

Great Oaks
July 2010-June2011
Year in Review

Great Oaks Family,

This past ministry year has been an exciting time of challenges and opportunities at Great Oaks Community Church. We have focused on renewing the vision God has given us to “Love God and Love People.” We are excited about what God has done this past year as we have experienced a renewed emphasis in serving our community and world.

Our commitment to serving our community has increased as we have expanded ongoing projects: Thanksgiving boxes, Christmas gifts for Headstart and local school children, Easter baskets and a continuing partnership with the Metamora Food Pantry. We have also joined the Weekend Snackpac Project, an initiative to provide local school children who are a part of the Free Lunch program at schools a small sack of breakfast and lunch items for the weekend. There is also a team from Great Oaks who are planning the launch of a community garden, which will provide fresh foods for the food pantry and other local agencies.

Our commitment to serving our world continues as we have seen growth in our involvement in Operation Christmas Child (Shoebox ministry) and the ongoing relationship with the Basque people group in Northern Spain. We hosted 15 Basque students this year for a month long period and 2 of our families traveled with students back to Spain as hosts. We also partnered with Youth for Christ to send a team of 17 students and adults to Honduras for a week-long experience of service.

This is just a few of the ways so many of you have served in the community and around the world.

As we look forward to the next year, the opportunities ahead are numerous as we look at expanding local service projects and look for opportunities to build relationships with other unreached people groups in the world. We are developing a more comprehensive process for next steps in Spiritual Growth and opening new opportunities for volunteer service. We are in process of developing a new student ministry model for our Middle School and High School students that will include working more closely with local churches and groups like YFC. We believe this will expand the ministry to students and their families significantly.

This next year we will continue to explore how to more fully “Love God and Love People.” Three keys to this will be: Growing our prayer life, a continued emphasis in studying and applying scripture, and serving others.

May we be challenged to pray bold prayers and expect God to work in incredible ways in our community and world in the coming year.

In Christ,

Pastor Bill



Kids Town in 2010 - 2011

God has again done great things in Kids Town during the last 12 months. I am thankful for His blessings in the lives of the kids and volunteers throughout Kids Town.

Kids Town (Nursery, Pre-K, Elementary Age, Kids Town Registration)

Wow, it was another terrific and life-changing year in Kids Town. Throughout the year more than 120 volunteers made it possible for Great Oaks to successfully teach our children God's Word and live out our mandate to "Love God and Love People."

Our average attendance in Kids Town during the last fiscal year was 103.

The gifted people who successfully led these ministries in the last year are:

Nursery - Melanie Neal (Teaching Time: Deb Rauh); Little Oaks Chapel - Dana DeShon; Kids Town Registration - Tammy Blanchard.

Biblical Emphasis

Our teaching emphasis throughout the year revolve around these Basic Biblical Truths:

Nursery: God Made the World

Little Oaks Chapel: God Made Me, God Loves Me, God Wants Me to Love Others

UpStreet: I Can Trust God No Matter What, I Need to Make the Wise Choice, I Should Treat Others the Way I Want to be Treated.

Cross Training

We have just completed Cross Training 2011. Cross Training is our summer ministry for elementary age children lasting one week that combines Biblical teaching and sports. This year Cross Training was held from June 27-July 1. Our theme was "In It To Win It" based on the verse 1 Corinthians 9:24-25. We had a total of 161 registrations and saw 22 children pray to ask Jesus into their lives. We had 70 volunteers throughout the week who gave generously of their time and talents to make this exciting week possible!

Special Events

In UpStreet we had several special events including a Back to School Party, Christmas Party, and a 4th & 5th grade party. These events are a celebration as well as opportunities for kids to introduce a new friend to our church. Little Oaks Chapel hosted two Parent's Night Out. In May we also celebrated another terrific year of Kids Town ministry by holding our annual Kids Town Volunteer Appreciation lunch at Washington Park.

Among my favorite times in Kids Town are the opportunities I have to meet individually with children and discuss their faith in Jesus and their desire to follow His example of baptism. We had many kids make a public declaration of their faith in Jesus throughout the year as they were baptized on Sunday morning. God has again shown Himself to be faithful (Hebrews 10:23) as He trains up a new generation who will live boldly for Him!

