



THE COMPASS

HANANIAH WHO?

Pastor Joe Johnson

Do you know who Hananiah is? What about Britney Spears? You've heard of Lindsey Lohan but you don't know about Hananiah? Isn't fame crazy? Dennis Prauger a talk host has a saying something to the effect that very often the famous are not significant and the significant are not famous. And yet in our culture and in our hearts there is a desire for fame, for recognition for being valued by our community, society and even nation. Fame in the minds of many is equated with value...you can see that by simply turning it around. Very rarely do we use the phrase "he's a nobody" when referring to the famous even if it's technically true. Quite the contrary, the nobodies are those who are unknown, who are not famous.

Maybe this is partially a result of living in a world of over 6 billion, a country of 300+ million, most of us living in urban centers where we don't know our neighbors and add to that a media world...I think it very possible to feel like a statistic unless people know your name – that makes you a somebody! I wonder if the pursuit of being a somebody is partially behind You Tube, Facebook, Twitter and the need to be seen. (There are of course other fine reasons to use all of the above)

Let me tell you that fame is an empty thing to pursue. A critic may point out that this is just what a 'nobody' would say and the arrow doesn't fully miss the mark. A few years ago it

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PRAISING GOD WITH PIANO by Danielle Kehren

During my last few years of high school, I often found much needed peace while playing the piano. Even when I was so busy that I barely had time for my homework, I would stop briefly to practice some of my favorite songs, and find the stress-relief I was craving. So, when I left for college, I naturally packed up all of my piano books and sheet music. Although I was unsure of how easy it would be to find a piano on campus, I hated the thought of tackling college papers and exams without this wonderful escape from reality.

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Praising God - Continued from page 1

It wasn't long into the first month of classes that I felt the need to sit down and practice. It was the one weekday that I didn't have morning classes, and playing the piano just seemed like the perfect way to pass the time while I was doing my laundry. So, as the janitor was vacuuming the carpet in the basement of my dorm building, I played (as quietly as possible) from a book of pre-service and offertory hymns. As I played, I slowly forgot my surroundings, and began to play louder and louder. I didn't realize just how loud my playing had become until the janitor stopped vacuuming. After I finished the song I had been playing, he walked over and asked me what song I had been playing. He commented that he had been listening the entire morning, and had thoroughly enjoyed the music. It was at this moment that I remembered just how much I had enjoyed playing for others, and I began to think of ways in which I could make people – in addition to the janitor – happy with my music.

In church the following week at True North I realized that student musicians play pre-service and service music, as well as serving as accompanists to the praise choir. Although I had not played in a church service since I had been in piano lessons in middle school, I wondered if I could become involved. So, after the service, I talked to Val, the coordinator at True North, and volunteered myself as a pianist. Within a few weeks I had been added to the email list, and was given the opportunity to sign up for a Sunday the following month. I chose a service with familiar hymns, and began to practice.

Although I only played occasionally at first, I eventually became more confident with my ability as a pianist (and less conscious of my mistakes) and began to play quite regularly. One week even, the student who had been planning on accompanying the praise choir was unable to attend church, so I was asked to step in. I was very wary of this, however, partly because someone from the choir would have to drive out of their way to pick me up, but mostly because I feared I wouldn't be good enough to play the difficult music. I agreed anyways, and – to my surprise –

found that I actually enjoyed accompanying the choir. So, for the remainder of second semester I spent almost every Thursday night practicing with the praise choir various pieces.

Even though my desire to play piano in church stemmed mostly from my desire to play piano, it changed over the last year to mean so much more. When I play piano during a service at True North, I don't think of it as simply playing an instrument. Rather, I am worshiping and serving God, and helping others to do so as well. Even when I practice on an old piano in the basement of a dorm building, for my janitor, I am praising God. And I believe that this is just why God gave me the ability to play – so that I could use this gift to praise and glorify Him.

This, to me, is awesome. I don't need to be strong enough to carry eight chairs at a time while setting up to serve God. And I don't need to be a good cook, either. Or, for that matter, have a good singing voice, a car to offer rides, or even time to come early and help set up. God has already given me everything I need to serve Him. All I need to do is exactly what I love – play the piano. So, I thank and praise God regularly for blessing me with the ability to play. And I also thank God that He has blessed every student at True North differently. Not only would we be greatly lacking in other areas if everyone was blessed with the same gifts as me, but there would also be a sad limit to the number of opportunities we would each have to share our gifts each year. Again, isn't God awesome? He has given each of us specific gifts, as well as the opportunity to share them in the church. All He requires of us is participation. And this, I have found, is quite enjoyable.



