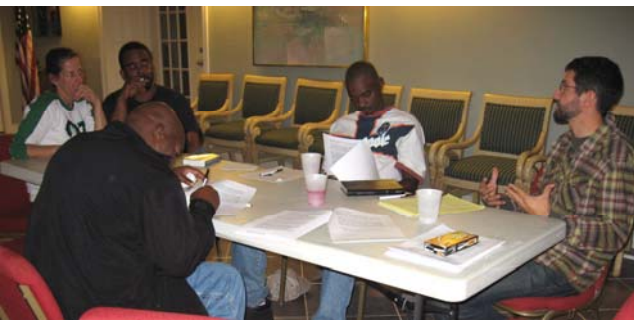


# What's New in New Orleans

Church Planting: All Nations Fellowship

*"... every tongue, tribe, and nation ..."*

In the book of Hebrews, chapter 11, verse 1, it says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." As I look back over the past two years, I look at what God has done and realize that it has all happened "by faith". At the beginning of 2007, I came back to New Orleans after 10 months of relief work to plant a church: All Nations Fellowship. At this point we didn't have much. We had started in our senior pastor's living room, having Bible studies on Wednesday nights. Shortly after, we had our first Sunday service on Easter Sunday 2007. For a while we met in a day care center where every Sunday morning and Wednesday night, we would haul our equipment in and set up for service. After that, we started renting an old synagogue building where in fact we still hold our Sunday services. It is exciting to see a solid forty people gather to worship God every Sunday morning. Praise God! Our Wednesday night Bible studies have expanded, and we now have six different cell-groups that meet every week tailored to different ages and tastes. In the near future, we are going



Teaching at our Wednesday night Bible study

to start a seventh Wednesday night service on a local Indian reservation where we hope to eventually plant another church. All of this has been possible only "by faith". God asks us to believe Him for what we cannot see or what we do not yet possess. As I review the story of our church, I now realize that everything comes first by faith. We believe that it is God's will that His church, All Nations Fellowship, be established in this city and that it become the thriving church He intended it to be. We continue to serve Him in faith, believing in what we cannot yet see and having an assurance of what we hope for. We believe that God is going to do great things in the future, but He is also doing them right now.

In my last newsletter, I shared about the ministry we were doing among some of the homeless people living under a bridge in the city. Since that time, many of them have received a place to live through a local social service organization, but the exciting thing is that many of the former homeless still come to our church. We saw that God had given us a group of new believers that needed to be discipled, so we started a discipleship class for them. I have had the pleasure of teaching these brand new believers at our church. Every week, we meet on Wednesday nights to explore some of the "basics" of Christianity. I have been teaching on subjects like the meaning of salvation, the power of the cross, and how to overcome in our Christian walk. The outcome has been incredible: these men and women have actually started to learn Biblical truths and are putting them into practice in their daily walk with God. It is awesome to see the truth of God's word setting these people free. By faith, I see those formerly homeless men passionately serving our Savior and active in our church reaching out to those who are in need just like they were!

Just recently, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we held a special service at our church. One of our associate pastors, Bryan Jacobs, is Native American and regularly attends Powwows, still dancing just like his ancestors did. On November 23rd, Pastor Bryan came to church outfitted in the traditional dress of his people and performed a Native American dance. Following this, He shared his testimony of how God saved his life and his relationship with his wife and family. It was a powerful service, and I know many of those present were touched by the message that no matter what tribe or nation you are from, it is *Jesus* who brings us together. What is interesting about these recent events at our church is that just a few weeks prior to this, a chief of a local Indian reservation contacted Pastor Bryan and asked our church to come to their village to start holding services for the people there. Within the next month, it is our plan to start holding Wednesday night Bible studies right on the reservation for the Native Americans that live there. By faith, I look forward to seeing a whole community of Native Americans giving their lives to God and another church being launched out as the very first extension of All Nations Fellowship! Praise the living God!



Pastor Bryan sharing his testimony in native dress



The Kentucky Missions Team in front of the house they worked on

Just recently, our church also hosted a one-week missions team. As a church, we desire to be active in the community for the physical as well as the spiritual rebuilding of this city. On the week of Thanksgiving, fifteen people from a church in Kentucky came down to minister in the city. I led the team through-out the week where we spent most of the days hanging sheetrock in a local resident's house. We also went down to a local mission and helped serve Thanksgiving dinner to about 150 homeless people. It is a joy to partner with believers from all over the country that have a heart for New Orleans and the urban poor. By faith, I see houses being rebuilt in this city until everyone has a place to live and where homelessness becomes a thing of the past.



The homeowner with one of the team members

In many of my past newsletters, I have asked that you pray with me about a permanent building for All Nations Fellowship. I am excited to tell you that our prayers have been answered! Last year, we had made a bid on a vacant church building, but a short while later, these plans fell through. Over this



Our new church building!

past year, we continued to look and pray, and just about one month ago, the building came up for sale again. We contacted the realtors and began negotiations, and a short while later, God provided the money to close on the deal. We hope to have everything finalized so that we can begin renovations at the first of the year. During Hurricane Katrina, it flooded with about three feet of water inside and has been left vacant for the last three years. It is a building that needs a lot of work, but we choose to look at it through the eyes of faith. We see that one Sunday morning in the not too distant future, we are going to open the doors of our very own church building for the first time and see people from all over this city come in and fill its pews to worship our God! We see it not as just a building, but rather a place where people can experience the presence of God, where children can learn His Word, and where men and women can experience spiritual freedom because of the life changing message of the cross!

Recently, God has been challenging me in my faith. He has been asking me to continue to stand in a place of trust for what He desires to do in my life. These past two years have been the most incredible years of my life. I never dreamed that God would ask me to serve Him in full-time ministry and to also help birth a brand new church. It has been a journey of faith—I have had to believe God for things I couldn't see at the time, but it has all been worth it to see God come through! Many of you have walked alongside me on this journey, and I am forever grateful for every prayer, for every encouraging word, and for every dollar given for my personal support. I ask that you would continue to stand with me in faith, believing God and believing in His wonderful plan for the unsaved in this city. I am resolved to stay and work here in New Orleans until the Lord moves me on, and I ask that you would consider partnering with me as I raise my missionary budget for next year. My living expenses are \$1300 every month which include my housing, food, and transportation costs. If you can partner with me in raising my budget, there is a slip enclosed that details how and where to send support. I am so thankful for your interest in this ministry and for your heart after God. Let's continue to believe God and in His incredible plan for the unsaved. Let us be sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see! Together lets continue to stand in faith for this great city!

-Pastor Zac Povec



May God strengthen your faith as you celebrate the birth of His son Jesus this holiday season—Merry Christmas!