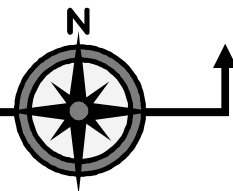


The Compass

Always Pointing Heavenward



VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2
JANUARY 2008

True North
WELS Campus
Ministry - Twin
Cities

Below is a letter between two demons that seems to be talking about giving and raising money in the churches. It should be noted that demons don't always see things clearly nor are they completely honest—even with themselves!

My Dear Lucre,

I received your report and noted that you filled it primarily with talk of budget shortfalls, revenue streams, economic projections and deficits. While your report contained much that was considered good news to our father below—I was shocked that a tempter with your reputation should miss the big picture! Any devil who read your report would probably get the idea that we are merely trying to deprive the churches of money!

Above all you need to remember that the human animals are so bound by their senses. To them what is “seen” is so much greater than the “unseen.” This is a huge advantage for us. Remember they don't see that our Enemy owns everything in the heavens and on the earth! How awful that we owe him even the “ground” we stand on. This is why we can never hope to deprive his people of all resources, financial or otherwise! But it is not about the paper and the trinkets that they call money. We are at war for far more than that—we want their spirits!

Sadly I think your report falls into some wishful thinking—I do not believe you are as successful as you claim. Don't you realize the danger? Whenever his followers give out of love for him they proclaim his praises. And there is nothing worse for us than having to face the praise of our

great Adversary! (It is unbelievable to us that He delights in their love. He who has such power and glory that we cannot look upon him—that he considers their gifts of such great value! That he accepts from their hands matter that rots to dust and is pleased with the trinkets they lay at his feet. How beyond our understanding is the mind of our Enemy! Who would have imagined that he would degrade the whole spiritual world when he himself became a human animal? Who could have foreseen that he would have used death to defeat us? That he would take the weapon we had forged and use it to conquer and undo all our works! And then he destroys death itself and promises to raise the bodies of the mortals and make them glorious for all eternity! How futile all our plans appear in the face of this.)

Don't underestimate our Enemy's shrewdness. He not only receives praise from their gifts but it results in more people praising him! He uses the gifts of those animals which he calls sons and daughters to proclaim his praise throughout our territories and dominions. They give to His glory and through their gifts the message of his “good news” is proclaimed far and wide! And we have to listen to the horrible shrieks of thanksgiving coming from those who hear that message!

Continued on next page...

THE WORD FOR TODAY!

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand... O LORD our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand and all of it belongs to you. I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.” —David

(1 Chronicles 29:14, 16-17)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Picture: Jenni & Susie Christmas decorating	2
Stewardship at a Campus Ministry	2
Blessings of Change	3
Schedule of Events	3
Belated Seasons' Greetings	4



...continued from page 1

This is what you need to stop! Don't get Start by convincing them that they need to raise them separate giving from praising. If you can serve us! If it's not done for him than it is in tr

The simple way to accomplish o tive ways. Use the principle that the best giving; foolish game they play with a ball and a hole in teach them to call that giving. Have them sell t of them buys something he desires, remind him helping some "ministry" and leave out the idea courage them to give titles to those who "give." amounts (this will have the added benefit of als and small givers in their sight). Change their la talk about giving units and donors—the more y as merely means to an end the better. Above al slowly and steadily undermine the connection t money and worship. If you can break that link, thy of your spreadsheets!

Oh how I wish we could stop those painful gifts, those paltry amounts that come with such blinding love. Thankfully the human animals don't notice those gifts, but our Enemy does. Mark my words, the Enemy does and wherever his gaze falls, our kingdom shall be established.

Hoping that all your numbers are ever recorded in the red!

Your fellow tempter,
Avarice

The True North Staff

Pastor: but focus on the heart. to make tually

Joe Johnson: pastor@truenorthwels.org

Events Coordinator:

Valerie Johnson: coordinator@truenorthwels.org

TrueNorth #'s:

Office & Pastor's cell phone: 612-378-1346

The Compass Staff Members:

Andy Steinke: stei0552@umn.ed

Hilarie Johnson: joh02179@umn.



Stewardship at a Campus Ministry by Sarah Marten & Jennifer Orth

The Stewardship Committee of True North had a very active fall semester. With a couple years experience under our belts, we were ready to get our committee going and involved. Our four person committee strives to promote involvement at True North and in our activities. We serve both our members and our Savior.

Our events lie under the categories of service and fellowship. With a little bit of encouragement and the

promise of food, we managed to get a group of college students together to spend a Friday night doing a little fall cleaning.

Our big project that evening was giving our Bible study room a fresh coat of paint and new wallpaper.

Many of those students that helped were willing to give another Friday night to True North as we decorated for Christmas. Also, our fellowship activities began early this year. We started planning our Labor Day Grill-in before

classes had even begun.

This event reunites our members and welcomes new faces into our group. We also celebrated Thanksgiving early this year with a complete turkey dinner after church on the Sunday before Thanksgiving break. This event both brought us together and promoted all our opportunities for service here at True North.

With a successful fall semester wrapping up, we are currently planning our spring semester events and other



Schedule of Events

January 2008

- 11th-12th - Alumni Overnight @ the Johnson's (6 p.m.)
 20th - Sunday worship services resume (11 a.m.)
 26th - Sledding...weather permitting -bring a sled (3 p.m.)
 27th - Sunday Bible study resumes (9:45 a.m.)
 29th - Dollar dinner (5:30 - 7:00 p.m.)

