



McConico Times



Becky



Ron



Drew



Simon



Donna



Chris



Jon



Lendell



December 2004
Vol. 13

2004 – A Year of Changes (Becky's notes)

Change can be good, but going through those changes isn't necessarily easy! In January, I had major surgery. God blessed me with a beautiful private room during my hospital stay and many family and friends to help with chores during recovery. It was painful physically and a real challenge to return the house to "normal". I'm feeling fine now, but needed to add a daily shot of insulin to my regimen.

Ron changed jobs a few times this year (see his notes).

One of our rentals changed tenants and repairs were needed before a new renter could move in. We still have some repairs to finish.

Mae Robinson, one of our "God daughters" married Ed Gruss this June and my brother Stephan Roufs married MaryFrancis in a most unique celebration! My Mom and sister Liz took a missions trip to Africa this fall and plan to go back.

I wasn't able to do as much at church this year because of health and time constraints, but still manage to sing and play keyboards with two worship teams, decorate, garden and prayer group.

The biggest change of all is our house/yard. Construction is messy, disruptive and noisy... Continued on pg. 2

Everyone says it will be worth it when it's done...! We broke ground on June 15th with prayer and shovels. The bulldozers moved in two days later. Seven months later – outside is done (except a few minor things) but inside there is much to do (as I write this, no utilities in the new part are up and running so no sheetrock or insulation). God is good and we have had a LONG fall so Ron could finish up outside. It hasn't been unbearably cold yet either so we haven't frozen completely inside. God provided an apartment full of furniture for us miraculously and He has met every need. Hopefully we'll get the inside done this winter and landscaping done in the spring so we can get back to "normal"! So many wonderful people have put countless hours of work into making this addition a reality. We are truly blessed!



One more change I never thought possible was our Christmas tree tradition! We couldn't find a time for our excursion onto the tree farm for the "perfect" fresh tree. But God provided a beautiful, though artificial tree and all the trimmings for it from our furniture givers.

Our pet situation has remained the same, though from time to time we were minus Carmel – seems she likes to explore the neighborhood! Lady Belle turned 13 this year and is having trouble seeing and hearing...but she is still top dog! Sylvester, Jon's cat, did a bit of exploring this year during construction – he would sneak out any opening in the walls and climb scaffolding or just sit out on the balcony watching below. He even needed a bath!

There's so much more to share...come on over to see what God has/is doing...call and check up on the progress...and please keep us in your prayers. We want to be in the center of His will.

Ron's Random Recitations

Some people start the year with little questions about what will be happening with their year. Last year at this time I had been asked by the Palau team to interview for a part time job with Luis Palau and the Twin Cities Festival. I did interview but was not asked to join their team until January. It seems that this year I am in a similar situation.

I am still teaching at North Central University and working in the community as an urban missionary with Youth Resources. I have a number of irons in the fire and some I

will not know about until February. But the one thing that I still know is God is faithful. I am currently working with one of the youth from my church that has an amazing talent and wrote and illustrated a book for a couple women going to Africa for the children. He printed about 4 books and that was it. I saw it and knew that this book was anointed and needed to be published. (See if you agree - www.mcconico.com/beau/HisStory.pdf) It's the Gospel from creation to resurrection in 40+ pages, with excellent art work (he hand drew). We would like to get this book

published. If you have any contacts to publishers please let me know. We are looking for people that are interested in helping us get this published.

Our house is still under construction. The outside is done now. We are working on the inside – we are trying to get all the plumbing and wiring done. We will try to invite all of you to our house warming party when we are done – Hopefully before 2006.

The year has been full of new starts. I was one of the charter members of a new Lions Club in North Minneapolis. I worked part time on the church relation team as the urban church representative with the Luis Palau Twin Cities Festival. A very challenging job – trying to reach urban pastors at their desks. It was an incredible event with over 200,000 people filling the State Capitol grounds during this 2-day festival in August with "Great Music" from some of the top Christian recording artists and a "Good News" message from Luis Palau. I was part of a group of churches that named themselves Hands Across the City whose Mission Statement is to unite the body of Christ by organizing Inner-City outreaches that minister the love of Jesus thru compassion, evangelism and fellowship to build lasting Godly relationships. We had 3 outreaches spreading the good news to hundreds of people in the parks and parking lots of North and South Minneapolis. We continued a fishing and boating program making boats available to urban churches and people of the urban community. I'm still amazed how many urbanites have never been in a boat. The Association of Christian Computer Centers started a VRAD program – that stands for Volunteer regional area director. I have been asked to represent the upper Midwest part of the nation. I was also a guest speaker and workshop presenter at their national conference that took place in conjunction with the Christian Community Development Association conference in Atlanta, GA. It was exciting being able to train so many people and share ideas with others across the nation. It was also fun and inspirational being with so many others from Minneapolis at CCDA. Some of us took a side trip to Montgomery, AL and visited the slave market and MLK memorial and his church. Especially before a national election, seeing the pictures of many who died for the right to vote. It was very emotional.

