

Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest. - John 4:35

WHITE FIELDS FOUNDATION

2008-2009 Year in Review



One of the things that makes us different is our insistence that our men learn to serve the poor in meaningful ways. Our involvement in the North Side represents this and our latest commitment with a missions partner to have a sustained involvement overseas is a reflection of this commitment as well. We are reaching out through Meeting God in Missions by taking short-term mission teams of men to serve the poor in the Dominican Republic. Many of our leadership group including: Leo Wisniewski, Brennan Gaertner, and Bill Krahe have made trips to the Dominican republic with MGM. Our weekly discipleship group meets Tuesdays on the North Side at the AmaniCafe. This group is led by Leo and Brennan and focused on God's Word and building community together. We have seen tremendous growth as we experience the power of Christ's redeeming love at

work when men are willing to share their brokenness.

June 10, 2008 Kickoff Dinner - On June 10, our 2008 kickoff dinner was held at Franco's Restaurant in Dormont. Thirty men gathered to eat some great Italian food, laugh, and talk openly about life, faith, failure and God's forgiveness. A movement was born! We have had 18 outreach events since our launch, including the "Wild at Heart" retreat, a Steelers Camp Experience with Tunch, our golf outing at Pittsburgh National Golf Club, and our recent Christmas Breakfast at the Rivers Club. They have been a great success in many ways; attendance, enthusiastic participation, friendships initiated, and spiritual beginnings. Pamela's in the Strip has been a favorite spot for many of our breakfasts with groups ranging from 25-40 gathering to hear men share their faith and life struggles in the redemptive light of God's Word. The spiritual desire to go deeper expressed at these events has fostered some ongoing small groups.

2008 Christmas Breakfast - Our Christmas Breakfast was held at The River's Club where 40 men heard from former Steelers, Tunch Ilkin and Jeff Hartings, in a discussion about football and faith. They made us laugh, describing life in the NFL and how their identity in Christ and love for their brothers in Christ has made all the difference in their journey.

Couples' Dinner at Vivo's - Our only couples' dinner was a big hit with our wives at Vivo's in Bellevue. It featured a mini-concert led by musician, Kim Costanza. Kim, a world-class saxophonist who has played on stage with Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant, played several inspiring selections and gave us a challenging message focused on the marriage covenant.

First Annual Retreat at Jumonville Retreat Center - The first annual retreat was held May 22-23 at the Jumonville Retreat Center. Tunch Ilkin led us with a great series of messages, sharing his passion for Christ and the Wild at Heart theme! Men commented on the honesty shared by men dealing with issues like sexual sin, anger and raising children who have rebelled through drug and alcohol abuse. Several guys were on their very first retreat experience. The torchlight walk, up to the cross, was a highlight for many of us. The singing at the foot of the cross and prayer of dedication was a powerful experience to share together! Special thanks to young Ben, Kim Costanza and Steve "Aves" Avery for leading us in our worship time. You may remember Steve from his playing days as a back-up running back with the Steelers. For everyone involved it was a great time and many of the guys want to repeat next year.



July Pirates Baseball Outing - We enjoyed a great night of baseball, fellowship, food and a word from Jim McDonald, the President of Meeting God in Missions (MGM). Jim brought a powerful challenge on the need to follow Christ and the catalyst for spiritual growth that short-term missions can provide. Brennan, Kim, Leo, Kevin and many others from our group have experienced these life-changing trips. Over 50 people gathered for a tailgate from 5:30pm to 6:45pm. Tunch closed our time with prayer just as the rain poured down! We had a twenty-minute hiatus in our cars but the rain stopped and we enjoyed a great game together. The Pirates won 2-1 in the 14th inning with a walk-off home run! Brennan and Taylor Robinson did a great job setting up the grill and cooking for the group. We had several people bring a dish to go with our burgers, dogs and Italian sausage! Plans are in the works for a group to go to the Dominican Republic January 16-23, 2010. Many inquired about the trip which will be sponsored by MGM at the outing and several young people expressed their enthusiasm to.



Steelers Training Camp Day – Special thanks to Tunch who came through in a big way for us with an insider’s look at the 2009 Steelers! Forty men and children went inside the ropes with reserved armbands for the afternoon practice in Latrobe at St. Vincent’s. The rain held off and we got some of the scoop from Tunch on upcoming rookies while some of the boys got to play catch with Hines Ward! The boys loved the “up-close” action and some of the heavy hitting in one-on-ones and in the red zone. We gathered for a group dinner after practice in Greensburg at Vallozzi’s where we enjoyed great Italian food and conversation. The gnocchi and their signature bread pudding was a big hit. Leo gave the message, tying in his father’s recent funeral celebration, his conversion at PSU, and the resurrection hope that we have through faith in Christ our Savior.



