



*Be sure to check out the new additions to "The Compass" including "On Assignment," articles from True North alumni, and the "Standing in Awe" section!*



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## *Caution: Construction Site*

By Hilarie Johnson

Since 1992 True North WELS Campus Ministry has called the Dinkydome home. Since then, our space has grown from the worship sanctuary and Bible study room to include a kitchen and offices for both Val, our ministry coordinator, and Choices, True North's pregnancy counseling center. However, in the near future there may be a new or improved face to True North WELS Campus Ministry.

Doran Construction plans on signing papers in

August 2008 to purchase the Dinkydome and, in turn, build on the entire block of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue from University Avenue to 4<sup>th</sup> Street. A tentative plan suggests that the lower level of our current home will be converted to office spaces for rent

In addition, an 11 story apartment complex is to be connected directly to the Dinkydome and completed by Fall 2010; a new roof and further renovations on the Dinkydome may not necessarily be completed by this date.

Further plans include an elevator going through what currently functions as our Bible study room, separating our worship space from our kitchen



*True North WELS Campus Ministry has called the Dinkydome home since 1992.*

## *Being Content With What You Have*

By Amber Klause

As students, we have been living during a very prosperous time in US history. The economy has flourished and we have benefited. Though we may not be eating the healthiest, most of us do not have to worry about our needs being fulfilled. We can afford some luxuries (like cable) and let innovations (like the dishwasher) free up our time at home, and yet we still never have enough time to do the things we want to

do. As a society our homes are getting bigger, our technology is getting better, but is it making us any happier?

As we graduate and get our new jobs, we must remember what our priorities are in life. We have spent the last four (or more) years working towards our degree in hopes of finding the right job, but it can be hard to decide what we want. Some people are looking for jobs

that will allow them to live the lifestyle they have always wanted to live.

They will work long hours so they can be the type of consumers our society encourages—those who buy more than they need to keep up with the Jones' and get intrinsic pleasure from shopping.

*Continued on page. 2...*

### **Thank You To:**

- Bethlehem, Hortonville, WI for their gift
- Trinity, Goodview, MN for their gift
- Alumni for their continued offerings

# Being Content With What You Have *(continued from page 1)*

By Amber Klause



Amber Klause is in her 4th year here at the University of Minnesota and is graduating in May, 2008. She is majoring in Family Social Science with a minor in Housing, and hopes to be a financial/housing counselor. She is originally from Belview, MN.

Yet that is not how the Lord wants us to be; the Bible says to, "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have." (Hebrews 13:5). This wisdom is very relevant today when people are graduating from college with huge amounts of consumer debt from trying to buy their happiness with material possessions they cannot afford instead of being satisfied with their own incomes, recognizing their limitations, and re-training themselves. I wonder about what is missing in students' lives that they need to spend so much money to try to make themselves happy, and I think I know the answer.

To graduate in four

years, students at the University of Minnesota must take at least an average of 15 credits each semester. With each credit representing 3 hours of studying each week, students are expected to study 45 hours each week. Many students also have part-time jobs, extra-curriculars, and/or volunteer duties booking up their time. With all that is going on in students' lives it is little wonder that they find it hard to make time for God. Students have complicated, stress-filled lives, but it is not religion that most students turn to for help (alcohol is probably closer to the top of the list).

Yet there are some students at the U who are bring-

ing their focus back to God. This spring True North has increased their effort to get students thinking about the New Testament, spending time with it, and getting to know Jesus. Weekly assigned readings and two hour Bible studies mean a serious time commitment, but the students doing it do not seem to resent the additional call on their time. Instead it provides them with a chance to step back from their secular lives and see the bigger picture. Making time for God does not complicate our lives, it simplifies them.

