

THE COMPASS



T to the Third Power: Tasty Topic Tuesdays

By Rachel Camann

This past fall, Voices introduced Tasty Topic Tuesdays to the True North Campus Ministry. Voices, the women’s fellowship group of True North, wanted to reach out to more women in the ministry as well as all women across the University of Minnesota campus. So in addition to other efforts, the group decided to create a monthly meeting time where relevant issues facing women could be discussed in a Biblical context followed by delicious treats and a fun activity. As a result, Tasty Topic Tuesdays were created.

Each Tasty Topic Tuesday has a specific theme that ties together a Bible study, activity and of course, tasty treats. Since the

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My Life Has Value!

By Daniel Balm

On October 15th, True North put on an outreach event entitled “Life Matters.” The purpose was to share with our campus community the reason why life matters. Being at a University with 50,000 incredibly gifted students has led me and probably others to question what is so special about our lives.

So why does life matter? Is it our accomplishments? Does the answer lie within ourselves? Does it depend on what other people think of us? Luckily, it is none of these! God

created each and every one of us for a reason and purpose. Even when our lives did not seem to matter and we were still in our sins, God’s love was so great that he saw every person worth saving. Paul shows how much God loves us in Romans 8:38, “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

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Construction Update

Since August 2008 when True North's home, the Dinkydome, was sold to Doran Construction Company, changes have slowly been occurring. Several businesses and student groups in certain areas of the Dinkydome have been forced to relocate and a couple of the buildings on the block have already been torn down. During November, from the windows in True North, one had an excellent view of demolition on the additions attached to the south side of the Dome. The parking lot next to the Dinkydome that facilitated Sunday morning parking is now blocked off. Other than that, True North's ministry has been virtually unaffected throughout Fall semester.



On Assignment

Alumni News

By Ted Rattei

The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews wrote in chapter 13, verses 5 and 6: "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?'" Today, it is both this admonishment and these words of encouragement that guide me through my daily tasks. In my life, God is working to shape me, to change me, and to bring me closer to Him.

After three years of classes at the University of Minnesota, I had an internship and took a full time position working in the technology industry in Silicon Valley - San Jose, California. This was a blessing, and I have grown both professionally as well as spiritually through these experiences. It was easy to grow comfortable with the circumstances of my life - I had food and shelter, and a rewarding career to look forward to. It was with some surprise, then, that I announced to family and friends my desire to move to Beijing, China and work with a group called Friends of China which ministers to our brothers and sisters in China. I initially hoped to work as a teacher, but my work as an engineer and educational background has added challenges to this route. I'm currently exploring other work opportunities, or possibly becoming a student, so that I can work with Friends of China. As of today, I don't have answers to the question of "how" and "what will you do". However, I take hold of the verses from Hebrews - being content with what I have, trusting the Lord for my daily bread, for my income, for my every need. I have found that as the Lord has placed in me a desire to relocate to Beijing and be part of the work that is done there, I have been forced to trust in the Lord, and not my own might or strength, for the details of my life. This

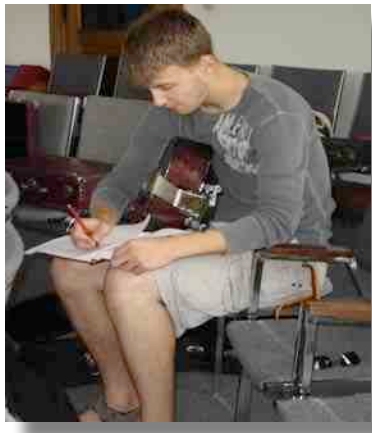
process of trusting, of relying on the Lord, has deepened my faith as I have put what I have been taught into practice.

When this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, I will



Ted Rattei's home church is Apostles Lutheran in San Jose, CA, but he is still enrolled in Continuing Education classes through the U of MN.

be somewhere between Minnesota and Beijing. The details are still waiting to be sorted out, waiting for God to provide for each step that I take. What I hope, desperately, is that you would consider in your own heart how much God loves you, and how His promises are trustworthy. I hope that you can join with me in the confidence that we share as His children, as the redeemed and sanctified, as strangers in a strange land: "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Whether in the cold and snow of Minnesota, or halfway around the world in Asia, this promise is trustworthy, for me and for you. I'll be flying to Beijing in early 2009, trusting that the Lord will provide for my every need.