Youth Alive Camp was as good as it was the year before. There were many life changing discissions with a very powerful closing service. However I was not able to be at the last half of camp because it conflicted with a major event for the festival.

This year as a nation we walked thru some major battles that will be ongoing. From Gay marriage to the North Mpls Crime. I have lived on the north side for more than 45 years and I have never seen it so bad. I was on my front porch just the other day and 8 shots rung out across the alley. There are so many shootings and deaths that they no longer are even in the news unless they are especially gruesome. Please pray for North Mpls and our family. We feel that this is where we are to be ministering – pray for safety and effectiveness in ministry.

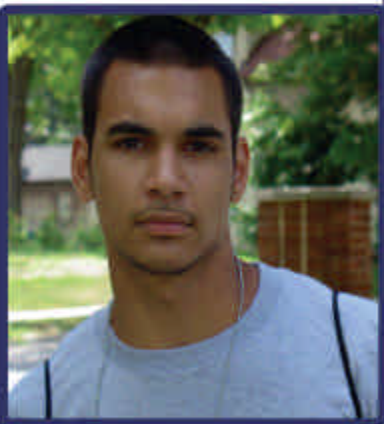
This year we saw The Passion fill movie theaters nation wide showing the hunger people have for a fresh presentation of the gospel. As I watched the movie I felt like Simon carrying the cross.

Thanks to an old family friend we were able to invite several friends and family members to the Michael W Smith Christmas Concert. We were also blessed by Project Success to take our whole family to the Black Nativity. Christmas has now come and gone for another year, but His spirit will be with us forever



Over the summer I worked for MORR construction, which got me interested in construction, but the really cool part about the job was that I got to work for my parents on my own house. Over the summer I also went to my share of camps. First I went to Youth Alive Camp and had the awesome chance to see how God could use me in other people's lives and how he worked in me through that. Towards the end of the summer I also went to a Young Life camp in North Carolina called Windy Gap. WOW! It was amazing! The camp was in a valley and there was a plethora of things to do. Young Life is an outreach program that I go to, not only to get things out of it for myself, but more importantly to reach people for God and to be an example. At the camp I had the opportunity to be an example. It was awesome to see God's creation in the mountains. I also had an opportunity to see his creation face to face, or should I say ground to back. While at camp we went mountain biking and I caught a little too much air and flipped out of control and slid under my bike on my back for a while, so in a way I could relate when the speaker was talking about when Jesus was whipped and had his skin torn apart.

After camp I went back to work for a week then got ready for my SENIOR YEAR. I'm almost out!! I can taste the freedom... only to be enslaved again to college. I'm looking forward to college; I plan on going to North Central University with my brother, my best friend, my dad, and most of all God. I didn't play football or any other sports this year because I have three advanced placement classes this year (chemistry, literature, and government) which can count as college classes. I plan on running track this Spring. I also went to another Young Life camp in Pelican Lake, MN and had a chance to be on work crew. I was in the "PITS" where it is our duty to protect those who eat from any evil vermin that would wish to cause illness to any camper, which means I washed dishes all day, every day, for two days. It was an awesome time. I had a blast although all I did was wash dishes but I was also able to be an example to my fellow believers in my teachings, my speech, my life, my love, my faith, and most importantly my purity (also known as 1 Tim. 4:12, my life verse) and was able to let someone else have fun instead of being in the "PITS". But one thing about the "PITS" was that it gave me a big chance to let me serve God and observe God move. There's so much more that I could write for days. Hey, that's a good idea! Bye. /k but like I was saying, there's so much more going on in my life and many more things that God is doing that I could probably write a book on it, but this is it for me right now. Peace out and God bless.



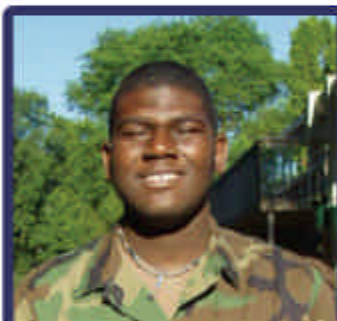
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Moore from Chris

Hello. My name is Christopher Michael Moore (Chris for short). I am nineteen years old. I have been living with the McConico's for about a year and a half. I'm currently finishing high school and plan on attending college later in the future. I have a part time job working at Target in downtown Minneapolis. I have recently been given the opportunity to go to Nepal with my pastor and his family. A math teacher at my school donated \$1,500 towards the trip. We leave on February 1st and return on the 12th. I still need to collect about \$200 more dollars. If you could keep the mission and me in your prayers, it would be very much appreciated. Thank you for taking your time and reading this. God Bless.



Larry O'Dell



Hi. I am Alowishus Bernard Hoppowell III, also known as Lendell. I'm just a normal hobo adopted by these fine people who in their own ways have fed and clothed me with love whenever I came to call and I have spent many a cold night on their couch much to the displeasure of my back. I'm also helping Ron out as a gopher (not the small furry creatures, nor the college team), but soon I shall have to leave these wonderful people to go to basic training for eight months. Any prayers offered on my behalf are welcomed and sorely needed. Well, that's all. In the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless you everyone!"