Danielle Kehren just finished her Freshman year at St. Thomas University in St. Paul, MN.



THE BODY OF CHRIST AT TRUE NORTH

“FROM HIM THE WHOLE BODY, JOINED AND HELD TOGETHER BY EVERY SUPPORTING LIGAMENT, GROWS AND BUILDS ITSELF UP IN LOVE, AS EACH PART DOES ITS WORK.”

EPHESIANS 4:16

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mark “the Shark” Zondag

Being “All thumbs,” generally means that someone is clumsy or awkward. They might accidentally drop a cup or spill a coffee pot all over you. However, have you ever really thought what it would be like to be “all thumbs,” in a literal sense? I can imagine that it would be pretty funny to look at. Everyday tasks like high-fiving and writing would become extremely difficult, not to mention that gloves would be almost impossible to find.

Much like having only thumbs would be difficult in many ways, so would having more of any one body part. Most people wish they could have an extra arm, but imagine finding shirts if you had an extra set of arms (it would be very difficult). Imagine having an extra head! Not only would finding shirts to accommodate be difficult, but you might literally have to argue with yourself. At least you would always have company. This holds true within organizations. If an organization had only leaders (heads), everyone would try to lead, arguing would ensue, and nothing would ever get done. If an organization had only support staff, then there would be no one to lead meetings or oversee operations.

Churches need many people with different skills to operate to its fullest capacity, just like organizations. Pastors are needed to help oversee the church and be biblical resources for lay people. Lay people are needed to help the pastor spread the Word and with church operations. Musicians help beautify and lead singing. Everyone has their function and no one person’s function is any more important than someone else’s, just different.

At True North, we have different committees to use the wide set of skills God has blessed True North with. We have an events, stewardship, and



Mark “the Shark” and the rest of the Outreach Committee. From Left: Jonathan Zander, “the Shark,” Danielle Kehren & Jacob Flitter. Jacie Groeschel not pictured

outreach committee as well as musicians. The Outreach Committee (of which I am a member) has the duty to spread God’s Word on the University of Minnesota campus. So far this year we have gone to nearby high schools and talked to the seniors about campus ministries. We have met fellow Christian student groups to establish connections. We have also had the pleasure of handing out fliers for the church services and other events at True North. We are hoping to continue this work next year as well as a blood drive and meeting student groups of other religious affiliations.

God has blessed everyone with talents, why don’t we use those talents to praise him? Those talents could be anything from ushering, to helping keep the church clean, or helping spread God’s Word. Everyone has their skills and can contribute. No task or contribution is insignificant if it is done for the glory of God.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Alyssa Trelstad

Our congregation at True North is a tight knit community with several different committees that come together to form a loving, supportive church body. As a member of the stewardship committee we focus on the talents that are available among the congregation. As a campus ministry we have a very diverse set of talents within our group. Some are great organizers, some very talented musicians, and others great bakers. The stewardship committee works in conjunction with the other committees to get to know each member of the congregation, what their skills are, and find ways they could use their talents to serve the Lord.

This past spring with our end of the year thank you banquet, the stewardship committee was able to organize an event to recognize all of the talent and the service the students have offered to the ministry this year. At the event we were able to reflect on the year with a few humorous awards, lots of laughs, and of course good food. Everything we do together is an opportunity to grow closer to each other and to the Lord.

We look forward to the years to come and all of the opportunities we have to grow in the Lord and spread the gospel. We thank the Lord, for each of us is truly blessed.



Emilie Sieker, Jacie Groeschel, Mark Anderson & Richard Davis on the Mall of America photo scavenger hunt.

year numbering in the teens. We learned each other's names and began building those friendships that extended throughout the year. As the semester progressed, we had continually more interest in the events happening at True North. By the time of the B&B overnight, near the end of November, our group had grown to an average in the twenties. People who hadn't volunteered for worship set-up before church were grabbing chairs and helping prepare for the service. Others were greeting friends and visitors, helping them feel welcome. As a group dedicated to Christ, we accomplish so much more as we served Him together.

