

THE


WAYFARER
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CELEBRATING WAYFARER'S FIRST FIVE YEARS

In September, Wayfarer celebrated its five-year anniversary. To commemorate this milestone, we wanted to let the six people who work here share a snapshot of how God has changed their lives through this ministry. Here are their stories.

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One day, as I was sitting in my office, I remembered dreaming about starting Wayfarer. I could see myself sitting in my recliner talking to Dave on the phone. That conversation was a catalyst to what we now see on a daily basis. It seems like such a blur. It's hard to believe how many things are going on in this ministry. For me personally, the most satisfying aspect of my role here is that I laid it all on the line and rolled the dice. We left everything we knew

and told the Lord that if He did not provide for us, we would not make it. He has provided every step of the way. I love that our ministry is out of the box. I love that we live with no safety net. I love knowing that if Jesus does not open doors for us, we don't have anywhere else to turn. I love living a risky life with Him, and Wayfarer is the perfect fit for that dream. Wayfarer is not a place for everyone. The stakes are higher

here because we live with an awareness that our supply comes from Him alone. But I would not trade that for the world. Getting to communicate to 20-Somethings and then traveling to speak to students all over the Southeast is a privilege that

to dream. It means I have to hear God. It means I have to work hard. It means I have to trust in ways that are uncomfortable. And it means that, when I look back, I see that I have been part of something that has the fingerprints of God pressed into

its very core. The icing on the cake is that I get to do all this with a group of people I love - people who make me a better person and a better follower of God. - *Dave Rhodes*

Through these newsletters and our website, you can see what Wayfarer is doing. So much happens around here, and we're usually going full throttle. It's a privilege for me to play a role in all this, because I truly believe that we are making a difference and spreading God's kingdom. But unless you've been here, you may not

realize what Wayfarer is like. The community that God has created here is such a blessing to me. I can't imagine chasing the mission God has given me without this team of friends around me. I'm so thankful that God has brought me here. - *Robert Neely*

Coming to Wayfarer, and even now living out the dream, is like

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THE WAYFARER FAMILY

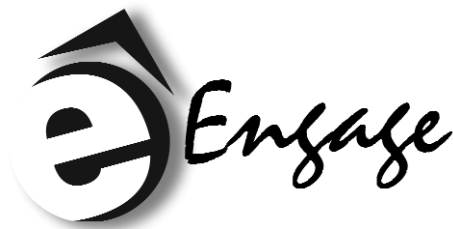
I love. - *Chad Norris*

We've all spilled a lot of blood, sweat, and tears since this whole thing started. It began without many resources, fueled only by a sense of passion, imagination, and calling. But over five years, what started as a holy hunch has become and is still slowly becoming an everyday reality. That's why I like working at Wayfarer Ministries. It means I have

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STORIES FROM ENGAGE

Each year, we ask the people who attend Engage to tell us about how God is using this ministry to change their lives. We want to share these stories with you. We hope they give you a picture of what God is doing on Tuesday nights in Greenville.

The reason I come to Engage is that coming to a big group takes me out of my comfort zone. I am a member of a very small church where I know everyone and feel comfortable. I have never regretted the momentary discomfort of a big crowd. Once the service starts, I can't think of a better place to be. The praise time is wonderful. You see the worship team's hearts in what they do up there, and it pulls you in. The messages are always incredible! I admire the creativity that goes into each series and each message. I can see as each person gets up there to speak that they are all led by the Holy Spirit and they totally are head over heels in love with Jesus and with their families. Another thing I appreciate is that the speakers don't get up on stage and try to put on some show of how perfect a pastor should be. They are real and make mistakes too, and it makes it easier to ask God for forgiveness and to forgive myself when I do things wrong. ... I support everything your ministry is about and look forward to the new season. - Nacole

Engage is my fuel for the week. I finally found a great church about a year ago, and Engage just tops off the week to hold me until Sunday. I love Engage for the intimate praise-and-worship music you guys play and the messages that take hold of my mind and heart to help me be a disciple out in the world. I enjoy growing in my walk each week by learning new things and studying more Scripture. Praise God for you guys. - Mitchell

