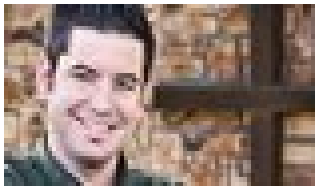


# ASM Connection

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### PASTOR'S CORNER



What an exciting first few months! God has really taken Linnea, Abby, and I on an adventure which has brought us to Bridges.

When we first started this whole process, we had no idea what God had in store, but we just knew that we had to trust Him. What we have been constantly reminded of is that God never

lets us down. When we trusted Him with finding a new church, he provided for us. With making new friends, God has given us some amazing ones! When it comes to money, God has always provided for us there also. It hasn't always been easy, but when we have asked God for help, he has been right there for us, especially in these recent months. It reminds me of so many stories in the Bible where God provided for people like King David, the disciples, and Moses. When they finally placed their trust in him, He came through. Why do we ever doubt He will? In Psalm 37:3-6 God promises to love and care for us whether that's with school, family, friends, or anything else. Sometimes we let our own fears get in the way.

We have a ton of events coming up in Underground and Powerhouse - camps and mission trips are so exciting every summer. Maybe some of you are struggling to find the money that you need to go, or you are afraid because you want to invite a few of your friends to come to youth group and aren't sure what they will say to you. I want to encourage you to lift up your doubts and fears to God. I don't know if He will answer every one of your requests the way that you want, but what I do know is that if you trust him, He will answer them with what you need, just when you need it. My family and I didn't know we would be at Bridges when we were praying last summer, but God gave us an amazing new church to serve at, and we are so thankful. We just had to give God all our plans and see what He would do with them.

My question for you as you finish up this school year and look forward to summer jobs, vacations, camp, and graduation is, "What will you trust God with this summer?" Give Him your fears and your strengths and He will blow you away with what He will do with them!

### EVENT, CAMPS AND ACTIVITIES

Since last September, we have been constantly on the go – planning many different activities and events for our students. We had two awesome Christmas parties, our McValentine's outing for Underground and two winter camps, both up in the fantastic snow clad mountains of Lake Tahoe.

The Underground Christmas Chaos was literally bouncing off the walls. We kicked off the night with a trip to Sky High Sports, a trampoline fun center with wall to wall trampolines! The rest of the night included indoor mini-golf with a course that went all over the church, hide and seek in the dark, movies and even a pancake breakfast. We got a chance to talk about the true meaning of Christmas and the buzz around Jesus' birth. While some students enjoyed a peaceful night's sleep snuggled in their sleeping bags, there were several that managed to stay awake the entire night! Imagine how the staff and leaders felt the following morning!



The Powerhouse Christmas Snowball provided an outreach winter formal to cater to the High School students of the community. This year the theme was a Black and White Ball. Students came dressed in their best, gentlemen in tuxes and ladies in gowns as they walked down a red carpet and were escorted to their tables by a host. It was a fun night filled with live music, food, a raffle for an Ipod and a Nintendo DS, special VIP treatment and a message about God's Glory. We were blessed by the many volunteers who made this an evening to remember.

Early February saw the Underground winter snow ski trip in Tahoe. Students spent a day tearing it up in the fresh powder at North Star. Some even took lessons, snowboarded and skied down the mountain for the first time! Our speaker was a big hit with all of his funny stories while sharing some hard hitting truths from the Bible. Based on a theme "Anchored", students were encouraged to build their life anchored on the foundation of God. Students were challenged to step out of their comfort zones in areas like sharing their faith with other people.



The High School Winter Camp (Encounter 2009) provided an opportunity for students to escape for a weekend from the distractions of their world in order to deepen their relationship with God. Students were encouraged to view their relationship with God as an encounter, moved by God as opposed to just a relationship of convenience. With tons of fresh snow students had a totally wild time snow-tubing down the slopes of Lake Tahoe. The evenings incorporated a talent show and several tournaments many of which were won by our teams. It was awesome to see God's beauty displayed in the scenery of the snow capped mountains reflecting off Lake Tahoe, at the same time as students giving or recommitting their lives to God.

