



THE BRIDGE UPDATE

JULY 2008

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES...

Dear Friends,

Forty-one years ago this week (7/14/67), Jerry and I were teenagers stating wedding vows to each other before God and our family. We prepared for our marriage with 30 minutes of pre-marital counseling! After a weekend honeymoon, we set up house in a tiny efficiency apartment! We were young, we were poor, and we had no significant purpose in life as a couple. Sadly, I was a believer in Jesus, and Jerry was a nominal church attender who later became an outspoken atheist. Not exactly a recipe for success!

But, God is faithful! Through the prayers of family & friends in my local church, God protected our fragile marriage for seven turbulent years, and on Sept. 29, 1974, my atheistic husband placed his faith in Jesus as Savior. Our lives have never been the same!

Since then, God has given us a significant purpose for our lives—to be involved in the local church. So, now 34 years later, we are excited to join Jesus in planting the BRIDGE Church in Eau Claire, WI. We envision that this church will be on mission to see lives radically impacted for Jesus and entire families changed forever through the power of the gospel. It happened to our family, and we believe it will happen to many in Eau Claire!

What's been happening since our June newsletter?

- **A HUGE Praise!** God provided the \$3,000 matching gift we asked prayer for in recent updates.
- Jerry attended the EFCA Natl. Conference in St. Louis, June 23-27, and the Church Planters Network at Green Lake Conference Center on July 9.
- Jerry preached at Bethany EFC in Madison (6/22) and at Bethany EFC in La Crosse (7/6), and officiated at the Gibson wedding in Brookfield on July 13.
- The BRIDGE Launch Team meets weekly for Bible study and prayer.
- Jerry meets regularly with guys from the Launch Team for discipleship and accountability.
- Sue facilitates a weekly women's Bible study.
- Jerry continues to meet church planters, pastors, and individuals to share the BRIDGE vision.
- Jerry has begun work on a website and promo video for the BRIDGE.
- We continue to host overnight and dinner guests.

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.

PROFILE OF A BRIDGE BUILDER

My name is Jen; I am a 27 year old Pre-school Director & an Eau Claire native. It's a neat story how God brought The Bridge to me. Sue Cellan & Lisa, a young wife and mom who is a member of the Launch Team, had gotten info on



"this girl" who just moved back to the area & was looking for a church; it just so happened they were both talking about the same girl: me! I love being a part of The Bridge because I have found that Jesus is more than enough for me & I desperately need Him. I see people everyday who are hurting and in need of a Savior; I long for them to experience Christ in a real way. I have also developed great relationships with the people who are involved in The Bridge. I connected with Sue right away; I feel so blessed to have such a godly woman speak truth into my life & spend time with me. God has so richly blessed me with this church. I can't wait to see how He does immeasurably more than all I can imagine, as I serve Jesus at The Bridge!!

Thanks for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support as we help people connect with God through the BRIDGE in Eau Claire!

The Cellans

Matthew 6:33

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- 1) 20 more people to be added to the Launch Team by September 15.
- 2) The BRIDGE to be 100% funded by December 31.
- 3) God to raise up more leaders for the BRIDGE.
- 4) Growth of the Prayer Team to 200 members (now at 120 members).
- 5) Completion of website by September 1 and promotional video by October 10.

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Call to learn how you can be part of the BRIDGE Support Team.