The last week of this season at Engage, Chris Brooks told those attending that the Engage team desires for those who attend to "hear the whisper of God." That's exactly what Engage has been doing for me and a number of others this fall. Each week people come to Engage and are completely removed from any outside circumstances that would distract them from the Lord. The guys speak and ask questions that challenge listeners to dig down deep and to truly understand who the Lord is in their lives. ... Personally, Engage has shown me what it means to be dependent on the Lord for everything. It has

strengthened my prayer life, and I have learned so much about Scripture and seen it in new lights that I was blinded to before. I have learned to ask myself questions and to seek out who the Lord truly is and who I am in the Lord. When I am out of line and I come to Engage, I am called out in a way that urges me to find out what I need to do to get in line with the Lord. I can expect to hear the truth of Scripture and the voice of God each week at Engage. ... Engage is not something you come to for more encouragement - it's a place for life change. I take what I have learned at Engage and evaluate more Scripture on my own, seek the Lord, and find a quiet place to hear his voice during the week. Thanks for allowing me to hear the whisper of the Almighty God. - Chase

I now go to Engage every time you guys meet. I first started going years back, (but) I didn't go regularly for probably a ridiculous American reason. I was often busy with whatever I was busy with and, hey, living in South Carolina, there's always a place to go to get fed, right? Pick a day of the week, and we are so blessed to be able to find something to teach and instruct us. I guess it's true that you don't realize how precious something is until it's gone. In 2003 I moved to China to talk about Jesus and "teach English." Talk about a culture shock, going from the Bible Belt to a place where even meeting with others believers required thoughtful maneuvering. (China's not the place where you want to get caught breaking the law.) Often, especially early in my ministry, I was drained. I was pouring out but lacked people who could spur me on and help my own walk to grow. Plus, I had some moments of just flat-out missing American life, the ease and comfort of it. But sometime in my first months overseas, I discovered that Engage's internet broadcasts were not blocked out - wow, talk about a blessing. I could sit in my apartment off the coast of the Yellow Sea, drink cheap imitation coffee and listen loud and clear to teachings straight out of Greenville, S.C.! There are few things that bring an easier smile than being as far from home as one can be yet hearing the Lord

preached with a southern accent. This was a comforting blessing to say the least! In my time overseas I met countless Americans my age with my story, and every one of us would say that one of the things that made that life doable in our toughest times was being able to hear a message from home. I probably wasn't the only one who dialed up from some distant land, so on behalf of who knows how many others I offer my deepest appreciation. ... Now, after returning from a country where what Engage gets to do every Tuesday night is completely unthinkable, there is nothing else that I could think of doing on Tuesday nights but show up and connect with people who share the same passion I have. I've experienced a place so devoid of true worship that the heartfelt and powerful worship and teaching of Engage means more than I could express. Blessings and thanks. - (name withheld)

I have been coming to Engage for four years now. ... The main reason I come to Engage is to get fed. When I first heard of Engage several years ago, I was naïve in my understanding of the scripture and of who our God is. But through amazing, Scripture-based, inspiring teaching, I have grown spiritually so much. It challenges in my daily walk with our Father, in my relationship with my wife, in my relationship with my friends, in my career attitude, and in how I serve. There isn't one Engage I walked away from where I wasn't encouraged and challenged in my life. Not only is it feeding me - I see Engage filling so many other hungry people. Another reason I come is for the worship experience. There is something freeing and exhilarating about lifting your hands with fellow followers and singing praise. ... Father has used Engage as a key part in my spiritual formation. If I had been coming to Engage for these past years and had not experienced change in my spirit and mind, the chances are that I would not have continued to come and to invest my time and finances into it. But it has helped to equip me in my daily life as I encounter people who are so much like I was and who are seeking so many of the same things I seek. - Taylor

inspire SPRING SPEAKING SCHEDULE

Every season brings Wayfarer's team of speakers new opportunities to minister to people of all ages as they travel and speak. The spring calendar is full as Chris, Chad and Dave, will speak more than 20 events in nine states over the coming months. Please pray for them as they travel to share God's message of redemption.



