. During those three years, I have grown so much. I served under Katalyst Ministries which is where I was truly discipled even though I didn't know it at the time. For a time I left Katalyst to be a youth intern at Paul Ann Baptist Church. The time with the church was very educational and it stretched me in ways I thought I would never be stretched. Here in the present I am working in my current mission field: CalTech. I know the Lord has called me to a life of sharing HIS life with others full time but in the mean time my avenue of ministry is at work, in the gym, and everywhere I go. It's non stop, but it's who I am and who He has made me to be. There have been pains, but those come with growing. The waters have been wavy and placid....but you know what keeps me seeking....Knowing that I can seek to know Him everyday for a million years I will never get to the bottom of HIM!!!! So there is that much more to know. Hallelujah!!! So whether you are a believer or unbeliever, I hope you discover that God is awesome and always faithful! Seek Him!

Jason Arnold (Cheese)

THE GREAT COMMISSION

I wanted you to meet a few former and current Katalyst team members who are carrying the good news to those in need of it all over the world. Please make it a point to pray daily for them.

Brandon McGinnis - Brandon actually worked for us for the past year and has now returned to Kentucky to work with a small church plant.

Kristin Booth is finishing up a two year internship with the Angelo State Baptist Student Ministry.

Kimberly McKinney is now Kimberly Huffman and is serving in the brand new Mattaw Children's Village in Kenya with her new husband and much missed Katalyst team member, Bud Huffman.

Georgia Huckabee and Amy Medlock both help out in the youth department with my good friend Zach Spurgers at Christian Church of San Angelo.

Brandon Hughes is the current youth intern at Paulann Baptist Church

David Hines is a missionary in Australia

Adam Skelton is a missionary at an undisclosed location in South East Asia.

Cara Bebee just finished her first of many missions to the unreached people groups of the world- she has been some places that I can not even pronounce.

Lexee Welch and Ricky Salvato just returned from a church building project in Kenya with my good friend David Burk.

Tyler Weldon and Brandon Hughes are preparing right now to spend the summer of 2007 in Kitale, Kenya with Bud and Kim.

ANDREA HONEA

WaaahhhhHHHH!! 6:00 a.m. Oh man...can't we just sleep in a little bit? I'm not quite sure how I—who's NOT a morning person at all-- managed to have a baby who is ready to rise and shine so early every morning. Unfortunately since he is an early riser, I'm not much of a night person now either. I'm officially a fuddy-duddy. But gotta sleep sometime right?

It's funny though how I find myself enjoying the mornings anyway and smiling at my 10 month old son, Layne, even when I kinda wish I was still asleep. Then the morning turns into afternoon, and the afternoon to evening, and sometimes at the end of the day, I wonder..."What did I do all day?" Sometimes the answer is just change diapers, feed Layne, clean up Layne, put in laundry, run errands, pay bills--well go to the bank first, then pay bills, switch laundry, put Layne down for nap and scam to squeeze in what work I can, wash bottles, fold laundry, sweep floor (or Layne will inevitably find scraps from last night's dinner on the floor and have himself a snack), cook dinner, give Layne a bath, put him to bed, clean up from dinner, crash on the couch. Oh and find time for a shower at some point! Of course I am being dramatic. We make plenty of time for wagon rides, playing with the 'dod-dies' (dogs), reading books, and visiting Mammie and Granddaddy just down the street. Life is definitely good and not entirely crazy all the time. But on the days that are crazy-I have occasionally asked myself at the end of the day, "Can I genuinely be satisfied with life if this is what I do all day everyday?" And my answer is always, "Yes. Yes with my whole heart!" Raising my son is my passion, not just my duty. I can sincerely feel like I have accomplished something great at the end of the day if all I have done is care for him. It's who I am, not what I do. I am his mother and I am compelled to love him everyday. My life has changed forever because of him and I can't imagine what it would be like if I had never had him.

