



# THE BRIDGE UPDATE

AUGUST 2008

## THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES...

Dear Friends,

On August 7-8, I attended a satellite site for the Leadership Summit at Eagle Brook Church in Lino Lakes, MN. The Summit closed with a moving video entitled "A Thousand Questions". A young woman narrates a video journal that describes the world from creation to our current-day situation. The video raises many hard questions. *Why is there so much suffering in our world? Why poverty? Why AIDS? Why war?* The questions are posed to God. The final resounding question is "**WHO WILL SET US FREE?**" The answer back comes from Isaiah 6:8, with the very same answer that Isaiah gave, "**Here am I! Send me.**" That was God's plan for Isaiah's day. God wanted Isaiah to become part of His solution for our world. **I believe God wants all of us to be part of His solution for our world. God wants all of us to say, "Here am I! Send me!"**

God used this video clip to remind me of my role in His solution for our world. For Sue and me, this involves being sent to Eau Claire to join Jesus in planting a new church. God also wants you to be a part of His solution for our world. Your job is to be willing to do whatever He wants wherever he has placed you, or may want to move you. May God's abundant favor be on you as you pursue whatever He wants!

### The Bridge News for Fall:

**What? Sneak Preview Services.** In the pre-launch phase of church planting, a sneak preview service is a monthly outreach event to our community. The launch team's job is to plan, prepare and invite people to experience the Bridge through worship and teaching of God's Word.

**Why? Sneak Previews allow the team to get ready for public launch.** It is a training period which allows time for planning and preparation with longer intervals than one week between services. It allows time for evaluation, and provides time to grow the team.

**When? Sundays at 10:00 am** on Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, and Feb. 8.

### PROFILE OF A BRIDGE BUILDER

I'm Tom, a 51-year-old emergency medicine physician at Sacred Heart Hospital. My wife Brenda, a former ER nurse, is the Department Director of the Ortho-Surgical floor. We have two daughters in their early twenties. Laura is a surgical resident at Ohio State University, and Beth is completing the Aveda Cosmetology program in Minneapolis.



We are enthusiastic members of the Launch Team for the Bridge Church. Jerry and Sue have a real vision and passion for reaching the people of Eau Claire. David, our worship leader, is an awesome musical talent and he has a real love for Jesus.

We enjoy the teamwork, worship and Bible Study of the Launch Team. The fellowship and prayer uplift our whole week. As emergency medical people, we see the fragility and limited time of a human life. A new church is a proven method of reaching people for Christ, particularly young adults like our daughters. We believe that with prayer, teamwork, and faith, the Bridge can play a special role in helping people connect with Christ. We are excited about the opportunity to be part of this ministry.

**Where? TBA** in September.

**Who? You** and anyone who wants to help!

**How? We need prayer! We need workers!** We need \$20,000 for equipment, rental space and marketing. These expenses are in the 2008 budget, but we are currently at 62% of the 2008 budget.

**Public Launch? Projected public launch date** is March 8, 2009 for the Bridge Church.

Sue and I are thankful for your encouragement, financial gifts and prayers for the Bridge. We pray that God may even nudge some of you to move to Eau Claire to help us in building the Bridge, as you say to Him "**Here am I! Send me!**"

*The Cellans*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- 1) Successful preparation for upcoming Sneak Previews.
- 2) 20 more people to be added to Launch Team by 9/15.
- 3) The BRIDGE to be 100% funded by December 31.
- 4) Growth of the Bridge Prayer Team to 200 members.
- 5) Completion of website and promotional video by Oct.

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Call to learn how you can join the Bridge Support Team or give toward Sneak Previews.

### VISION

**Our vision is to establish a strong, growing and vitally healthy, multi-generational church in Eau Claire that will spearhead a church planting movement in western Wisconsin. We dream of 1,000 people of all ages coming to faith in Jesus Christ during the next 10 years. We envision lives radically impacted for Christ and entire families changed forever. We see God using this new church to plant four other churches in the next 10 years.**