



Worship Team

Pastor Ryan Young

1 Corinthians 1:20-23

²⁰ So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. ²¹ Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. ²² It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. ²³ So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

It feels good to feel smart. You might be a smarty. But if you think you are just remember there is always a hierarchy of smart and you will always find the person above you who seems to be smarter. Some of you might feel dumb. You may consider yourself unable to learn. But you know those moments when you knew the answer, when you answered the question correctly or when you said the right thing for once, it felt so good right? I know there have been countless times in my life where I felt stupid. Especially when I was growing up I felt the sting of people's words. "Can't you figure that out?" or "Why do you do things that way?" Those were common responses I heard. Most of the time it was just a look people gave me. Their glance seemed to sum up exactly how I felt about myself: dumb. I always wanted to be the person who could get the answers right so I could feel good about myself. But eventually I gave up and accepted people's diagnosis of me. Oh, there were times I would show a little fight in me when someone really hurt me and try to defend myself, but most of the time I just quietly accepted my diagnosis. How about you? It wasn't until I came to know Jesus that things started to change in me.

The point is you will never worship Jesus without a heart freed to worship. If your heart is hidden in a bad diagnosis of you then your appreciation for Jesus will never surface. Your heart for God will remain hidden in the lies surrounding it and the Bible tells us the heart is the "wellspring of life." That means your heart needs to be free of its cage and that freedom comes from the love and acceptance found in Jesus. The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction (worldly acceptance, people approval, resigned to people's opinions of them) but letting Jesus build us up in His love grows up a heart for worship. Your heart does not need the latest information the world has to offer, but the freedom found in Christ. Free your worship!

Bible Classes

Gerardo Ramos

The day of the big race has arrived, teams of runners have been preparing all year for this day. These teams have gone through hours of intense training, miles of endless running building up strength and endurance. Adrenaline fills the runner's veins and their focus becomes a tunnel-like vision to their teammate down the track. "On your mark", "Get set", "Bang!" the race is on! I remember when I was a younger and was in Track and Field. I'd have to be honest and say that I was not very excited about the relay race. I would always run as fast as I could and end up running out of gas before passing the baton to my teammate. After catching my breath and stretching all of the cramps out of my legs, my coach would say, "how many times have I told you to pace yourself?"

Growth in Leadership and Teaching can be viewed similar to a relay race. Here at North Park, God has grown up some faithful leaders and teachers. Over the years God has prepared these leaders with intensive training classes and a mentoring program. In the second letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul advised Timothy to "do his best to present himself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." Some of our teachers have the opportunity to pass the baton to other upcoming teachers. So that they can also present themselves to God as one approved. One of these upcoming teachers is Jarod Barker, who will be teaching the 3rd - 5th grade class. We see God doing great things in Jarod's life and more to come in his future. Pray for Jarod as he continues to be faithful to God's will and keeps running the race. Our second upcoming teacher is from our very own youth group! How awesome is that?! Beka Hansen will be teaching the K-2nd class. Beka has grown up in the church and youth group. Her growth in Christ is a great illustration to Proverbs 22:6 (NLT) "Teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it." God has blessed Beka and will continue to bless her in the future. Pray for Beka as she continues to grow into a young woman of God. Remember "slow and steady" always wins the race, said coach.

A key focus in our Bible Class Ministry is to train up leaders and teachers so that someday they can pass on the baton to another teammate. Always keeping the big picture in mind, disciples making disciples just as Jesus commanded us to do.