I hear many of the same thoughts from people who have been to Africa or other foreign countries. It is often said, "If you just go to Africa, your life will be changed forever in a way you can't experience here in America." I understand the passion that feeds that way of thinking; I tend to feel the same way about my son. But I must disagree. What about the people who will never

have the chance to go to a foreign country? What about couples who can't have children, or adults who never marry? Will they miss out being changed forever and experiencing true brokenness? I don't believe so. I have been to Africa and loved the trip. I definitely learned some things that I would not have if I had not gone, but it wasn't THE thing for me that changed my life. I believe that God uses all different kinds of things to change us. For some it may be Africa, or some having children. Initially for me it was a little boy that I had the privilege to care for a few years ago at a day care I worked at.



Layne Honea

He had an abusive father and often came to my class with bruises and a wounded spirit. He stole my heart and I woke up everyday anxious to go love him and care for him. I felt a deep brokenness for him, for the awful things he had to experience, and for the lack of love he was shown at home. I love that boy and would have adopted him if I could. I no longer am able to see him, but am continually grateful that I was able to show him the love of Christ for as long as I could. That was THE thing in life that broke me. Knowing this little boy changed my life forever in a way that even Africa could not do. I of course am not trying to lighten the importance of foreign missions or discourage anyone from being involved in that. I simply want to encourage those of you who may not be called to foreign mission or parenthood or whatever else you may feel pressured to do, that God has something in particular for you that He will use to change you forever. Ask Him to reveal to you what that is. Right now, that thing for me is raising Layne. I wake up everyday

with the desire to train him up to love Jesus. What do you wake up longing for everyday? What do you find yourself dreaming about? Who is the little boy that needs your love? Where is your Africa? Raise your Layne and be fulfilled in investing your life in him. Go and be, and ask God to give you a passion for THE thing He has for you.

My husband Jon, Layne and I send our love and our thanks for walking along side us and helping make it possible to do what we are passionate about. And I speak for the Kirkland's too when we say we could not make it without knowing you guys believe in this ministry.

Andrea Honea

PRAY

First of all, I want to sincerely thank each of you that have been so generous to this ministry with your prayers, your encouragement, and your finances. You have helped provide for the vision of the ministry for over three years and we have preached the good news to thousands of people across the world and watched God do miracle after miracle in the lives of the broken. Our vision has not changed and God continues to call us to opportunities that we could never have dreamed of, but for the past six months or so we have really struggled financially. We are currently working with our accountant to tighten the budget, but as of today, we only have about half of the money we need to operate for next month. We have never struggled with having enough finances, although there have been some times that were very tight, God has always provided. I am so reluctant to even mention this need, but I feel like God as given me permission to put it before you. I have been asking God to help me with my faithlessness, and I am believing that once again He will provide for the vision He has given us. He is certainly testing me in this time and I want to be found faithful in all things. I am asking you to pray- to sincerely pray for us in this time, that no matter what God decides, we will be found faithful. Please pray for the Lord to continue to give us vision for this ministry and for the people and resources to see that vision through. Please pray for a heart to persevere no matter the cost and a child like faith that believes before it sees. We love each of you deeply and covet your prayers in this time.

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son - Galatians 4:6-7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2007

- 2 BSM REZ week and the Way combined at the ASU Slab
- 4 Big Lake Youth Rally
- 5 the Way will not meet
- 12 the Way
- 19 the Way
- 25 Ozona Youth Rally
- 26 the Way
- 27-29 Portland Catalyst Weekend

May 2007

- 3 the last Way for the semester
- 8 Catalyst board meeting
- 16 Cornerstone
- 20 Sly/Cassidy Wedding
- 22 Glenn Middle School Site-Base
- 22 Common Ground Community Church
Bridge City, Tx.
- 26 Kirkland Family Wedding

June 2007

- 4-8 Zephyr Baptist Encampment
- 14 Summer Interns leave for Mattaw Children's Village in Kitale, Kenya
- 15-19 Riverbend Camp
- 21-25 FBC Corinth Camp

July 2007

- 7-14 Mexico Mission Trip
- 24-Aug 2 Mattaw Children's Village, Kitale, Kenya

Katalyst Ministries is a non profit incorporation established by God for the purpose of advancing His Kingdom by exalting Jesus Christ above all things, especially us. We are governed by a board of directors, inspired by the love of Christ, held accountable by the living word of God, and lead by the movement of the Holy Spirit. We exist to be a catalyst for change, growth, unity, and revival in the Kingdom of God. It is our great honor to share with the world the powerful, life giving gospel of Jesus Christ.