SPRING TRAVEL SCHEDULE

Chris Brooks

- January 13-15:** Dawson Memorial Baptist Church event, Alabama
- January 20-21:** Mount Zion Baptist Church D-Now, Huntsville, Alabama
- January 25-29:** Shades Mountain Baptist Church retreat, Alabama
- February 3-5:** Area-wide D-Now, Pontotoc, Mississippi
- February 17-18:** Brainerd Baptist Church retreat, Chattanooga, Tennessee
- February 24-25:** Northeast Presbyterian Church retreat, Columbia, South Carolina
- March 3-5:** First Baptist Church retreat, Trussville, Alabama
- April 7-9:** Calvary Church retreat, Georgia

Chad Norris

- February 3-5:** Trinity Baptist Church event, Texas
- February 8:** First Baptist Church youth event, Augusta, Georgia
- March 10-12:** Hunter Street Baptist Church D-Now, Birmingham, Alabama
- March 24-26:** First Baptist Church kids event, Fort Mill, South Carolina
- April 21-23:** Heritage Baptist Church men's retreat, Georgia

Dave Rhodes

- February 2-5:** East Cooper Baptist Church retreat in Flat Rock, North Carolina
- February 10-12:** Village Baptist Church event, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- February 17-18:** Retreat in Helen, Georgia
- February 24-26:** Flint River Baptist Church event, Hazel Green, Alabama
- March 10-12:** Concord Baptist Church D-Now, Claremont, Georgia
- April 21-23:** First Baptist Church D-Now, Eupora, Mississippi
- April 29-30:** Silverdale Baptist Church event, Chattanooga, Tennessee

irfuse TWO BOOKS IN THE WORKS FOR '06

This spring, Wayfarer Ministries is working on two new books that will be released in time for the camp season this summer. We wanted to give you a sneak peek at both of these projects.

Snack Pack: Bite-sized moments with God - A devotional book for kids

One of the first projects that Chad and Dave envisioned when they started Wayfarer Ministries was a devotional book that would help kids begin their journeys with God. This book stayed on the drawing board for several years until we arranged a distribution deal with Lifeway's Crosspoint Camps for this summer. Now, this nine-week devotional book for grade-school children is becoming a reality. Wayfarer will self-publish *Snack Pack* for release this spring.

Trade book project

For the fifth consecutive year, Wayfarer Ministries authored the curriculum that Student Life will use at its summer camps in 2006. Tens of thousands of students will use this curriculum piece this summer to learn more about developing the attitude of Christ in their lives. Through a partnership with Student Life, Wayfarer will also write a trade book that will use the ideas in the curriculum as a launching point to think about what it means to live in the attitude of Christ. This book, which is untitled at this point, will be available beginning this summer.

For more information on how to order either of these books, call our office at 864.587.4985 or visit www.wayfarerministries.org.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
cashing in everything you have, taking that money to Las Vegas, and putting it all on red for one spin of the roulette wheel. A part of you feels immature, foolish, and irresponsible for risking it all. But something in all of us yearns to be part of something bigger than we are. All of us have risked and continue to risk as we seek to make Wayfarer a reality. When we look back, as we do now on our five-year anniversary, the Lord reminds me of all of you who stand beside us at the wheel and risk and give so much for the dream to change the world for God. Thanks. - **David Reichley**

Wayfarer is a very intellectual-sounding word that I still have difficulty spelling even though I work here. The name came from a quote by a German theologian who was introduced to us by an African-American preaching professor who inspired the staff and families here to invest their lives in teaching about the kingdom of God in wildly

creative and imaginative ways. Not much has changed about that vision. Being a Wayfarer is delightfully difficult and mysteriously rewarding. Loving, learning, and laughing together enable all of us to travel the path of the Wayfarer. And although I'm not a German theologian or an African-American preacher, it hasn't stopped me from traveling, talking, and writing about Jesus and His message of redemption. - **Chris Brooks**

As I come to work every day at Wayfarer, I can't believe I'm actually here. You can't put a price on the realization that you are doing exactly what God wants you to be doing or on the fulfillment you feel when you choose faith and do whatever it takes to respond to the Lord's promptings. There have been few moments in my life when I heard a direct word from God. One came in a Bible study when I realized I needed to investigate any possibilities available for me at Wayfarer. After talking with my husband Dave and with David

Reichley, I realized Wayfarer was looking for someone to do the things I felt passionate about and gifted to do. A few months later I was on staff. It was not an easy transition to make. It was hard leaving the job I had and the relationships with people there. It was hard to manage our family's budget so that I could make the move. But it's been worth every sacrifice. Coming to Wayfarer has been the most rewarding and fulfilling work experience I've had, and I see that as confirmation that I am exactly where I need to be. My husband once said that faith is hearing the voice of God and trusting the heart of God enough to act on what you've heard. I'm so thankful for a husband and a family who support me and allow me to step out in faith and take risks to pursue the desires God has placed in my heart. It's an amazing honor to be a part of the Wayfarer team. What a ride it's been! - **Kim Rhodes**

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

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