February 2008

- 3rd - Field trip to Art Institute (after church)
 6th - Soup supper (6 p.m.)
 Ash Wednesday devotion service (7 p.m.)
 13th - Dollar dinner (5:30 p.m.)
 20th - Soup supper (6 p.m.)
 22nd - Ice skating (evening)
 Wednesdays—Lenten Devotion Service (7 p.m.)

March 2008

- 5th - Lenten devotion service (7 p.m.)
 13th - Christian Passover meal (5 p.m.)
 16th, 23rd - No worship or Bible study

Regular Weekly Schedule:

Sundays

- 9:45 AM- Bible Class—*Jeremiah*
 11:00 AM- Worship

Mid-week Bible study T.B.A.

Thursdays & Fridays (every other)

- Th—8PM- Women's Bible Study
 Fr—12:30 PM- Women's Bible Study

For more events, check out the True North
 calendar of events at

**[www.truenorthwels.org/
 Twincities/index.html](http://www.truenorthwels.org/Twincities/index.html)**

True North gives permission to re-use our articles for additional publications. E-mail Val Johnson at coordinator@truenorth-wels.org if you would like the electronic version of these articles.

Blessings of Change from a former student now living in China

As I wandered the mazes of the Forbidden City in complete darkness, vainly searching for a rehearsal that I was very late for, I wondered what I could possibly write about in this article. And it came to my attention how drastically my life changed after moving to Beijing, China.

I've gone from the sleepless nights of a bumming college student to respected foreign English teacher, disciplining the students who try to sleep in my class. Making plans for New Year's will have to wait another week or two because the government hasn't announced yet which days the schools will have off for the holiday.

My responsibilities are different too: I don't pay my rent bill, but if I forget to check the meter outside the apartment door, I will most definitely run out of electricity. Late night snacks have changed from Domino's pizza to chuar (meat on a stick) and beer. The life I knew in America has temporarily been put on pause.

Of course there is even greater change to my life here than food. Trying to talk to someone on the U of M campus about their Creator or our purpose in life can be harder than pulling teeth, yet His seeds are spreading like wild fire in Beijing.

And as the friends I make begin to study His words, they become illuminated in ways one could only dream of seeing. It shows in their zeal to study and learn more, and in their everyday life decisions. It shows when they begin to share the Light of Truth with their own friends and even strangers.

Our Shepherd is drawing his lost, blind sheep back from the crooked paths into His warm arms to stay. How blessed am I to be so close to changing hearts and to see so evidently the work of His powerful Hand! His Word is truly alive and active. All glory belongs to Him, the Life-Giver and Sustainer.

And yet two things remain the same here on earth. The Powerful Enemy has one constant goal and he will work against each of us in our own hearts all the days of our lives. Though the surrounding goodness of the I AM is right in front of my eyes, I often succumb to temptation and allow the struggles of life to blind me from the joy of all that I have through Him.

When my new troubles here began to overwhelm me and blotted out these great blessings of change from my sight, He used his Unchanging Word and his children to draw me back to his fold.

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." It is this true promise of constancy which can encourage all of us to continue working through trouble. We live in a changing world, good and bad, but our work is for more than man. Our work is for the One who will never change. See Colossians 3:23-24

May our ever faithful Protector bless your trust in Him as He encourages you with His awesome Words.



Within the Church, the month of December was filled with the joy and anticipation of the advent of our King, Jesus. Yet, outside of our Christ-centered sanctuary, lies a world filled with only "holidays." The University of Minnesota campus is notorious for being politically correct, so it's no surprise that "Merry Christmas" has been replaced with "Happy Holidays." From classes, to the Campus Connectors, to school emails, Christmas was not merry, but rather, "Happy Holidays" were in order.

In an attempt to minimize this Christian holi-

day, the cheer throughout the month of December was shared with the non-biblical Jewish holiday, Chanukah, the invented African-American holiday, Kwanzaa, and the catchall phrase, "Season's Greetings." And then there is the Christian inspired, "X-mas," in which Christmas is so inconspicuously motivated by consumerism to become a holiday void of joy and cheer and replaced by overindulgence and stress. Lastly, each year it seems the New Years' festivities overshadow the Christmas celebration all together.

So how is a Christian supposed to celebrate

Christmas all year round in an ever changing world? Advent services at True North helped even my wandering mind to put final exams and Christmas shopping into perspective, and personal Bible study with *Meditations* helps me to meditate on Christ's coming, His death and His coming again.

In addition, I tried to keep in mind the real reason for the exchange of gifts at Christmas time no matter whom my gift was for. Lastly, I refuse to get peer pressured into wishing "Happy Holidays", so "Belated Merry Christmas" on December 25th and all year long!

For a WELS Campus Ministry near you contact Karen Marshall at 414-256-3279 or email her at Karen.Marshall@sab.wels.net or access the church locator at www.wels.net.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
PERMIT NO. 01606



WELS Campus Ministry
1501 University Ave. Suite #308
Minneapolis, MN 55414

(Partially funded by Lutheran Institutional Ministry Association)