Our spring semester started with an event at the Mall of America. We set out on a hunt to find words, colors, and other mall items associated with the theme for True North this year: Jesus- Real, Relevant, Worth Considering. Part of growing closer together in fellowships with each other means also being comfortable acting silly as a group. This mall event allowed us yet another chance to learn more about the commonalities we share as college age Christians and share fun experiences together. As we have gotten to know one another, our members have become open to volunteering their time and efforts to spreading God's word through campus and finding other ways to share their talents in the ministry.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Mark Rehborg

Growing together in Christ and in fellowship with one another has been a major focus this year for students and members at True North Campus Ministries. Our events committee hosted numerous events this year. The aim was not only to have fun, but to encourage fellowship with other students and give members a chance to build friendships that extend beyond just Sunday morning service.

Last fall, we began the semester with a night of grilling and games at the park, ending the evening with a game of grownup size kick ball. Overall, the event had a great turnout for the beginning of the

Events Committee - Continued from page 4

This year has really been a great year for building fellowship within the members of True North. As we grow closer to God and each other, we learn the tools necessary to reach out to other students and friends on campus who have not heard God's word, or have never had someone take the time to explain it to them. The goal of our events this year has been to bring fellow members together and establish the closeness we have a family of God. Looking forward to the next semester, the events committee hopes to continue faithfully serving God and the members of True North.



Mark Rehborg (far left) at the MoA with Jacob Flitter, Mark "the Shark" Zondag, Emily Clark & Katie Zander.

FRESHMAN GET TOGETHER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2011

LABOR DAY

5:00-7:00PM

@ THE RIVERFLATS

Behind Coffman Memorial Union

All Freshmen and Transfer students are invited to join True North for a Grill Out and Get to Know each other Event.

*Questions? About the Event?
Or about coming to the University?
Contact us. We're here to help.
coordinator@truenorthwels.org*

SUMMER BBQ BIBLE STUDY

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

6:00pm – Wednesdays

In town for the summer? Join us every week 'til August 3rd for Dinner and Bible study. At Pastor and Val's house. *Directions online. Rides Available.*

EVENTS

July 9th – Bike Trek

Join us for a 1-2 hour bike ride ending at a park for a cook out. E-mail for more details.

July 15th-16th – Camping Trip

Join us anytime Friday 'til Saturday. Rides available. Details online. Sign up by July 1st.

July 17th – Cooking in Val's Kitchen

4:00-6:30pm

We'll cook, learn some yummy recipes, and then we'll dine. RSVP required.

August 6th – Whatever Night

8:00pm-?

At Pastor and Val's. We'll get a fire going in the back yard pit, get out the marshmallows and just hang out.

FALL SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sept. 4th – Morning Praise

10:00am

Resuming for the new school year.

Sept. 11th – Praise in the Park

10:00am / 11:30am

Join us at Van Cleve Park for an Outdoor Worship Service and picnic.

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*Details & More Events posted
on the Web Calendar.*

WWW.TRUENORTHWELS.ORG



ON ASSIGNMENT

LESSONS ON THE BODY OF CHRIST FROM ZAMBIA

WITH JASON PALTZER

“What is God’s will for **me**?” It’s a question we all ask ourselves throughout life. Another common question is, “How do **I** fit in?” Both questions are most helpful when viewed in terms of the body of Christ. Unfortunately, we usually have myopic views of our particular roles and purposes and end up neglecting the larger purpose of the body of Christ. In a society where we are constantly measuring our personal value by comparing with others, it becomes more and more difficult to focus on and be joyful in the role that we were created for in the larger context of the body of Christ. This thinking influences how we approach our Christian lives, “If I can’t do something great as a Christian, then there is nothing for me to do.”

I was under this spell when I moved to Zambia to work as a health & development program director for the Lutheran church. I thought that just by moving to a resource-poor country under the auspice of the church, how could I NOT be doing God’s will and playing out my part in the kingdom? In my mind, the “sacrifice” alone in moving to Zambia gave me a special role in the body of Christ. Instead of focusing my attention on the great God-given skills, talents, and gifts of the many Zambians I was working with, I focused too heavily on showcasing my own education, knowledge, and experience (or lack thereof) as a “center-piece” in the body of Christ. Thankfully, the Lord re-directed my attention by using a number of outstanding Christians in Zambia that truly exemplify what it means to serve sacrificially and lovingly versus out of convenience and pride.