In Christ,
Dan Baker

BreakAway

It was another fantastic year of teaching and training our Junior Highers how to live a life committed to Christ. Each Sunday a team of volunteers arrived to share the love of Christ with 40-50 junior high students. Each night was filled with Bible teaching, small groups, games, and friendships. Much of the Bible teaching focused around these 8 practices: Authentic Faith, Spiritual Disciplines, Moral Boundaries, Healthy Friendships, Wise Choices, Ultimate Authority, Others First, and Evangelism.

Ice Camp

Every year Ice Camp is a highlight of our Junior High calendar. This year we had 95 junior high students attend this exciting camp in Michigan. And again this year we had several students commit their lives to following Jesus.

Special Events

Though we spend a lot of time discussing Biblical truths we also take time to have fun. This year we held a live Clue Mystery game, a Christmas Party, an 8th grade graduation party, had a special viewing of Soul Surfer at the Sunny Land Cinema, and had special musical guest Broken perform for Break Away.

Change of Schedule

In June of 2011 we made a change in the day that BreakAway meets. We now meet on Wednesday evening at 6:30-8:00pm.

Thank you very much to our BreakAway leaders Roger and Sandy Schenck and the entire BreakAway team that made this last year's ministry at BreakAway possible.

In Christ,
Dan Baker

Small Groups

Summer – 2010

During the Summer Semester, we offered two new initiatives: B90X (reading through the entire Bible in 90 days) and God in the Parks (informal opportunities to connect with other individuals & families while hiking in local parks).

Fall – 2010 & Spring - 2011

During the Fall & Spring Semesters, we provided multiple small groups meeting in homes & local restaurants/coffee shops. Additionally, we launched the first year of Women's Sorority while Men's Fraternity completed its second year of study.

We also revamped our Coaching strategy by introducing the concept of Leadership Huddles – groups of 4-6 small group leaders that meet every six weeks for a time of sharing successes & failures, mutual encouragement and prayer.

Project Freedom

In November of 2010, the leadership of the church began preparing for a church-wide campaign to take the entire church through Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* class in the Fall of 2011. In preparation for that campaign, we identified numerous leaders & key influencers and took them through the entire 13-week class during the Spring of 2011. We began networking with area churches to inform them of our plans and to encourage collaboration.

First Step & Second Step

After careful review of the success & limitations of First Step, we revised the class and created two separate 3-week classes. First Step focuses upon introducing people to the history & ministry philosophy of Great Oaks while Second Step introduces the concept of spiritual formation by taking participants through Chazown to discover their next steps. We also followed up with participants one-on-one as needed/requested.

Community Impact

During the 2010-2011 ministry season, we made the decision to eliminate our monthly Second Saturday community service projects due to low attendance. We have begun exploring a new methodology of helping people identify & pursue areas of personal passion. We saw two new initiatives develop quickly – a Community Garden & SnackPac for Kids. The church once again participated in Light the Night, Operation Christmas Child, and Easter basket program. A new opportunity presented itself when we partnered with E. Peoria Head Start to provide Thanksgiving meals to local families.

Israel/Jordan Trip

One of my personal highlights during the summer of 2010 was the opportunity to spend 16-days on a hiking/study tour of Israel & Jordan. This trip has had a profound impact on my understanding & teaching of the Scriptures and has resulted in the opportunity to be a part of an 18-month discipleship group coordinated by my trip leader.

MAJOR GOALS FOR 2011-2012

- Lead Project Freedom campaign
- Develop intentional spiritual growth process
- Expand community service opportunities/initiatives
- Oversee various ministry teams including Small Groups, Men's Frat, Community Impact & Culture Shift with the goal of raising up key volunteer leaders to coordinate all aspects of each team

In Him,
Chris Genders

Culture Shift

Summer – 2010

During the Summer Semester, we partnered heavily with Youth for Christ in offering various types of events & gatherings for area high school students. These included day trips, weekend trips, service projects, Bible studies, and multiple informal gatherings.

Fall – 2010

We spent the entire Fall Semester teaching the high school students how to study the Bible. Major emphasis was placed upon background of author, historical & cultural context, recipients & major themes, style of writing, and personal application. We spent the entire semester using these tools to study the book of 1 Peter. Additionally, we participated in various events such as game nights, hiking trips and service projects.

