



Over 25 years of ministry together!



Twenty six years ago I started working with a youth ministry in the urban community of Minneapolis. That's where I met my wife Becky. She had been working for the ministry for six years before we got married and continued until we had our first child. During the

time I worked with that ministry, we attended a conference in Ft. Collins, CO. where there was a call to lifelong youth ministry... not youth ministry as a stepping stone to a greater position but to youth ministry as a lifelong call. We took that call. This year marks our 25th year of marriage and over 25 years of ministering together. That decision has influenced everything we do and are.

When we were looking to buy our first home, God provided a way for us to build it. We could have built it anywhere we wanted to. We chose to build it where the kids we were ministering to could reach us. We built it right in the middle of north Minneapolis. The youth we worked with helped us shovel rock, pound nails, and paint walls. Today I meet these youth (they are 25 – 35 years old now) and they tell me what it meant for them to eat in our kitchen, have Bible studies in our basement, and BBQ's in our backyard.

Here are a few stories from some of those kids:

Chucky showed up almost every Wednesday for Bible

study where we had recreation, Bible study and dinner. Today Chuck owns a local Pizza shop (Pair Of Dice Pizza) and when I told him what we are doing today he said that he wanted to help. Chuck's words were, "you fed me for many years - the least I can do is help out today." Chuck gave us 2 pizzas a day for the school year to help feed the kids coming to the tutoring center last year. Thank You, Chuck!

Another one is Calvin. Just last month I got a letter from Calvin thanking us for guiding him for many years. "I wanted to send you a little seed offering to your ministry to say thank you for the investment you made in my life. What you have poured into me is now being poured out richly into others and the Gospel is being proclaimed through them, because of what God started through you some 25 years ago in your basement. So if you ever ask yourself, was it worth it the answer is YES!! Look at me now!!!" Calvin went on to get a business degree and then because of our discipleship, my favorite verse became one of Calvin's favorite (II Tim. 2:2). He then felt the call of God on his life and completed his Masters of Divinity in 1997 and is today sharing the good news of Jesus Christ across the country. Calvin, keep up the good work!

Reward for Ministry

So what do we have to show for 25 years of ministry? Well, not a big retirement account but an excellent retirement plan. I cannot go anywhere in the neighborhood without someone seeing me and thanking us for our hospitality to them and speaking into their lives. Our family is in this for the long haul!

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Special Inserts:

- Coffee Order Form
- Youth Resources Involvement Form
- To make this fit in 4 pages much has been cut. For the full story go to www.ulcc.ws/newsletter

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The Cost of Ministry

I was at Bethel College about a month ago for a breakfast with the President of the College and some of his staff concerning racial reconciliation. One of the professors there told me that he ran into a young man that I had disciplined. He said that this young man was working with his son as a coach. I remember saving this kid's life as he was drowning. He was trapped under a turned over canoe. His name is Nate Vincent. Nate was one of the 75+ people that came over to our house for a BBQ on Labor Day. What a pleasure to see him again! Thanks Leo, for renewing my relationship with Nate. This is one case where I literally saved the life of someone in a life threatening situation. Today there are a lot of young people out there that need someone to jump in the water to save them. However, the

cost is great. You must leave your comfort zone and it may cost you something of great value. You see, when I jumped in to save Nate, my wedding ring slipped off my finger as I was swimming under water to save him. I felt it coming off and could have turned back to get it before it sank. It was at that moment that I needed to make a decision on what was most important. Do I turn back and get my custom made wedding ring that cost me over \$500 and was less than two years old, or do I save Nate? Will my wife understand? For many of you, that is a no brainer – of course a life is more important than a ring! Today his wife and child and other kids that he is affecting are glad that I chose Nate. Everyday we make choices to invest in others

or not. Investing costs. Investing costs time, freedom, money, your life. But this is the great commission. I want to say that investing pays a rich dividend. To see Nate alive, well, married, in church serving God, with a family and coaching other kids...what a reward...what a dividend! Matthew 6:19 **“Don't store treasures for yourselves here on earth where moths and rust will destroy them and thieves can break in and steal them.”²⁰ But store your treasures in heaven where they cannot be destroyed by moths or rust and where thieves cannot break in and steal them.²¹ Your heart will be where your treasure is.”(NCV)**

Today as you read this I pray you will make a costly choice: to invest your life in rescuing others.

Summer School 2003

Many of you read in our last prayer letter that there was a great need for finances to run a summer school. God is awesome. The funds from the Minneapolis School Board had been cut for summer school, and then they were restored. This would give us a small amount of money to run a program. We were not able to run the program that I wanted to run but we did run an abbreviated version. We met 3 days a week for 7 hours a day. One of our students wrote an article about it. Here it is in part...

