

THE



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BE A BLESSING THROUGH WAYFARER'S NEWEST PROJECT

“Blessing” is the word we’re using to describe life after salvation. We mean more than “being blessed.” Blessing describes the kind of lives we are to live. We, as Christians, are called to be a blessing to our world.

Redefining Normal student devotional guide, page 23



One of the driving passions of Wayfarer Ministries is to lead people toward lives of blessing. Far too many accept the blessings of love and grace that God showers down on us without passing that blessing on to oth-

The idea behind Project Blessing is simple. Wayfarer finds donors who are willing to pay for Journey Packs and other curriculum resources. Wayfarer also finds churches, ministries, and other organizations who could benefit from these resources but do not have the budget to obtain them.

Wayfarer then sends the resources donors have paid for to these recipients at no cost to them.

resources to groups on our list.

Now, we’re asking our friends to get involved. The first way you can help is by letting us know about churches, groups,



Each \$100 Journey Pack includes 10 student guides, a leader’s guide, message CDs, promotional posters, and journey bands

and other organizations that would be blessed by receiving Wayfarer’s curriculum resources. Even if you are not in a position

HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF THE BLESSING

- Let us know about churches, ministries, and other organizations which have a curriculum need that Project Blessing could meet
- Donate to Project Blessing to provide curriculum for churches, ministries, and other organizations that would not otherwise be able to benefit from it

ers. God has called us not just to have blessing but to be blessings to those around us. This is what the Kingdom of God is all about.

As we here at Wayfarer have continued to let this message challenge and change us, God has showed us a way that we can be a blessing to others. That’s why we’re launching Project Blessing.

Once a group receives the blessing, we will ask them to pass the blessing along by giving us the names of other potential recipients or by providing a blessing for another group.

To start the blessing, Wayfarer’s staff and board funded the first 27 Journey Packs for this project. We are currently in the process of distributing these

to donate financially to this project right now, we want your ideas for recipients of this blessing.

Also, we’re looking for people to pay \$100 for each Journey Pack that will go out as a part of Project Blessing. When you donate to this project, you can either designate a specific church, group, or organization to receive the Journey Pack you are providing, or you can tell us to bless the next group on our list.

We can’t wait to see how God will unleash his blessing through this project. Please prayerfully consider passing the blessing along.

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STORIES

Each year around this time, we ask Engage attendees to share about how Engage has impacted their lives. These stories provide a great picture of what God is doing at Engage and how He is using this ministry.

As you read these stories, thank God for using Engage to make Himself real to so many people, and know that you are a part of all God is doing at Engage.

The reason I come to Engage is that I have never felt so convicted and impacted from such an unconventional Bible study. ... I grew up in the church and went to a very fundamental school. I know I was taught a lot of things that are false, and I pray that God would show me true Christianity unhindered by the tainted mind of man. And as an artist, I've always searched for unconventional, untraditional ways of doing and seeing things, and that is what brought me to Engage. The speakers have said things that have made me feel somewhat uncomfortable, but what they say is extremely true. Basically, they're not afraid to say what I'm thinking. It's refreshing to hear basic doctrines told in a completely different way from what I'm used to. And their messages are so much more creative, relevant and passionate than what I'm used to hearing. It's not that I'm just looking for the same story told in a different way. It's that I'm hearing Scripture spoken in ways that make my ears twitch and my heart beat faster. I'm so used to Christianity being a certain way, molded into a box with directions on how to use it written on the side. I know that's not what Christianity is. I know God is dangerous, unpredictable, unconventional and completely antithetical to everything we think, but He is good and is completely in love with us. It's great to see people throw the directions away and come at Him fresh and thirsty. God has spoken to me through Engage, and I'm glad to hear it. - Marco

I feel that Engage is a FANTASTIC ministry and want your supporters to know what an impact they are having in the lives of young people! I started going to Engage when it met at Southside. I was living in Seneca at the time and working in Greenville, so it was extremely difficult to make the drive late at night.

I eventually stopped going and sort of forgot about it. ... After graduating from Clemson and being involved with Campus Crusade for Christ, it was REALLY HARD not having that fellowship in the "real" world. I don't think that ministries in college really prepare you for the "real" world, or either I was naive enough to think that I would always be surrounded by a strong group of Christians who could invest in my life and encourage my walk! I didn't find that when I graduated! I think Engage is an AWESOME ministry because I've found that most churches don't really focus much energy into young adults, and I believe the staff of Engage has really stepped up to the plate and is filling a HUGE gap present in the church today. God is really using this ministry and has changed my heart TREMENDOUSLY over the past few weeks ... Thank you SO MUCH for all you do! I truly believe that God has blessed this ministry and its staff as they reach out to young adults in the Greenville area! Thank you again for all of the sacrifices and for being available week after week! - Rachel