Everyone should try it.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### April

#### 3rd—Thursday

3-7pm Service Opportunity  
*The ladies of Choices, our women's ministry and pregnancy counseling center, will be making dinner for the women and children at Women's Advocates Shelter*

#### 10th—Thursday

8pm — Women's Bible Study  
*Also at 12:30pm on Friday*

#### 17th—Thursday

7pm Bowling at the Gopher Spot

#### 26th—Saturday

5:00pm—Thank You Banquet

### May

#### 4th—Sunday

No Bible Study  
11am — Outdoor Worship  
*At Van Cleve park...just 5 blocks north of the Dome on 15th.*

Noon — Picnic

*Join us after worship while Pastor fires up the grill.*

#### 11th—Sunday

No Bible Study  
11am — Worship  
*Join us for our final worship service of the school year.*

#### 18th—Sunday

No Worship at True North

### June

*Summer Schedule to be announced!*

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Check out our Website for more events, details, and changes...

<u>Weekly Schedule:</u>	
<b>Sundays</b>	
9:45AM	Bible Study
11AM	Worship
<b>Mid Week Bible study:</b>	
Tuesdays	7:00PM
Wednesdays	7:00PM

# Transformation

By Mark W. Anderson

This spring, True North is focusing on newness and transformation. We read in Romans 12:2, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." An important way we shed the old self and are transformed is by being in God's word.

Unfortunately, our time in the Word is often the first thing we sacrifice when our lives get busy; which is all day every day.

So this semester we are challenging each other to make the time to read through, or listen to, the entire New Testament. Audio CDs of the New Testament can be checked out from True North so you can listen on the bus or in between classes. You can put the CD on your Ipod or Mp3 player, delete the tracks when you're finished, and return the CD for the next one.

There is also a New Tes-

tament Bible study on Tuesday or Wednesday nights. Feel free to come for just one, or for all of them. Even if you don't finish the whole New Testament, the goal is to encourage each other to stay in the Word, no matter how busy we get.

*Mark W. Anderson is a grad student in civil engineering...he's been a member at True North for almost 6 years...and*

*Interested in participating in a WELS college rally? One is in the works for the 3rd weekend in May, 2008.*

## STANDING IN AWE

MARVELING AT THE WONDERS OF GOD'S CREATION

### Trusting in His Ways

"I did everything I was supposed to do." I've heard these words a number of times in my work as a research coordinator. One of the studies I'm working on involves leading discussion groups with mothers who have lost babies. These women share their perspectives with us on various factors that may have contributed to their children's deaths. Over and over again, the mothers have talked about how they took their vitamins, ate well, went for check-ups, and did everything they were supposed to do, yet their babies were born too early and too small. Their sons and daughters looked so perfect with their tiny hands and tiny cries, yet God gave these children just a short time with their parents on this earth.

As I sit and listen while the mothers tell their stories, I am constantly reminded of God's divine providence in our lives. We may think we are doing everything we're supposed to do to ensure a certain outcome, yet all things remain in God's hands. His plans are not my plans. Often, I don't understand them. There are many times I wouldn't choose them on my own. But I trust that the all-knowing Creator of the universe, who always was and always will be, who loved us enough to send His own dear Son to die for us, knows what He is doing and, mercifully, truly is continually working out all things for our good. In the words of Isaiah 55:9, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

By Alicia Cortright



We may never know in this life why He guides our paths as He does, but we can find comfort in knowing that He guides our paths with wisdom and love beyond our comprehension. He works all things out for our good in His boundless love for us, when we're doing everything we're supposed to do and, more often the case, even when we're not.

*Alicia Cortright was a member of True North from 2002-2004 while she was a graduate student studying public health. Currently she lives in Mequon, WI where her husband, Geoff, is a senior at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Alicia works in Milwaukee, WI as a research coordinator in the Division of Community Pediatrics for the Medical*

*So often, today's world uses science to disprove the existence of God. "Standing in Awe" will be a regular addition to "The Compass," praising God for the complexity of His creation.*

## Caution: Construction Site *(continued from page 1)*

By Hilarie Johnson

Negotiators suggest that perhaps space on the north side of our worship facility will be available during construction and after the addition of the elevator.