ULCC SUMMER PROGRAM

by Beau Breems

What did you do this summer? There are plenty of things to do to spend your time during the hot summer days, and many of them

may lead to places in life that you would not expect to find yourself in. What's really hard is finding a program that will not only give you something to do that keeps your interest, but is also productive, and can give you valuable skills for the future, all in a friendly environment.

This describes the kind of summer program that was hosted at the Urban Life Christian Center. It was a summer school/ web development business. This program helps with their education, and provides the opportunity to teach students to build websites. ULCC challenges those in this program to build websites about fields in school that they may have trouble in, such as math or world history to help them get a grasp of the subject. Those enrolled

“Furthermore, the program is in an environment that can help you to learn about how to navigate your own life, and can help you mend a hurting part of your existence through Jesus Christ.”



also learn about how to set up a business based around web development, and learn skills for understanding how to run and manage a business.

Furthermore, the program is in an environment that can help you to learn about how to navigate your own life, and can help you mend a hurting part of your existence through Jesus Christ. In learning about how Christ died for us, and accepting that sacrifice by following Him, you can get on a track in life that leads to a better place. This program is based upon helping students to make good choices.

(to read the full article go to our web site.)



"The trip has done more for me than it did for anyone I was able to minister to!"

Have you ever heard this: "The trip has done more for me than it did for anyone I was able to minister to!" It was on that truth that this trip was planned. We took 20 people on the trip and it was the best mission trip that I have ever taken. It wasn't without its' challenges however. To begin with, the first bus that we scheduled for the trip was deemed not road worthy by our mechanic. On the day that I needed to make the decision to cancel the trip, another bus came through. The bus we used had some problems on the way out there, but as the old saying goes, "if life gives you lemons...make lemonade." That's what we did. As we were sitting at a dealership waiting for the bus to be fixed, the team got out their guitars and started singing praises to the King. We had a wonderful time waiting! The reason that this trip was so successful is because, as a team, we started praying together for it weeks in advance, taking on the mind set of a warrior. We were going to do battle. The soldier does not think it strange when he comes under attack but rejoices in victory after the attack. That was our mindset. We were on assignment. We expected and were ready for attacks of the enemy.

As I had mentioned before, the real reason for this trip was to train some warriors. We did and they will be more effective in their home, school and city because of this trip.

Here are some stories about the trip and personal testimonies from the team...

* The last couple of days have been amazing. We arrived Saturday afternoon and were greeted by many friendly faces. We began with some words from brother

Ralphie (our coordinator and a wonderful minister).

During Saturday night's devotional/worship time, the presence of God met us and the Holy Spirit completely took over. We spent almost 45 minutes in one song just praising God. There were vivid awakenings and wonderful changes released in the hearts of our team. Words were given and received, lessons were learned, and the tone for the trip as a whole was defined. We were rejuvenated and are ready and willing to fight for Christ.

Once again, we thank you for holding us up in prayer and we would also ask God to bless each one of you for serving us in that way. Thank you and God bless.

* This New York trip has been the most amazing "God-trip" that I have ever taken, and I have been on a number of mission trips and conferences. It was amazing to see virtually everyone in our group touched in a great way by God, not to mention all of the people impacted at Agape and on the outreaches. Over 75 people received Christ during the week. Personally, this was a break-through week for me. Human words can not fully express nor can they give the true meaning to what has happened in my life this week. I have understood for the first time the true meaning and feeling behind why Moses built an altar after great spiritual insights and words from God to remember them. I had head knowledge of it but not heart knowledge. When God does such a miraculous work in your life you will feel compelled to have a

significant remembrance of it. In fact you will feel that a

great injustice has been done to you if you are not able to have such a remembrance. It was a remarkable week of hearing God and having God use me to speak to others. It was exciting to be a part of a street witnessing team that saw about 25 people accept the Lord each night, and ministering to the youth and young adults at Agape. I am coming back to Minnesota with a greater compassion for souls and a greater desire to be used by God. Please pray for everyone that went on the trip and everyone that we came into contact with will continue to remember what He has done in our lives.

There are more stories yet it would make this newsletter too long. If you want to read more go to www.ulcc.ws/newyork2003.htm Let me just say that the trip accomplished its' mission and more. We want to thank everyone who donated financially, that kept us up in prayer or helped in any way. You will receive part of the reward - Thank You !

I want to leave the New York story with a quote from Pastor Jesus from New York Agape Christian Center:

"We were very pleased to have our sister church from Minnesota come out, Urban Life, and they were in this season as Joshua's - Forerunners that came with a torch and lit a fire in our youth group that is still blazing today. The youth just got together on Labor Day and the fire is burning so bright that now they have been commissioned to go forth to bring other youth so they to can feel the warmth and love of the Lord and the youth from Minnesota carried that torch. They lit that fire. We commend them and give praise for their diligent efforts. Amen"

The harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few.

