

snapshot.

a glimpse of Life!



May 2009

From Sea to Shining Sea



Bob Lenz

A synopsis of speaking events taking place April 17 – May 4, 2009

Our trip began in Nashville where I got to speak to the leaders of 26 Christian festivals who are members of the CFA (Christian Festival Association). Those 26 festivals will represent 1.5 million people this summer. My message focused on glorifying God, which is a longing of all our hearts. But I challenged them to use caution, because glorifying God cannot happen in a bubble. When loving Him, we must also love people in His name and go beyond our comfort zone. In order to fully glorify God we need to lift people out of their oppression, and that means going to where they are.

...And go where they are, we did. Afterwards, our team headed back to Wisconsin for two school programs at the New London Junior and Senior High Schools. The programs were sponsored by a grant from the JJ Keller Foundation. We video taped the programs and hope to get new promotional videos made. We're also looking to get my talk on "choices" made

into videos to be available for school districts that may not be able to bring me in. We also did a parent-teen program in New London with nearly 400 in attendance. Our goal is to impact youth, but in doing so we know we also need to reach their family and the situations they're living in.

On to Whitewater for an outreach on their college campus. While our main focus is to reach youth before they turn 18, we do sometimes team up with campus ministries like Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU). A young man named John was involved. John brought me into his high school a couple years ago and saw many youth come to Christ as a result. Now that he was in college he wanted his new classmates to have the same opportunity to hear the Gospel. Joining me in Whitewater were AJ the Animated Illusionist and a band called SevenGlory. We had over 300 come to the event and saw 40 college students give their lives to Christ. Plus, 18 students sponsored Compassion kids! They bought many of our resources so they could continue to impact others, and they stayed 2.5 hours afterwards asking me questions and talking. They were so hungry for truth. It's so exciting to see these young people embracing their faith, because 80% of kids who grow up in the church are leaving their faith behind in college. Please pray for college students.

Next, it was on to Antioch, IL, where we partnered with a small youth group that comes to Lifest each year, and we saw four youth come to Christ at their gathering. I, along with Dave Romenesko, our Director of Development, got to meet with a family who shared that their kids wouldn't be Christians today if it weren't for Lifest. The wife got tears in her eyes as she shared, "I don't know if my husband even knows this, but I was always going through the motions and didn't become a Christian until Lifest." Stories like this are why we're so pumped up for this year's event.

While in Illinois, we went to the Shift Student Ministry Conference at Willow Creek Church, where we met with Bo Boshers and other leaders from around the country. (Bo will be speaking at Lifest). Then we flew to Seattle for more programs where we got to work with two bands that have quickly become good friends. NoonDaySun is one of them (Be sure to check out their new album, and especially their awesome remake of the song, *Barbie Nation*). Holly Starr is the other (Check out the YouTube video of her new song *I Love You Anyway* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsYi2kRmKdQ>).

We did four schools, three outreaches and a church service. Overall, more than 900 people came out, and we had 166 people come to Christ. One of the highlights was a rally that served as a follow-up to a program we did earlier in the day at an alternative school. A girl at the age of 17, who already had two children, came back for the rally and received Christ. When I spoke with her she made a commitment to me that she would finish school, go to college and raise her kids. It was so exciting.

One of the school programs was at Holly's High School. Holly took on the event coordination as her senior project. At the evening rally, over 550 showed up and 120 came to Christ! But afterwards, as everyone else was enjoying pizza, Holly's brother, Luke, told me that someone wanted to talk to me. He introduced me to a girl named Allison. We went to cafeteria to talk, and she asked Luke and several friends to come along as well. As soon as she sat down, she started crying. "I don't know how to say this," she cried. With tears coming down her face she simply said, "I want Jesus in my heart." I began to cry and laugh at the same time, and said, "I think you said it just right."

I asked Luke, a sophomore in high school, to pray with her to receive Christ, and it was so cool. Even though 120 others did the same thing that night in their hearts, it was amazing to see just one. God gave us favor in this school that was 70% Hispanic. In my school assembly programs, I was asked to address a lot of respect issues and tensions among diversities and clashing cultures. In this small group you could see God's desire for unity as both cultures were represented and being living witnesses of love and respect for each other. As Luke finished praying, all of a sudden a young man kneeling next to Allison, who happened to be Hispanic, looked up at Luke and said, "Luke, can I do that too?" Luke asked, "Do what?" "Become a Christian," he said. As they prayed I rejoiced at seeing those walls of division coming down and people being one in Christ.

The next morning after driving 3 hours, we flew from sea to shining sea: Seattle to JFK in New York, where we then drove to Latrobe, PA. It's the home of Arnold Palmer and Mr. Rogers. A youth group of only 12 kids wanted to bring me in and they made it happen, along with three volunteers who were all school teachers. We spoke in four schools. Then we shared at their small youth group where four kids came to Christ. In addition, we teamed up with other youth groups and did an outreach with over 750 in attendance, and over 300 stood up to put their faith in Christ!

Our next leg of the trip had us flying to Agape Festival, put on by Greenville College outside of St. Louis MO. There were over 5,000 youth in attendance and we saw over 200 come to faith, plus we did a seminar for youth workers with Interlinc, and over 30 Compassion kids were sponsored. And finally, before I went home I spoke at a marriage conference in Michigan.

Whew! I confess that being on the road for three weeks straight is exhausting: the time, the lost luggage, the flight delays, the sleep deprivation, the cost of travel, the time away from family and friends, driving through the night, and not remembering what city you're in when you wake up in the morning... but to know that nearly 700 young people now have an eternal hope in Christ is worth it all.

As you read the reports of lives being changed, we hope you realize that your efforts, time and support for Life Promotions is worth it all too. Your support truly is making an impact across this nation.

For the Kingdom,

Bob Lenz
International Speaker

You can be a part of reaching young people with messages of hope and the love of Christ!

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