Spring – 2011

We spent most of the Spring Semester in a teaching series called *Supernatural*. During this teaching series, we explored what the Scriptures teach about God, Satan, angels, demons, heaven, hell, End Time theories, the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues and healing. Additionally, we participated in various events such as Ice Camp, movie discussion nights, and service projects.

Honduras Spring Break Trip

One of the highlights of Culture Shift this last year was the opportunity to take students & leaders to a Youth for Christ camp in Honduras. During this week-long experience, we did a variety of work projects while also offering a daily VBS program for local children. Additionally, we had the opportunity to interact with YFC workers from Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

In Him,
Chris Genders

Worship/Arts Year in Review

I never used to be able to remember the weekends as well as I do now. Planning and preparing for the weekend services is first and foremost on the 'to do' list, and over the past year we have seen some awesome teamwork to make the weekends happen!

This past year we implemented the creative team, which meets regularly to provide creative elements for the weekend services. The goal is to help strengthen the message with specific biblical creative elements that point individuals to the big idea. The creative team is influential in all the elements you may experience each weekend from the media, stage design, dramas, illustrations, special songs, etc. It is a blessing to have this team together and as we continue to meet I know that we will only see more God inspired ideas!

Each weekend volunteers from the audio, lighting, media, band, and vocalists come together to lead us in worship. They put in many hours at home rehearsing and reviewing the weekend flow in order to be fully prepared for Sunday morning. Some highlights over the past year include *MarriedLife Live, The Christmas Eve service, 2011 Easter Service* and just recently here our remake of the infamous *Mommy Rhapsody*. All these special events and each weekend, the worship/arts team has functioned at 110% to make sure everything comes together for God's glory!

Sunday morning service preparation takes much time and energy from the volunteers involved. These people have a passion for worship and creative arts, it is their gift from God, and they do it very well! I thank God daily for the individuals and the time they give to make it all possible, and I am excited about what God has in store for us in the future! It is my goal that each weekend we as a church will enter into worship and prepare our hearts for the message that God has given us to receive.

To worship as Jesus described in *John 4:23-24, "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."* I look forward to the future together as we Love God, Love People and continue to take our next step closer to the Lord!

Nate Westerfield
Worship/Arts Pastor

June 2011 FINANCIALS

	YTD Ave Attendance 2010	YTD Ave Attendance 2011	Change YTD 2010 to 2011	% Change YTD 2010 to 2011
June	563	562	-1	0
	YTD Ave Offerings 2010	YTD Ave Offerings 2011	Change YTD 2010 to 2011	% Change YTD 2010 to 2011
June	\$12,724	\$14,507	\$1,783	14%

Cash Flow for June

Cash in	\$55,881.32
Cash out	<u>\$62,878.95</u>
	\$ - 6,997.63

Cash Flow for 2010-2011

Cash in	\$748,348.86
Cash out	<u>\$685,540.75</u>
	\$ 62,808.11

Monthly building payment	\$12,578.59
Contingency Fund balance	\$126,720.72
Heartland Mortgage	\$1,073,749.36
Operating Fund	\$49,477.01
Building Fund	\$18,186.32

GOCC BUDGET 2010-2011

	2010-11	2010-11
	Budgeted	Actual
KidsTown	\$9,700.00	\$7,262.51
Missions	\$58,000.00	\$57,447.11
Worship	\$9,400.00	\$9,804.38
Marketing	\$5,650.00	\$4,089.20
Adult Ministries	\$9,100.00	\$13,444.03
Driven Student Ministries	\$4,250.00	\$4,172.55
Administrative		
Building/Grounds	\$11,000.00	\$20,474.66
General	\$232,500.00	\$199,564.23
Office	\$16,600.00	\$16,105.34
Staff	\$7,150.00	\$6,486.71
Salaries/Benefits/Taxes	\$345,977.80	\$346,690.03
Total Administrative	\$613,227.80	\$589,320.97
<u>Total 2010-2011 Expenses</u>	<u>\$709,327.80</u>	<u>\$685,540.75</u>