Romans 10:8 "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. ¹¹ As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." ¹²

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"



The Latest Member of Our Family
"Carmel"



Harvest Home

This year we have had the opportunity to have two teens stay in our home. One of them you may have read about in our New Years News Letter - her

name is Libby Nyberg. She came and stayed with us when she was having trouble in her home. I'm glad to say that things at home are much better and she is moving in some good directions.

Read more at ...

<http://www.mcconico.com/News-Letter/Libby-Mae.htm>

The other person is Chris Moore. I was able to lead Chris to Christ about 15 months ago. Since then his entire life and priority system has changed. But not so at his home yet. He has been an agent of change in his house. Because of him two other youth have accepted Christ and his mother has made a commitment to the Lord and is coming to church regularly. Chris asked us if we would be willing to let him come and live with us for the summer. He wanted to be discipled. It was fun having him here and watching him grow. It's also fun, now that he has returned home, watching him bring more changes to his home.

A very real and urgent prayer request that we've prayed about for many years, and it is becoming more and more urgent is that we need to add onto our home, or stop having an "open door" policy (which would go against what God has told us to do).

It's Packed →

It has really been exciting to see and get to know all the college students that Simon brings over—they are different than high schooler's in some ways, and yet they all eat! It gets



Boating and Fishing

This summer we had the chance to introduce some of the youth to boating and fishing, thanks to a generous gift from a generous man. We were able to use two boats for the glory of God. They were shared among a number of urban churches, which gave some much needed relaxation to some urban Pastors and gave some of the kids we work with the first chance they had ever had to ride on a boat or go fishing. We also used the boats for evangelism and discipling. You know when you're in a boat it's hard to get up and walk away. We received the boats fairly late in the summer so there was not an organized program built around them but next year these boats will be used constantly and many souls will be harvested and discipled. Thanks for your help, Ron L.!

See some of our fishing and boating pictures on the web at www.ulcc.ws/boats.htm



really crowded sometimes—wall to wall people, and usually it isn't planned in advance. There have been a lot of new high schooler's coming over too as the youth group at ULCC expands. In the summer it doesn't seem as urgent of a need because the yard is so big but during the cold, it isn't very nice to tell them to go play volleyball or basketball in 10° weather. So we believe now is the time. We are in the process of getting a second mortgage to add on. We will add a greatroom that will give us over 500 Square ft. of space in just that one room (about 275% larger than our current living room). We would also add a recreation room in the basement that would have enough room for a pool table and foosball tables and room to wrestle. We need your prayers and help. First, pray that we get approved for the mortgage. When you are living by the donations that come in through the mail, some times you have some very skinny pay checks. Second, if you want to invest in the ministry you have

been reading about, that will help us have a wider base of support and it will help us pay that mortgage. Third, when the loan does get approved we will be doing a

lot of the work ourselves and we will be looking for people, skilled and unskilled to help us. We will need carpenters, electricians, plumbers, painters, sheet rockers, and people that like to destroy things. We will need cooks to feed them and others just to carry things. If you want to help when the time comes please call my wife and let her know what you want to help with or you can go to our web sight and sign up to help there. I am truly looking forward to watching God work.

We find ourselves hosting more and more events at our home...from National Night Out with over 100 neighbors showing up, Labor Day Weekend picnic with 70+ guests to the kids just inviting their friends over. A good example is a recent Friday night. Simon called and asked if he could bring some friends over from college to watch a movie on the wall outside. Jon invited North Highs Football team and of course the church youth group was invited. So we ended up with over 35 kids here. It was great. The weather was great and everyone just sat on the grass or a lawn chair and enjoyed the movie "The Princess Bride".

What a blessing to be used by God.

**Do you want to expand your boarders?
Help us with the Harvest.**

Youth Resources Involvement Form

2114 Queen Ave. North Mpls, MN 55411 612-529-0198

Do you want to be a part of what you are hearing about here?

We need your help. We need financial supporters. So far we have been doing all this with very little financial support. If we had the resources to do the things that we would like to, you would see even more exciting stories that will echo into eternity. You can make a one time gift or be a monthly supporter.

We need to increase our monthly support. We would like to see our monthly support increase at least \$2,000. If we have this type of base we can develop a budget and be more effective.

Your Name (*please print*)

E-mail

Your Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

___ I would like to be a financial partner

___ One Time Gift of _____

___ Monthly Gift of _____

___ Quarterly Gift of _____

___ Yearly Gift of _____

___ Other physical resources (Books, Bibles, Food, Vehicles, Cabin, etc.)

___ Volunteer with _____

___ Our Church wants to be involved - please contact _____

___ Prayer partner - I would like to be:

___ Mailed a monthly prayer calendar.

___ E-mailed a monthly prayer calendar

If you are interested in helping this ministry and want to donate monthly but don't like the process of writing that check every month, finding a stamp and mailing it - we have an answer for you. You can agree to make a contribution thru electronic automatic payment. Electronic payment is a time saver for us and I trust you will find the convenience equally as satisfying.