Chili Fiasco Night

The Sept. 14th Chili Fiasco sponsored by SHBC was a fantastic night of food, football on the big-screen, and a powerful discussion between our man Tunch & Steelers safety Ryan Clark. Several brothers were on hand to enjoy a “blast off” night of chili and fellowship. Of special note was the night’s award winning chili, the “nut shriveler!” Leo and Mike Pierson helped bring down 20 players from the Oliver High school football team who shared the great evening with us. Ryan Clark took some extra time with the team to visit, joke, and pass around the 6-Diamond Super Bowl Ring. It had to weigh five pounds! Ryan’s humility and his love for Christ really came through in an evening made to be shared by men, young and old alike. Special thanks to Tunch and all the brothers at South Hills Bible chapel for their generosity to us.

1st White Fields Foundation Charity Golf Outing



Forty golfers played in our 1st White Fields Foundation Charity Golf outing but many more including volunteers and sponsors helped to make it a great day! The rain soaked us with a brief shower but our cigars stayed lit and sunshine broke through again to allow us to complete a nice round at Pittsburgh National Golf Club. Men enjoyed the challenging course, the fellowship, and some great skill prizes. Our first place team finishing at 8 under par, in our shamble format, included Mike Reimer, Gary Proie, Ian Davis, and Brennan Gaertner. The second place team, finishing at 6 under par, included Doug McNelis, John Mineo, Terry Colabrese, and Cody Nutting. We were fed well both on and off the course!

John Mineo, the Best Pizza in the Burgh Guy, won the long drive and Jason Kollar won two of the closest to the pins on #8 and #12.! Brennan won the closest to the pin on #6. Our thanks to Lars Eckburg and his staff on a great day which included a great barbeque dinner and lunch on the course. The Silent Auction items were terrific including an Oakmont C.C. threesome and a PSU football weekend. All of the items both large and small helped in our fundraising efforts. Brennan talked about our need to look for the spiritual harvest God desires in relationships close to us. This was followed by a powerful challenge from Ian Davis to men to build community. The entire leadership team including Doug Shaffer, Doug McNelis, Bill Krahe, Brennan, and Leo are grateful to all who supported our outing by your attendance, donations, and leadership in putting together foursomes! Please mark your calendar for our 2010 golf outing at Pittsburgh National: Monday, September 13th. Help us make next year’s event even better!

Dinner with William Wilson, Nov. 5th at Franco’s

We were back at Franco’s in Dormont to enjoy Joe Damico’s incredible Italian food, friendship, and our good friend and guest, Fr. William. William Wilson was a Trappist Monk for over 25 years also serving as a missionary among the poorest of the poor in Cochabamba, Bolivia. He is currently an Anglican Bishop in the Anglican Church of North America. He told us his unique, amazing story and how through our life of faith, Jesus indwelling presence enables us to become the resurrection body of Christ in the world! Men responded in a great way to William’s talk and several first time attendees joined us!

2009 Christmas Breakfast



Over 50 men gathered for our annual Christmas breakfast December 22nd at the Rivers Club downtown. Kim Costanza delivered in a big way playing some selections from his Christmas CD on his saxophone and the boys belted out all 3 stanzas of Hark the Herald! Jack Rusenko with Crusade International from North Africa brought the word along with Kim and other members of our leadership team. Thanks to Kevin Bode for his work with the Rivers Club staff and a great buffet breakfast! Jesus, the word of God incarnate, had a missional mindset in everything he did. Jesus has equipped his church by his Holy Spirit and through his Word to be on mission in the world. The RAID on Pittsburgh was laid out for us. The question was posed...are we all in? Here’s the outline of the speakers: R-Recognize the eternal plan and purposes of God in sending His Son! Recognize our sin and need for Christ. (Gal. 4:4-5, Is.

9:1-7) Brennan Gaertner/A-Align ourselves in submission & faith with God’s redemptive plan for us in the Cross of Christ and become imitators of his life! (I John 4:9-10, I John 3:16-18) WWJD, Kim Costanza/I- Incarnation, Be incarnational! Incarnational means to identify deeply with people, to seek them out and serve them as Jesus showed us! (Luke 19:10, Mark 9:35) Missionary from North Africa ...Jack Rusenko/D- Deploy, we must be equipped then deployed in the battle as good soldiers of Christ! (II Tim. 2:3-4, II Tim. 3:16-17) Discipleship is the equipping process God has ordained, groups launching in January. John Cullen