

THE BRIDGE UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2008

THE BRIDGE...HELPING PEOPLE CONNECT WITH GOD



Dear Friends,

As we approach Thanksgiving, we are overwhelmed with gratitude to God for His goodness in 2008. It was one year ago this month that we said "Yes" to God's leading to plant a new Evangelical Free Church in Eau Claire, WI. And, it has been amazing to see how God has faithfully directed, provided and encouraged us each step of the way!

This past month has been a whirlwind of activity....



Jerry preaching at Sneak Preview

We held our second Sneak Preview on Nov. 9. Our team worked together in an awesome way to accomplish the monumental task of hosting an outreach service to our community at the Chippewa Valley Technical College. This

included publicity, set up, child care, greeting, hospitality (with great food), worship, and tear



Bridge Kids at Nov. 9 Sneak Preview

down. 107 people attended the service. After the final piece of equipment was loaded up, we celebrated a great morning of ministry together over tacos!

We shared stories of the day and how we saw God at work. We ended with a moving time of prayer.



Greeters on Nov. 9

After six months of meeting regularly in our home, the Bridge Launch Team has outgrown our space! And amazingly, God has provided a new location for us to meet! On Sun., Nov. 23, The Bridge will meet at an office building at 4423 Golf Terrace, thanks to the generosity of a local Christian businessman. We are excited

PROFILE OF A BRIDGE BUILDER

Hi, my name is Eric Schreiber, and I have been a part of the Bridge since its beginning. I have three children, ages nine, seven, and five, and have been married for 12 years to my wife, Lisa.



My education and professional career have centered around serving families and children. I have a degree in Sociology and a minor in Child and Family Development. My first job out of college was as a youth director for a church here in Eau Claire. Then I had the opportunity to move to California where I was a youth pastor. We then landed in Colorado, where I started as a child protection worker for the Department of Human Services. Even though we loved the weather in CA and the mountains and skiing in CO, God asked us to move back to Eau Claire where I work for the County as a social worker. The years spent in youth ministry have really helped me as I work mainly with teens.

I became a follow of Jesus Christ in high school at an EFCA Church. When I was a student at UW-Eau Claire, I attended the Free Church that was in Eau Claire at the time. Now 15 years later, I am part of starting The Bridge! (also an EFCA church) My family and I are very excited to see what God will do in our city as we serve with The Bridge!

about having more space and greater visibility!



The Bridge's new home!

The Bridge Launch Team will share a Thanksgiving meal together on Sat., Nov. 22, to "remember" all God has done in 2008. It will be a time to look back, remember, and give thanks. At the top of our list of thanks will be the prayers and financial support of so many of you this past year!

What's ahead?

We are already preparing for our next Sneak Preview on Dec. 14. Please pray for this outreach! Jerry will be presenting the gospel, and he has challenged every member of The Bridge to invite at least one guest. Join us on the 14th if you can! —Jerry & Sue Cellan



Team members serving on 11/9

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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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- 1) Thank God for the first two successful Sneak Previews!
- 2) Thank God for the provision of new meeting facilities.
- 3) Success in reaching people with the gospel through the December Sneak Preview.
- 4) 100% funding for The Bridge 2008 budget by 12-31-08.