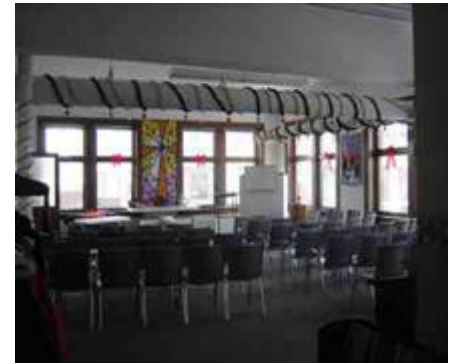
Status of the project is constantly being updated, and plans are still developing. Contractors will begin talks on the final details soon, giving True North options for accommodating renovations and the elevator construction. Negotiations with contractors seem optimistic as though the future of True North's home is not threatened. Still, it is uncertain if True North's rent will increase or by how much, or if construction will disrupt our use of the facility for worship services or Bible studies.

These changes also bring about opportunities for ministry.

Advertisements for the complex, such as brochures, will include all of the facilities' attributes including True North. The apartment building attached to the Dinkydome also presents witnessing opportunities to the many students living there. Were we prohibited from use of the space during a construction period, we may rent a room in Coffman Memorial Union. Basic rooms in the student union are often free or very inexpensive and may attract students that might otherwise not attend services held in the Dinkydome.

As university students, we are very used to tests. With the uncertainty of True North's future ahead, God gives us another kind of test—a test of trust. This challenge reminds us that often man's worst-case scenario is God's means to

grow His Church. In addition, True North, like that of the New Testament Church, has always been a student-focused ministry, based on the Holy Spirit's work through God's Word rather than the address we call home.



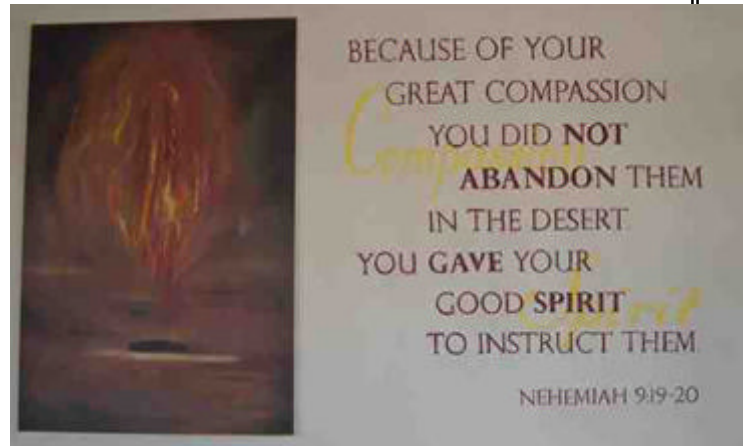
*The Sanctuary (and sometimes Fellowship Hall) at True North*

For a WELS Campus Ministry near you contact Karen Marshall at 414-256-3279 or email her at [Karen.Marshall@sab.wels.net](mailto:Karen.Marshall@sab.wels.net) or access the church locator at [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net).

## Attention!

This work now decorates the interior wall of our worship area. We know the picture doesn't do it justice, but this red and golden flame is a beautiful reminder of God's mercy and guidance.

Words from *Nehemiah 9:19-20*, painted by *Jenni Hielke* and *Jenn Orth*, to accompany painting by former True North student, *Carmen Tomfohrde*; print donated by *Mr. & Mrs. Tomfohrde*.



# ON ASSIGNMENT

ALUMNI NEWS



## *A Letter from Texas*

By Lance and Nikki Hill

A wedding, two moves, a new condo and a pregnancy have all occurred since we left True North last summer. It has been quite a busy time for myself and my wife, Nikki, as we have made the transition from our single lives to being married. And through it all God has guided us every step of the journey.