Here Mark Zondag makes notes on his music during practice at True North. The newly formed Worship Committee has enriched many services this past semester with musical accompaniment.

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Equipping the Saints

Conversations to share with unbelievers



Racism and the Bible

Monday, January 19th, is Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

The Bible makes many arguments against the evil of racism. However, the greatest argument is found in the cross of Jesus. Jesus shared these words with a religious leader one night. "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) Jesus came to die not for one racial group or one ethnic group. He did not come just one socio-economic group or one ethnic group. He did not come just for the most capable and gifted people. He came for the world. And in giving his life for you and me and for everyone you see today, he established the value of each individual life. Every individual person whether they are male or female, young or old, black or white or neither, is considered so valuable and precious to God that he would send his own Son for them. That is why the cross of Jesus and love of God that it expresses stand in total opposition to all racism, in the heart, in words, and in actions.

When the KKK burns the cross, it is consistent with the hate of their hearts. They hate Jesus and everything he stands for and they hate people that God loves and people that Jesus died for. When people use the Bible in support of racism, they show that they have missed the central message of God's love for humanity. As far as the Bible is concerned, mankind is in one boat. We have all given in to evil and to hate and to anger in one form or another. We have all failed to love others as we should. And God sent his son Jesus to die for all of us because we all needed a Savior. The night that Martin Luther King's house was bombed he told the crowd, "We want to love our enemies. I want you to love our enemies. Be good to them. Love them and let them know you love them." King was, of course, echoing Jesus and that is why he made such an impact and is such a great man. Look at the cross and reflect that love to all people.

In the next issue of *The Compass* look forward to reading about a student's Spring Break experience participating in the WELS Kingdom Workers' Travel Canvass Witness Program!

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On the 15th, seven True North members, clad in bright orange t-shirts, assisted Pastor Johnson with handing out brochures during breaks in their schedules. We handed out 800 brochures in the mall area of campus from 9:00-12:00. Four different signs, each with a different message, were set up to catch peoples' attention. The messages were "I'm more than just a pretty face!", "I have value!", "I have a purpose!", and "I'm not an accident!" The brochures expanded upon these statements, encouraging the reader to further look into what God says in His Word.

Other True North members who were unable to hand out brochures also wore their Life Matters t-shirts to class. The front side said "Life Matters" and on the back were Jesus' words, "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly." The hope was that people who grabbed a brochure would recognize the shirt and ask True Northerners any questions they had.

My Life Has Value!

By Daniel Balm

The main goals of the event were to encourage other Christians on campus, to get non-Christians to think about the longings of their hearts, and to remind us all why life matters. Although handing out brochures is not a very challenging thing to do, this experience has helped me grow as a Christian. This event showed me that sharing God's Word with others is not so scary, but it is in fact very rewarding. I noticed many people reading most of the brochure which was very encouraging.

True North also has other forms of outreach. We will be heading out in the spring to share the Life Matters message again. At the beginning of the semester, a postcard was sent to the dorms inviting everyone to our outdoor service. Contact tables at the Student Activities Fair and at Coffman provide another avenue for sharing with our campus community that their life matters because of God's great grace.



Daniel is pictured here wearing his "Life Matters" t-shirt. He is majoring in Computer Science with a Spanish Minor.

For a WELS Campus Ministry near you:

Contact Karen Marshall at 414-256-3279 or e-mail her at Karen.Marshall@sab.wels.net

Or Access the church locator at WWW.WELS.NET

UPCOMING EVENTS

January:

18th – *Worship resumes at 11 A.M.*

25th – *Sunday Bible Study resumes at 9:45*

28th – *Dollar Dinner 5:30-7 P.M.*

Mid-week Bible Study resumes 7 P.M.