Celebrate Recovery

Bonita Wilgocki

Do you think that you wouldn't fit in? The common misconception surrounding Celebrate Recovery is that you have to be an alcoholic and/or a drug addict to attend. Soooo not true! This LIFE-BUILDING Christ-based 12-Step program has been designed for anyone who has been hurt in the past. And if you're breathing, I can guarantee you've been hurt. Whether you are truly in recovery or not, you have to be honest with yourself and admit that we all hold onto these beliefs, emotions, and memories that surround our hurts. And unless you are a perfect person (HA!), you have been enticed to turn to destructive habits and create some hang-ups. As a result, perhaps you struggle with insecurity, trusting God and others, negative thinking, critical and judgmental behaviors, anger, low self-worth, over-eating, under-eating, obsessive thoughts, worry, cutting, insomnia, hoarding, fear, gossip, impatience, greed, selfishness, jealousy, or any other number of attitudes or actions. Perhaps you believe that your life hasn't been that bad and does not compare to the horrible, heart-breaking stories that are so prevalent amongst the attendees and members of Celebrate Recovery. The truth is, Jesus didn't come to save and provide healing for only those who have such physically evident need. What does our Life Manual, the Bible have to say about this? In Luke 4:16-19, we learn that Jesus returned to his hometown of Nazareth, went to church, and stood up to read the Scriptures. The scroll containing the messages of Isaiah the prophet was handed to Him, and He unrolled the scroll to the place where it says: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for He has appointed me to preach the Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that the captives be released, that the blind will see, and that the downtrodden will be freed from their oppressors, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come." I think we can all agree that Jesus was appointed by God to preach the Gospel! And even though probably most of us do fall into the category of financially poor, Jesus was speaking to the condition of our heart, that of poor in spirit, humble, meek, and truly repentant of our sins. When He speaks of captives, He is not referring to those in the correction facilities, but to those of us that have been a slave to anything other than God. What has mastered us? Have we been blinded by false beliefs and lies? Do you desire to step into the light that God can shed on our hurts and heal from the oppression of guilt, shame, and reoccurring sin? Then Jesus was speaking of you! And we truly believe that Celebrate Recovery is just one of the many tools and resources that God has provided for revealing truth, healing, encouragement and support! Give it a try! Come join us for fun and freedom!

Join us Monday nights in Fremont and Thursday nights in Columbus at 7pm!

Lyn's Lines

Pastor Lyn Hansen

Hey Guys,
Exciting times ahead!! March is Mission Emphasis Month. For some time now we have had an association with All Nations Ministries. All Nations Ministries was founded and is operated by Pastor Ron Goombi and his wife Alpha. The Goombi family ministers to Native American families across Nebraska. Ron is also Pastor of All Nations Church on the Omaha Indian Reservation at Macy, NE. where Alpha serves as worship leader. The need is immense; the suicide rate among Natives 15-24 years old is twice as high as the rest of the country... Homicide is the second leading cause of death among Indians 14 years and younger. There is so much more, and think of it... we have an opportunity to help! Here's the deal, Ron and Alpha served as missionaries for the North American Mission Board of the southern Baptist Convention until December of 2013. At that time their funding entirely stopped! This was not due to anything they had done- in fact All Nations had seen some of the most effective times in their ministries up to this point. The funding stopped due to a decision by the Southern Baptist Mission Board to move support to metro areas (New York, Chicago etc.). Dear friends, we need to help this ministry continue to reach Natives for Jesus. All through March we will be taking donations for All Nations Ministries. Mark your checks or envelopes for this purpose. Then... Friday evening March 21st, Ron and Alpha will be at North Park Columbus to share their story with us. Ron is a dynamic speaker and Alpha is an exciting worship leader! This will be a blast!! Please make plans to come and support these amazing servants of Jesus Christ.

Another thing to look forward and pray for... mark your calendars... May 21st, North Park Church will be hosting a huge Christian concert at Columbus High School!! That's right your church is bringing the City Rockfest Tour to Columbus Nebraska! Seventh Day Slumber, Consumed By Fire, and At The Wayside... three bands - one night. The day after school gets out - Wednesday May 21st at 7pm. The concert will be free (free-will offering will be taken). We want to see many, many people come to know Jesus!! Get involved! We need a lot of help. Gene Henry is our organizer... Call him at 402-563-4223 with questions, to volunteer or to donate.

On February 16th, our Fremont Campus celebrated one year and one month since beginning Sunday services! What an awesome night! Great testimony by our charter-member Steve Perkins. Super slide show of some of the last years highlights put together by Clay Anderson. Good music, good food and good friends! And HUGE horses! Great time! Please pray for your church.

See you soon!
Pastor Lyn