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KU UPDATE | GRAHAM RIPPLE

Recently, I was reminded of a story involving Tony Campolo, the activist and speaker. At one of his events, he rhetorically asked, 'Does God love all people the same?' After a few moments of silence, he answered: 'No. Somehow God has the capacity to love the poor and broken and outcasts a little bit more.'

God loves the poor. God loves justice. God loves hope. It seems unorthodox, inappropriate, and sometimes scandalous, but the Christian story is one of restoration--of God working to reconcile and redeem what was originally intended.

In our community in Lawrence, there has been a movement towards sharing life with people on the margins of society. I'm not really sure what prompted this movement, but I suppose the rationale goes: We're a community intending to draw near to God, and so we want to be where God is and where God is working. God loves and is with people on the margins, and so that's where we need to be. So that's where we are.

A few quick stories... Katie, Jana, Jon, and Cori spent the summer in Paraguay intending to connect with the local Church and teach English. Instead they spent most of their time at an orphanage loving and serving the children, and being loved and served by the children. When it was time to go home, Jon and Cori decided to stay for the semester; Jon lives at the orphanage and Cori spends three or four nights a week there. God is with orphaned children. After an impromptu ice cream party at the Lawrence Drop-In Center, Hannah, Ryan, Angela and Justin found themselves gravitating back to the center. Now, they're there multiple times a week forming relationships, hearing stories, and experiencing the Church within the homeless of Lawrence. God is with the Lawrence homeless.

Our community is in a season of change and transformation. There has been less structure and more freedom. Freedom to explore and dream and experiment. And hopefully, freedom to better experience and express the presence of God in Lawrence, KS.

Jesus began his rabbinical teaching reading from the prophet Isaiah:

*'The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to bring good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.'*

He then closed the scroll and simply said, 'Today, this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

May we follow in this Way.



# euangelion

GOOD NEWS

FALL 2007

A WORD FROM JOHN SCHWARTZ | THUSMAN@KSU.EDU

Hello all! This Euangelion (Greek for "gospel/good news" by the way) comes with much of the semester under our belt already. We've got an update from KU, introductions of Luke and Tyler, our two K-State interns (wonderful to have them here!), and a K-State update written by Luke. Plenty there, so let me just add this:

I've been thinking about Satan lately. The Adversary, the Accuser, the Deceiver, the Father of Lies. The active enemy of God and all His ways. I have recently gotten new insight into his constant accusations in my own life/mind, and am also witnessing yet again his malicious and exploitative designs for students as they seek to follow Jesus. I grow weary of seeing it. Yet "He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world," and I delight to help students "resist him...and he will flee."

Thank you for praying that God's kingdom would advance in and through these students!

*Africa here we come!*

Jeanette and I are planning, with the blessing of the Board, to take our whole family to Uganda for six weeks or so next summer. Our hope is to minister there, experience Ugandan culture in a stretching and enriching way, and also welcome and share life with whatever friends, family, and current and former students would like to join us—whomever God calls, do you want to go? (I'm serious—contact me if you're interested.) This trip will take the place of the Turkey trip some of you knew I was planning for this fall. You'll hear more later—both information and opportunity for financial assistance for any of you with a special heart for this sort of venture, we'll definitely need that! Anyway, we are excited and already talking with our children about Ugandan life and travel!



*KU Ichthus in Paraguay*

**A Message from Luke Healy:**      [lehealy@gmail.com](mailto:lehealy@gmail.com)

After being a part of Ichthus for four years as a student, serving in various leadership roles and finding a family-like community, here I am now as an Ichthus intern! I must admit I didn't imagine I would still be here long after my closest friends have gone. But the Lord has set this place and this body on my heart in a way that cannot be denied or ignored. I am so glad to be here, exactly where the Lord wants me and exactly where I want to be, as he speaks to me, grows me closer to him, and sets eager hearts before me I have the privilege to minister to.