Two years ago, I was feeling very dry spiritually. I was part of a Bible study, but it felt more like a gab session, and I wanted something deeper. I was feeling too dry to try and help turn the Bible study I was in more in that direction, and I was looking for a place where I could be fed spiritually. Several friends had been to Engage, and one even played in the praise band, so I finally decided to check it out. I was amazed! From my first visit, there was at least one thing each week that touched me right where I was. Sometimes it was a song. Sometimes it was something said in the praise and worship. Sometimes it was a challenge in the message. Engage helped me "get back on track" spiritually. I couldn't wait to go each

week to learn more and to worship. In addition, it was a great encouragement to see so many young singles out on a Tuesday night worshipping the Lord! - Renee

Engage to me is my fuel. I am hungry for God and don't get what I need from my home church. I use Engage as my fuel for what I need in my life and as my challenge to learn and stay close to God. I love Engage and pray that everyone who's a part of it will continue to do an outstanding job. Thanks again for all you do. - Mitch

The reason I go to Engage is that it makes me feel closer to God, and it also helps me turn away from other things that I might think are more important. It makes me realize that there is nothing more important than being in God's amazing presence. I love how "un-religious" Engage is. I mean irreligious not in a bad way - I've been to churches that say don't do this and don't do that, but Engage is so open to everything, and it has made me realize that God is that way. He is the amazing Father who is open to everything. So I have understood that Christianity is not about being around other Christians but instead being around non-believers to share the gospel and make an impact on their lives like Engage has done for mine. - Maria

I am very thankful that I am able to attend Engage. Each service challenges me to be honest with God. It is great to go to a place that addresses the tough questions instead of avoiding them! I think that people in their 20s are sometimes forgotten in the church scene. I am glad that Engage specifically addresses my needs as a young adult. The talks are relevant to my life. Thank you for providing this ministry. It has helped me grow closer to God! - Emily

ENGAGE IS ON-LINE AT WWW.ENGAGEGOD.ORG

SABBATH

The first Sabbath of the 2004-05 school year took place on Sunday, November 14. More than 300 students from 13 churches gathered at Byrnes High School in Duncan, S.C., under the theme of "Knowing God." It was a great night of celebration for everyone involved. We hope these pictures give you a taste of what happened on the stage and off it at Sabbath.



Dave, Chris and Chad talk practically



We want to give special thanks to the Spartanburg Christian Community Foundation, which gave Wayfarer a grant to fund this Sabbath meeting. This celebration would not have been possible without their help.

Our next Sabbath meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 17, 2005. If you're in the area, make plans now to join us as we continue to celebrate God, life and each other with student ministries from across upstate South Carolina.

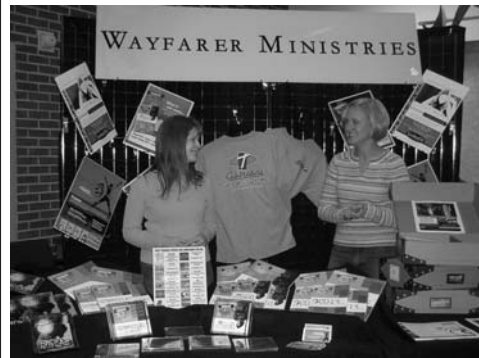


(Left) Expressing God's extravagant love

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER JOHNSEY



Chris Orr and the band



Volunteers at the Resource table



FROM OUR HEARTS...

A few weeks ago, we showed a movie clip at Engage from the movie *After Sunset*. In the scene, Ethan Hawke's character reminisces about being part of a garage band. He recalls the experience of playing for the struggling band and how that experience was ruined by the lead singer's obsession with landing a recording contract and making it to the big time. Looking back, Hawke's character realized that the band missed out on the joy of being able to make music today because it worried about where it would play tomorrow.

That reminder causes all of us here at Wayfarer to pause. The calendar just turned to 2005, and we are already knee-deep in the opportunities and work of a new year. Still, we do not want to forget 2004. We praise God for all He allowed us to do: 31 Engage meetings, two Sabbath celebrations, two new books with AMG Publishers, 168 lessons for Dash Student Leadership's 450 partner churches, camp curriculum used by thousands of youth at Student Life and thousands of kids at CrossPoint, and speaking engagements that ministered to hundreds of churches and thousands of people. It was a landmark year for Wayfarer Ministries, as we expanded our staff and our reach. The workload was overwhelming at times, but all of us on the team count it a privilege to live out God's calling on our lives and to have your support as we do so.

This year, things show no signs of slowing down. Our passion continues to be taking the message God has set on our hearts and getting it outside of Wayfarer's walls so that the good news of Jesus Christ can infect our community, nation, and the world. Please continue to pray for our garage band to be able to embrace the joy of the moment even as we look to the future. And let us take a moment between sets to thank you for supporting us. We take joy in playing the sweet tunes of Savior's grace with you.

Wayfarer Ministries is a 501 C-3 non-profit organization.

Your 2004 tax receipt will be mailed out this month. If you have questions, please contact us.

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