Last July, Nikki and I moved down to Houston for her dream of working for NASA. Years ago she had made a trip down to Houston and met some other WELS members, one of which just so happened to be a contractor for NASA. Seasons passed and he still remembered Nikki, and recommended her for a position that had opened up. A few months later, she is sitting at her computer screen, monitoring space debris flying around the Earth. Me, I take care of computer networks.

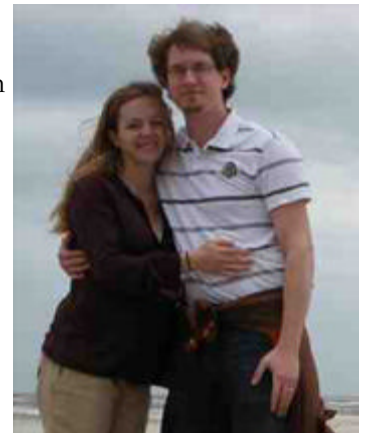
There have been trials. I was surprised how much I missed the

Midwestern lifestyle, and I missed many people that I had left behind. God had put many wonderful people into my life, and it was hard not knowing they were a short drive away. Nikki had similar pains, but one pain she was not expecting was morning sickness. Three months after we were married the blessing of a new life was revealed to us. I think some pains, though, are just reminders of the blessings we have been given.

We found a new church, where God has continued to amazingly guide us. When we joined Lord of Life in Friendswood, Texas, they were just starting up their evangelism committee. There is nothing my wife loves more than canvassing, and she joined right away. And somehow the computer person for Lord of Life's school was just moving away to a new location. Another perfect fit, this time for me. Funny how God works sometimes.

Overall, we are enjoying our

new life here in Texas. We are very thankful for every blessing we have been given here, and those which we enjoyed back at True North. We cherish the moments we had at True North, a place where we met many lifelong friends, not to mention each other. I pray God guides everyone else with the same gentle hand He has used on us.



*Nikki and Lance are expecting their first child in June.*

*"On Assignment" will be a regular addition to "The Compass" with the purpose of following True North alumni on the path God lays out for them after college.*

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# Life Transformation

By Pastor Joe Johnson

How do you change the world? How do you transform a life? Is it by force? Is it by argument, debate or guilt? Is it with money or manipulation? For Mulla Abbas it was tears that transformed.

A mulla is a Muslim teacher and Mulla Abbas was such a teacher in the village of Damghan. One day Pastor Ivan Wilson visited this little village that rested 250 miles east of Teheran. He would sell Christian books and invite people to visit him for tea. One day Mulla Abbas showed up at Wilson's door. Abbas had not come to find out about Jesus but to prove to the missionary that Islam was the true religion. After a long conversation, Mulla Abbas felt he had defeated all the arguments of this Christian. He was feeling very proud of himself when he saw a very unexpected thing. There were tears rolling down the cheeks of Mr. Wilson.

Several years passed, Mr. Wilson left Iran and other missionaries visited the little village. One traveling missionary visited a small service in the village and who should be there but Mulla Abbas. When asked what changed his life, he said, "It was Mr. Wilson's tears that led me to Christ!...His great heart was grieved because of my pride and unbelief. And his tears did for me what his arguments did not do. They melted my hard heart."\*

The Apostle John says in his first letter, "Dear

friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:7)

If you want to know what transforms and changes lives — it is not guilt or force of manipulation—it's love. God's love sent his Son to win our salvation and to give us life. His love revealed itself in the gospel and brought it to our hearts. The Holy Spirit's love through the gospel transformed our hearts so that we love. God's love in Mr. Wilson's heart led him to share the gospel with Abbas and to tears of sorrow over its rejection. That same love transformed the life of Mulla Abbas and the lives of his whole family. If you want to be transformed, or help someone else, its not self help books, its not clever words or arguments—it's God's love. The love of Jesus makes the difference! Learn of God's love in his word and then live that love in your life. That's the way to change the world!

*\*Account told by William McElwee Miller in his wonderful book,*

## TRUE NORTH WELS CM



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