One of the coolest expressions of these ministry opportunities is the chance that I get to meet with a particular freshman guy for lunch every week. He has such a passion for life and for adventure, and it is so exciting for me to get to lead him into seeing how the Christian life can be just that—faith as an acute fever, not a dull habit. Indeed much of the work God has set before us as ministers to this community right now is a call to awaken and to ready His people. I'm grateful to be a part of that work!



Tyler Roark + Luke Healy : KSU Ichthus

**A Message from Tyler Roark:**      [tylerleeroark@gmail.com](mailto:tylerleeroark@gmail.com)

My name is Tyler Roark and I have the awesome opportunity to stay and serve in Manhattan this year as an Ichthus intern! I have spent the last three years here at Kansas State after my first year at Wichita State. My hometown is Hutchinson, KS, but I have also lived in Denver, Tulsa (twice), Des Moines, and Phoenix! After graduating with a degree in Social Science and a minor in Business, I sensed that God wasn't quite done with what he had in mind for my time here in Manhattan, so I accepted the opportunity to continue serving as a post-collegiate! I am currently working about 25 hours a week with Ichthus and also as a part-time employee for Alltel.

So far I have seen amazing things both in me and the Ichthus community develop this year. John, Luke and I have had the opportunity to pray together almost every day, and God has shown us amazing things. It has been a great blessing to see God speak in our prayer times in such encouraging ways. In the Ichthus community, the increased emphasis on mission has also been exciting. May God continue to grow our heart with his heart to reach out into the community with practical love and the testimony of Jesus!

**KSU UPDATE | LUKE HEALY**

The K-State Ichthus fall semester 2007 hit the ground running, with much excitement amongst many students heading into the year. The reality of classes and schoolwork has certainly pressed in on many students, yet the work that the Lord is doing is still moving right along. The Lord is speaking as we seek him together in prayer, and Life Groups continue to seek to express Christian community led by the Spirit.

The primary emphasis God seems to have put on our hearts for Life Groups this year is mission. In trying to make Life Groups safe communities searching after God, the tendency is always to cherish (and even overprotect) the life that is found there, not wanting to lose the bit of security gained in this shaky and trying world. Yet we know our calling is not to simply find healing and learn about God, but we are commanded to heal others and share the love of Jesus—to make disciples. We are striving together to do just that.

One of the great things about Life Groups is their decentralized nature—the opportunity for God to move in many different ways as he gives different desires to the hearts of his people. One specific desire in several of the Life Groups is a heart for international students. Through the K-State Helping International Students (HIS) organization, students and adults can be paired with an international student to become friends, and as God

opens the way to share the love of Jesus through that friendship. John and Jeanette's Life Group have adopted six students, all from India. Beyond the shared benefits of eating good Indian food and helping internationals do some of the things they want to do most while in America, relationships are being built through which the gospel can be seen and touched. It can be awkward, but isn't that often the Spirit's address?

Another Life Group is helping a single mother whose husband left her. Meagan, one of the leaders, works with this woman and volunteered the Life Group to go to her house and do some greatly-needed yard work and repairs to get it ready to sell. The opportunity to serve through physical labor brings the Life Group together, and this precious woman gets to experience the kindness of Christ through His brothers and sisters.



*A K-State Ichthus Life Group*

The Wednesday night Life Group, our largest one, has been seeking to be a diverse light to the city of Manhattan. They have provided many service opportunities through various organizations and groups at work in the city—Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, and Young Life just to name a few.

At the same time there are many other cool smaller things going on within the Ichthus community (reaching out to fraternity brothers and sisters, road trips to Colorado or Chicago, the "lunch bunch" meeting in the Union 3 times a week for eating and support, daily prayer gatherings, etc.). God is at work through these small, continuous events in people's lives just as much as any great adventure or mission. It is a great joy to see this and be a part of it—people slowly growing into further maturity in Christ from day to day!