One such member was a young man who had an opportunity to work as a meteorologist for the government. Instead took employment working as a groundskeeper for the Lutheran mission. He always took time off to attend our Lutheran health trainings and volunteered countless hours serving in his local clinic as a Christian HIV counselor. After a couple of years of volunteering, he decided to attend formal training as a social worker and within five years he became the acting program



Jason with his wife, Amanda and son Ezra while in Zambia.

manager of the *Lutheran Health & Development (LH&D)* program for the *Lutheran Church in Central Africa (LCCA)*. The LH&D program continues to follow this model of equipping church members for service by training and supporting over 100 volunteers in the LCCA who reach out and serve people in their communities in a number of different capacities (www.healthlcca.com). The life of a congregation and the church grows through the preaching and teaching of God’s word and each person’s application of God’s word through word and action in the world around them.

After working with a number of Zambian Lutheran volunteers, I continue to be humbled at their commitment to allocate as much time as they do to serving Christ in their communities rather than focusing entirely on securing material resources, a completely understandable focus in a country like Zambia where gross national income is \$1,000 per capita. One woman, widowed by a husband who gave her HIV and left her with five children, came to almost all of our health & development trainings (some lasting 2 weeks or more) despite having thieves break into her home while she was gone.

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On Assignment - Continued from page 6

This did not deter her and she continued to attend knowing that her service in the kingdom was more valuable than her few chickens and goats. She is just one example of someone who definitely was not living to accumulate wealth but who understood that God's will for her was to serve others with the little bit of energy she has and to help them also have an eternal perspective founded on Christ Jesus.

So, what does all this mean in terms of being an active part in the body of Christ?

First, realize that the focus of the body of Christ is not to glorify each individual part but to glorify Christ, who alone is the head and to follow his plan...to share the hope we have in him with others.

Second, make daily decisions around this focus, thereby strengthening the ligaments connecting each of us to the other parts of the body. We have to remember that God's will is not hidden from us but we often neglect to see it because we are focused on OUR will. Some questions I have used in the past include:

- Will this decision strengthen my relationship with Jesus?
- Will it give me more time to devote to prayer and Bible study?
- Will it place me around great Christian role models?
- Will this decision place me in a position to increase my ability to equip others in the body (Eph 4:1)?

Third, we need to identify ourselves first and foremost as Christians living in the context and unity of the family of believers. Everything else we are then flows from that realization. An example, is a gentleman I got to know in Nigeria who was a college graduate and a village chief. However, the only document he had framed and hanging on in his wall was his Lutheran church deacon certificate. Despite his other accolades and responsibilities in the village, his identity as a Lutheran member came first. Another woman in Nigeria, who was a nurse, decided to not work for a traditional healthcare institution but started her own "in-home" birthing center. She was seeing many young women go through unnecessarily painful and sometimes fatal deliveries because they were afraid to go to the hospital. This fear was mostly driven through bad advice from non-Christian "friends" who believed in traditional spiritual powers. She set up a small birthing center to help these women with Christian counseling and deliver their babies in relative safety. She took her role as a nurse and put it in context of her identity as a Christian.

Ephesians 4:12-14 (NIV) gives us a unified mission statement as we each play our role in the body of Christ..."to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."



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Hananiah Who? - Continued from page 1

dawned on me that a rock star would be a really cool job and who wouldn't want a whole stadium of people turn out simply to hear and see you. Sadly I have to say that I am not a rock star and only my 1 and 4 year old think I'm the greatest! Nevertheless fame is still empty because it is based on people and therefore it is fickle and does not last. Do you know who Usain Bolt is? He's famous in Jamaica and to sprinters...he won the gold medal in the 100 meter at the Beijing Olympics. Do you know who Garrett Augustus Morgan Sr. was? Apparently he is the guy who invented the stop light...you would think that such an inventor deserves to be remembered still how many of us do? But even if your name was known the whole world wide and everyone in every age thought you were great – would it make you great? Would that really make you a somebody worth knowing?