February:

19th – *Dollar Dinner 5:30-7 P.M.*

25th – *Ash Wednesday Soup Supper at 5:30 P.M. Devotion at 6:30 P.M.*

March:

4th, 11th, 25th (Every Wednesday) – *Lenten Devotion at 6:30*

16th-20th – *U of MN Spring Break*

For our weekly schedule and an updated list of events, visit our website:

www.TrueNorthWELS.org/Twincities

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beginning of the semester, Voices has hosted three different Tasty Topic Tuesday events. The first was "Time-out to Re-Focus." Voices members, women of True North and friends came together to listen to a presentation and participate in a Bible study on priorities and managing time in a college women's busy world. After the study Val transformed the area into a relaxing Spa with four specialized stations. The women were pampered with pedicures, manicures, facials and de-stressing aromatherapy. This event was a perfect night to get everyone in the right mindset to begin the school year.

October's Tasty Topic Tuesday was titled "The Beautiful Bloom." This study looked at each woman's unique gifts and how to find and enhance these characteristics. The women discussed how one is able to use her special gifts she has been given in her daily life to grow spiritually and emotionally. In keeping with the theme, when the Bible study was over Val

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taught everyone how to create corsages and boutonnieres from scratch.

"These events are the perfect opportunity to enjoy fellowship with other women in an entertaining environment."

The third and final Tasty Topic Tuesday of the semester took place in November. This month Val stepped aside and Pastor Johnson lead the study, "What Guys are Really Thinking." The Bible study provided an insight for women to what the men in their lives think about and how their thinking process operates. He then discussed how women can use this information to support and encourage men throughout their lives. Afterwards, PJ left the women for some "Girls' Night" fun. Mock-tinis, cheesecake and other sweets were consumed over some girl talk and giggling.

Voices has already been planning for next semester and hopes to continue to come up with

exciting and interesting topics for the monthly event. Tasty Topic Tuesdays are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at True North. The events are open to all women of True North and they are encouraged to bring roommates, family members and friends. These events are the perfect opportunity to enjoy fellowship with other women in an entertaining environment.

Rachel Camann's home congregation is Immanuel Lutheran in Waupaca, WI. Rachel graduated in December with a degree in Journalism with an emphasis in Public Relations and a minor in Business Management. God's blessings on her future!

Wanted: You!

Looking for a way to put your faith into action?

Want to use your talents to serve God? Look no further than one of the many committees at True North!

Email Val at coordinator@truenorthwels.org if you're interested in joining the *Stewardship, Events, Outreach or Worship Committees or Voices* or if you would like to write for the next issue of *The Compass*.

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

*What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
What if we flipped through it several times a day?
What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
What if we gave it to kids as gifts?
What if we used it when we traveled?
What if we used it in case of emergency?*

Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill... And no dropped calls!

“Maybe Tomorrow...”

Jdimytai Damour. Do you recognize the name? Probably not—news moves on rather quickly. Jdimytai was a thirty four year old Wal-Mart employee who stood six feet five inches tall. Damour had been working for about a week at Wal-Mart when he prepared to open the doors the day after Thanksgiving on what is popularly called “Black Friday.” Little did he know that this was his last day on the job. That morning a crowd of around 2,000 shoppers trampled him to death in their rush to get some bargains.

What if a person in a DeLorean drove up and told you that they could take you back in time to Thanksgiving Day, 2008--and they dropped you at the door of Jdimytai Damour? What

would you say to him? What message would you want him to know? Or would you keep silent? I mean he is a stranger after all and may think you’re weird. He may not believe you and it will probably do no good anyway. You may not know what to say or how to answer his questions and objections. You might look like an idiot. Maybe doing nothing is the best course.

Life is serious. No one expects to die at Wal-Mart and no one knows when their last hour will come. That’s why sharing Jesus is so vital. We have a message for this world that will make all the difference. We have an answer to death, to evil, to the misery of life. That answer is the Lord Jesus Christ. If you found the cure to cancer—you would share it. You have the cure to

Devotion

By Pastor Joe Johnson

death, the cure to eternal separation from God, the cure to sin and the broken hearts of humanity. And you have right now to share it with others. Tomorrow may be too late—that friend, that family member may not have another 24 hours. You might not either. So if you’ve wanted to share Jesus with someone—ignore the stupid excuses and do it. Do it now!

“Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.” Hebrews 9:27-28

True North gives permission to re-use our articles in additional church publications.

E-mail Valerie Johnson at coordinator@truenorthwels.org if you would like the electronic version of these articles.

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