Feliz Navidad, Lendell Lattimore AKA Lenny, Larry, Lucy, Lulu, Luis, Larrydell, Lindisel and "Hey you get off my lawn!"

Andrew

Andrew is in the beginning stages of a massage business with a few friends. He's also doing massage therapy for a couple of other places part time.

Youth Resources

2114 Queen Ave North
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www.mcconico.com

Newsletter online www.mcconico.com/newsletter.htm (with more pictures)
ron@mcconico.com



Simon's Summer Adventures

Hello everyone. I am now in my first senior year at Northcentral University. I will have one more year before I graduate with a degree in Church Music. I finished up my Junior year and within the week left for my summer job. All summer I lived and worked in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at the Rescue Mission. I taught summer school to kids in the neighborhood. This



year I got a chance to teach sixth graders and see quite a few of them come to find Christ and come to a deeper understanding of the Bible and God's love for them. We taught everything from math to reading to Bible and recreation. I was really blessed to work with the kids there and learned a lot about life on my own being away from family for the second summer in a row. At the end of work and before school I lived with one of my best friends' fiancé on their farm. Her wedding was about a week after we got done at the Mission and so I got a chance to experience farm life for a while. I played guitar in her wedding and then the next day came to Minneapolis and dropped my stuff off at the dorm and got ready for leadership training a day or two later.

This year I am the Discipleship Administrator for my living area at NCU. I have a staff of eighteen Discipleship Leaders who help and work alongside the RAs. It has been difficult and I have had to take lighter class loads because of having many meetings and people that I am responsible for, but it is stretching me and I am learning valuable lessons in leadership and time management. This semester I am hoping to walk away with almost all A's and maybe one or two B's out of ten classes.

This summer I plan on doing an internship that is required for school. If things go as planned I will be returning to Wisconsin and working at Oak Creek Assembly of God. I hope to learn a lot and work a lot. I still need a car for getting there and getting around so I am looking for something to drive. I think that is all from my side of the woods.

Donna Da' Girl

This year has been a good one, full of new experiences. Last year I lived in the dorms on the campus of North Western College. It was a great experience being able to live so close to so many people. I loved meeting and getting to know so many of them. Last year in March over spring break six of my friends and I took a week-long trip to California. We did many things, went to Magic Mountain, Hollywood, Santa Monica just to name a few. It was my first time going out of town on a trip without parents or supervision. (I have to say I liked that.) We got back two days before my 19th birthday. The rest of the year



went well. I took my first acting class; Drama and Ministry, and loved it.

Over the summer I worked construction for the company that did our addition. That was definitely a new one for me! I liked learning about building and construction, and it was terribly convenient for transportation! But it was also really hard. Not so much because of the work, but because I was the only young female out there doing what is known as "man's work." I'm sure all you ladies know what I mean. Over all I'm glad I had the opportunity.

This summer was also the first time I went to camp not as a camper. I went to Youth Alive summer camp as an assistant counselor to high school girls. It was an amazing experience to be able to pour into the lives of young women. On top of that, I am now an assistant youth leader in my church. I'm humbled by this and thrilled that I get to be used so much in our youth's lives.

Well, now I'm in the middle of my sophomore year at college. I'm getting deeper into my major and love it! Well, half of it. My major is Communications, emphasis in Theater. I absolutely love the Theater part. I have never wanted my classes to be longer or have more work until I took my theater classes. I have gotten much more involved this year in the drama community on campus. I was on the tech crew this fall for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat. And my summer working construction paid off in my intro to stage tech. class. We ended up building a few things and learning about tools and materials that are used. Because of this summer, I knew a lot more than anyone else in the class on these topics. On the other hand, I can't stand my communications classes. But, that's a price I'm willing to take.

I was blessed this year with a two room apartment on campus which has been a lot nicer than the dorms. (Although I miss them sometimes.) I'm living in a building called Antioch which is supporting racial reconciliation on campus and working within ourselves to reach this goal. It has been a great learning and growing experience. I also went to a conference in Seattle called N.C.M.S.L.C. which stands for National Christian Multicultural Student Leadership Convention. Well the title basically sums it up. This is the conference I attended last year in Boston. I learned a lot this year and truly enjoyed the experience of learning more about myself and how and why God made me how he did.

I'm still leading the dance and drama group, Trulife, at our church. I love being able to use what I'm learning right away instead of having to wait for an opportunity. Things are going good with us. We are moving forward and becoming more organized and shooting for bigger things than we used to. God is using us and I'm just glad to be of service.

Jon's Journeys

Hey ya'll. It's the youngest but not the smallest. Well I've had a pretty good year this past year, so lets start with the begining, shall we?...

Last year around this time I was a junior at North High School and was getting ready for track and field, but before my first meet, I got bronchitis and wasn't able to run so I had a chance to focus on shot-put and discus. I was also in physical therapy for my shoulder that I messed up in wrestling, which was very helpful.