Hananiah is not famous. I bet 99.9 percent of all Christians would not know the Hananiah I'm talking about. (Some may remember that Shadrach's (Daniel 1:6-7) Hebrew name was Hananiah – but that's not the Hananiah I'm talking about.) When Hananiah was walking the earth I doubt if very many people in the world even knew about him – he wasn't even famous when alive. And yet I know his name. Why? It was because God knew Hananiah, God knew Hananiah's name and made him into somebody. Hananiah was one of two men that Nehemiah put in charge of Jerusalem and the Holy Spirit had Nehemiah explain why he was given that post. Hananiah was a true and faithful man who feared God more than most. What would you rather have? Being like Brittany Spears and having millions know who you are or having God record your name in his Word along with such a description? Wouldn't it be better to have God know who you are and be pleased with you even if it meant that everyone else thought you were a nobody? Of course because God's opinion is worth more than the world. It would be like our opinion on sculpture compared to Michaelangelo's. I suspect any artist could ignore a thousand critics if Michaelangelo liked his work.

How much more God who not only knows our name but even makes us valuable.

The cross is where God thought of you, your name was on his heart as he dealt with all the sins that had made us infamous and worthless and made us true nobodies. Hananiah means "the LORD has mercy" and that's what he did. You are a child of God known and loved by him even if your own parents, friends and the world would disown and hate you. Your name is precious to him and while it may never be in lights, be happy because it's written in the book of life!

You Are a Masterpiece - Continued from back

We want you to know that in either case, there is help. If people have not been loving to you, we want you to know that we are here for you. We are people just like you. We are not perfect and we don't pretend to be. But we know God's love and we try to show it to everyone we meet. You are welcome here, the door is always open and we will try to show you God's love in our lives.

If you are struggling with God and his plan for you we want you to know God's great love for you. He doesn't want you to be miserable or always wonder who you are. He made you. He knows every detail about you, from the number of hairs on your head to how many times a day you blink. And he wants to show you why he made you unique and why he made you a wonderful son, a cherished daughter. If you want that harmony with him, look into his love letter to you the Bible. Read the book of John where God, who came into our world, showed his love to great and small, to man and woman, to rich and poor. And if you have any questions, give us a shout, because we're your fellow "notes," all looking for our place in the master's piece.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
Psalm 139:13-14

ATTENDING COLLEGE IN MINNEAPOLIS OR ST. PAUL, MN? LET US KNOW WHO YOU ARE

If you see the fire trucks in the station and the engines polished bright red, you may think it means there are no fires burning. That's not true. All it means is that the firemen don't know of any fires burning. They don't know yet that there was a car accident with injured in need of rescue. They don't know about a backyard barbecue gone horribly wrong. As far as they know, there's nothing to do except wash the truck again.

This is a little like campus ministry. If we don't know you or your friends are here...we can't get together with you.

To better serve you. Let us know who you are.

Do you know someone who will be attending school in Minneapolis or St. Paul this Fall? Help us welcome them and invite them to True North by sending us their information.

E-mail, Send or Call Ministry Coordinator Val Johnson with the information.



E-MAIL INFORMATION TO:
coordinator@truenorthwels.org

- Name & home address
- School address
- E-mail & Phone #
- Home Church
- College or University

YOU'RE INVITED!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC

VAN CLEVE PARK

901 15TH AVE. SE, MPLS, MN 55414

10:00am Worship

11:30am Picnic

Enjoy Praise at the Park and some additional fun after Worship. Meet fellow students, bring your Frisbee, and enjoy the day!

Van Cleve Park is just a few blocks North of Utec on 15th Avenue.



Pastor Johnson fires up the grill after worship for a tasty lunch.

YOU ARE A MASTERPIECE

You are a one of a kind masterpiece! From your eyes to your fingerprints you are unique. God made you that way. He is the God of diversity and has written a symphony of different notes that are beautiful together. Every note has its place. And even though they sound different and are not all alike they fit together in harmony. In the same way God wants unique people with differences big and little to be in harmony with him and each other. He wants all his children to stand together in his knowledge and in his love.

Do you feel accepted? Do you feel uniquely special? Do you feel that love and harmony God wants for you? If not there is a problem. The problem you have could be one of two things. The first problem is that people have not recognized God's love and truth and have treated

you with anything but compassion and acceptance. Too often even people who claim to know God and his love do not show it. The Bible tells us to "Speak the truth in love." Love without truth is empty and truth without love is blind. The Bible also declares that "God is love." To know his love you need both love and truth. Maybe you don't have that harmony because the people in your life don't know God or his truth or they don't love God and understand how to love you.

The other reason you may not feel in harmony with God or even with yourself is because you are fighting with him. Have you ever been angry at God? It is difficult to enjoy a relationship with someone and to experience their love when you're mad at them. The same is true with God.

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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.

TRUE NORTH WELS CM

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