See the other side for electronic automatic payment.

You can also sign up online at "<http://www.ulcc.ws/partner.htm>"

You can fill out this form and mail it in or go online at "<http://www.ulcc.ws/partner.htm>" and fill it out there.



Isaiah 40:28-31
 A ministry of Urban Life Christian Center
 2315 24th Ave. No.
 Minneapolis, MN 55411

Helps us by signing up for automatic withdraw. This will allow us to know what's coming in and when. It will also let you make monthly contributions without having to write a check but you can rest assured that you are helping bring youth to Christ and preparing them for the future.

- Banking rules require that you give your approval to make a monthly contribution this way.
- The approval is active until you notify us that you want to stop using Automatic Payment or change the amount.
- Automatic Payment is safe, efficient, and consumer friendly.
- Banking law protects consumers from ever having to worry about someone taking money from their account using Automatic Payment in an unauthorized manner.

If you would like to use automatic payment please complete this form. and the form on the other side and return it to us so we can get you set up for Automatic Payment.

DIRECT PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize Urban Life Christian Center to initiate entries to my checking or savings account at the financial institution listed below. This authority will remain in effect until five days after I provide written notice to cancel it.

 Bank or Credit Union Name

 Bank or Credit Union Address

 City State Zip

 City State Zip

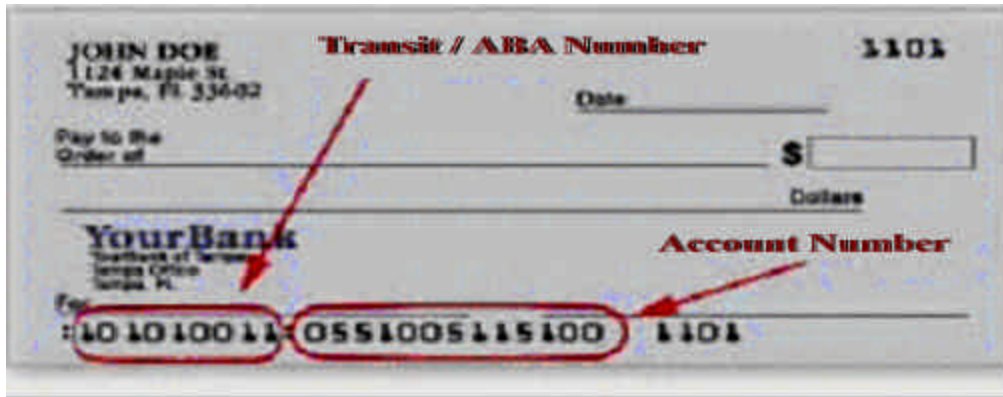
Transit / ABA Number (see sample below)

Account Number (see sample below)

 Your Signature
 (Please attach a copy of a void check - deposit slips don't work)

 Today's Date

Payment Schedule - Monthly amount: \$ _____



My first Automatic Payment will be made on this date: _____

My payment will be withdrawn on the following schedule: _____

Urban Life and a local coffee roaster are working together to make a difference in the urban community with a coffee fundraiser

THAT'S ONE FINE CUP OF COFFEE

Urban Life Christian Center thanks you for buying our exceptionally high-quality grade coffees. The beans come from several green bean brokers who have traveled the world to develop relationships with coffee growers, estate owners and agricultural agents. This enables them to secure an ample supply and wide variety of premium coffees from which our customers may choose. About half of your purchase will go to help our ministry.

ROASTED FRESH DAILY

Your coffee will be roasted fresh this week, in Becka Jo's small roasting ovens. A batch of green coffee is roasted for approximately 12 to 20 minutes, depending on the size of the batch (8 to 25 pounds), kind of bean and type of roast. Our roaster roasts select high-quality coffee daily to ensure that our customers get the most aromatic and flavorful product they can buy (not from a grocery store).

Send in this slip or order at www.ulcc.ws/coffee or call 612-529-0198

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|--|--|
| <p>➤ Guatemala/Panama <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$10.00/lb \$ _____</p> <p>➤ Kenya/Sumatra <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$10.00/lb \$ _____</p> <p>➤ Espresso <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$10.00/lb \$ _____</p> <p>➤ Hazelnut <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$10.00/lb \$ _____</p> | <p>➤ French Roast Sumatra <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$10.00/lb \$ _____</p> <p>➤ French Roast Colombia <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$10.00/lb \$ _____</p> <p>➤ Decaf Colombia <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$10.00/lb \$ _____</p> <p>➤ Decaf Sumatra <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$10.00/lb \$ _____</p> |
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www.ulcc.ws/coffee

- Whole Bean Drip -Grind Espresso French-Press



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