McValentine's in the Underground! A Big Mac with a diet coke and large fries please! Students came dressed to impress and enjoyed a high-class meal at the world's finest dining establishment (McDonalds). It was great to see our students reach out and invite so many of their friends. As always, there were smiles all around as students and leaders had a ton of fun.

### OUR SMALL GROUP

Our small group (Slipstream) has been the highlight of my Mondays for the last three years. Almost every Monday a group of girls get together at our leader's house for some good junk food, fellowship, and of course to learn more about the Big Man upstairs. So what makes *this* group so special? Maybe it's just the fact that a group of teenage girls can come together in a place that they know is safe, without drama, gossip, or the typical judgments in a teenage life. Or maybe it's the loving leader who is one of the adults that "gets us" and isn't afraid to be real with us. She will admit that she herself has struggles while still being willing to do everything she can to help us through on our own. Perhaps it's the kind of girls that make up this Bible study - girls who love you no matter where you are in life, what you've done, or where you've been. I believe all of these things are great characteristics to have in a Bible study, but the one thing that really sets us apart is the way God chooses to move within our group.

### Intentionally Left Blank

In the years that I've been a part of Slipstream we've been a group that has been earnestly seeking what God wants in our lives, and our seeking has been answered. I've personally seen lives changed as God has molded the other girls and me in the group. Our friendships are made so much stronger by the common love for our Creator that we share. Through this group God has provided a place where we can laugh, cry, and just be ourselves - broken and imperfect, and loved without fail. Without the relationships that I've made I would most certainly not be the person I am today. This small group has provided me with consistency that has stood by me within the "ever so trying" years of high school, together with an accountability that keeps me both humble and in line. Without this group it would have been very difficult to have grown as much as I have in my relationship with God.

Amber

### NEW IN STUDENT MINISTRIES

We are blessed to be able to welcome Beau Coffron to our team as our High School Pastor. Beau enjoys playing sports, specifically paintball as well as watching Raiders and A's games. He is a fan of coffee, especially grande nonfat lattes. His wife, Linnea, is actively involved in ministry including leading small groups and mentoring teenage girls.



Just so you know who our complete team consists of...from left to right - Aparna, Beau, Rose, Val and Nate.

While we spend time serving God in our daily activities around the office, we also take time to be together and have fun. You never quite know when you walk into the office in the morning what you might find. And.... it is becoming fatal to take vacation, this is just an opportunity for those left behind to have some fun at your expense.

What does one growth pastor with a wicked sense of humor plus a car left on campus with the windows down halfway together with millions of packing peanuts equal? The answer is an awesome welcome home greeting for our Junior High Pastor (yes, Nate) when he returned from his vacation!

As part of Beau's orientation to student ministries and to celebrate his birthday student ministry style he got to experience what it was like to be "king" for the day. He definitely passed with flying colors – RED! OK Beau –time to get back to the serious stuff now!



## ONE AMAZING WEEK - SERVING WHOLEHEARTEDLY

You've got to be kidding? No showers. No hot water. No flushable toilets. No sink to brush my teeth. Not only that - every meal is starchy! And that stupid rooster and goose crowing and squawking every morning at 4a.m.!!! Ugh... And what about all this dirt, dust, and grime? How bad I felt when the Holy Spirit's voice reminded me that I was on a mission trip in the desolated, dusty hills of Baja, Mexico with the three M's in mind- Ministry, Mission, & me (in that order).

Once over the initial shock of not having my amenities for a week, I rolled up my sleeves and literally got to work. The mornings were spent working on construction projects at the Genesis Ranch. Genesis Diez is a nonprofit organization that provides summer camp facilities for over 100 orphanages in the Baja area.

We (the amigos) were each prayerfully paired up with a niño (an orphan). It was such a joy to see my son Ryan immerse himself with his eleven year old niño, Florentino. When Ryan was introduced as Jackie Chan - the niños really believed him! They started doing all kinds of martial art maneuvers on poor Ryan.

### Intentionally

### Left Blank

I often wonder why I was paired up with Antonio. He loves to play sports.

Whenever I looked around to find Antonio, he either was playing ball or had a ball in his hand. I definitely felt he should've had someone who could play sports with him, but that was until I found out about his background. The day before we left, I asked one of the staff from the orphanage about Antonio. She said Antonio and Michel, Antonio's older brother, do not have a father...and his mother does drugs. No wonder he was paired up with me! He needed a mother-figure in his life! It was fun watching him play soccer and cheering him on. He saved a seat for me at every meal and on every bus ride. On one of the excursions, he gave me his walking stick to climb this HUGE mountain. Stumbling over rocks and potholes, he grabbed my hand, and we made it to the peak together. The best part was coming home to find a bookmark with the words, "I love you," Marco-Antonio in my backpack. Yes, indeed, for a short week, I was his "mother."



Saying 'good-bye' was not easy. I asked Antonio, "Tu eres triste (are you sad)?" He said, "no". Through an interpreter, he said that big boys don't cry. As I waved to him from the bus, I could see his smile as he waved back. But I know inside his heart he was unhappy. Knowing what I had learned about his background made me sad because he doesn't have that unconditional mother's love that I have for my three boys. I pray that he will find this from our Lord.

Serving wholeheartedly in the dirt, dust, and grime was well worth it, despite the discomforts. KM

## WHERE WE ARE HEADING

As part of our vision to improve and better meet the needs of our students and their community, we have been taking a serious look at our programs, our activities and when we offer what. You may have been involved or noticed we have conducted several surveys both in junior high and in high school to gain student input. We also involved parents and leaders in a recent meeting to understand their perceptions and new ideas. We still have more to do and more analysis to undertake but once we determine what changes need to be taken we will be sure to communicate with you as to the direction we might be heading

## OUR COMPASSION KIDS



In our September 2008 edition of our newsletter we featured one of the two Compassion kids we support through our High School student ministry, Jenisha Justin.

For this edition we thought you would like to know about our other child Jasper Delgado. Jasper was born in April 2000, in the Philippines. Jasper lives at home with his mother, father and four siblings. The family live on the plains of Macasandig, which is home to about 19700 other residents. Typical houses are constructed of wood with corrugated iron roofs. The community does have water and electricity but affordable education, law enforcement and drug and abuse prevention programs are very much in need.

The basic diet consists of fish, rice, pork, chicken and vegetables. Common health problems include malnutrition, pneumonia and respiratory illnesses. The majority of adults are construction workers or street vendors with the equivalent earnings of \$64 per month.

Jasper writes very well for his age and we get letters from him every two or three months. He loves art and drawing. He very active at basketball and volleyball which are his favorite activities.

The sponsorship we provide through our high school ministry provides Jasper with Bible teaching, medical care, recreational activities, formal school education and life skills training. The love and support offered by our students help Jasper to receive the assistance he needs to develop and grow.

## ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

As you are thinking about your activities and budget for the next six months, please include these programs and events on your calendars.

High School Arizona Mission	4/10-17, 2009	\$525
JH Summer Camp, Yolo County	6/26-28, 2009	\$120
HS Summer Camp, Alliance Redwoods	6/20-25, 2009	\$320
Mexico Mission Trip A	7/18-25, 2009	\$525
Mexico Mission Trip B	7/26 - 8/2, 2009	\$525
Beach trips - JH and HS	August TBD	

## EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW, I LEARNED FROM NOAH'S ARK



1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead - it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit - when you are 60 years and above, someone may ask you to do something really big!
5. Don't listen to the critics - just get on with what needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage - the snails were on board with the cheetahs!
9. When you are stressed - float awhile.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs - the Titanic by professionals.

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