



73 people were baptized this past season at Westwood



Phase 2 Ground-breaking, June 21

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The economic crisis was the center of attention around the world this past year. In a true, but strange way, crisis is a gift. It's a gift because it captures our attention around what is most important in life. It presses us to lean into God in creative and urgent ways. It makes us rethink what we do. It heightens our senses in about every way imaginable. This is good when we offer our lives and circumstances by faith to Jesus Christ.

One of the most significant impacts of the economic crisis on our ministry was the redirection of Phase 2. The Westwood Leadership Board spent intensive time in prayer, study and interviews seeking God's direction. At times it was hard, painful, confusing, and frustrating. At other times it was energizing, exciting, healing, and renewing in terms of clarifying our purpose as Christ's church. We rejoice in every season God gives, knowing He is present and longs for us to trust Him. We move forward with a scaled down version of Phase 2 but not a scaled down version of ministry expansion. Grateful thanks to the Building Team for their diligent and faithful work.

You'll find highlights of ministry from this past season included in this report. You'll also find summary statistics that serve as good indicators of the health of our ministry—our strengths and growth areas. But know that behind the numbers are countless stories of lives changed and transformed by God's grace and goodness.

Last year we brought in an outside consultant that gave us the clearest picture of who Westwood is since moving into this facility over six years ago. The consultants made it clear that we have unusual unity and desire to know and serve Christ in this community and around the world. They commended us to be bold as we serve Christ

and make plans for future ministry.

It is the desire and commitment of Westwood's leadership to honor God by enjoying Him through reaching people with the love of Jesus Christ. No matter what happens in the world around us, we will serve confidently with Christ within us. We celebrate 15 years of ministry this year and welcome God's hand to lead us in the chapter still ahead.

You will hear these three words often in the next ministry season: **Reach** the "somebody's of God's "everybody" that He purposes us to reach personally and collectively with the love of Jesus Christ; **Renew** our hearts and minds to know the will of God; and **Release** the Body of Christ to serve the will of God.

It is a joy and privilege to serve Christ Jesus through Westwood, Serving Him Together,

Joel Johnson
Pastor

Denny Laufenburger
Leadership Board Chairman



Denny Laufenburger
Church Chairperson



Joel K. Johnson
Pastor

stories from a ministry season inside...

Single Moms Outreach

The Westwood Wheelers (classic car enthusiasts) partnered with our ACTS team (Assisting Communities Through Service) to offer car clinics teaching young single moms at Chaska's New Beginnings how to maintain their cars. In the process these young women experienced mentorship in a healthy context from men who genuinely demonstrated the love of Christ. The ACTS team also provided baby supplies to the girls during the year.

Women's Prison

At the Shakopee Women's Correctional Facility our Prison Outreach Team saw a four-fold increase in chapel attendance with 80 women worshipping. Approximately 100 women have made faith commitments to Christ this year and are growing in their faith. Fourteen women

were baptized at one of the chapels and 31 participated in the Bible-based Re-entry program prior to their release.

Malawi Buildings

In Chitipa, Malawi, the new buildings being constructed by MSAADA through our capital campaign pledges are already supporting the work of our partners, World Relief, where they report marked reduction in AIDS/HIV and an increase in child and maternal survival rates.

East Asia Team

The Westwood East Asia Team (WEAT) was birthed this year in support of our missionaries' work in Beijing, reaching and discipling hundreds of university students, government and business professionals and pastors. Some Uyghurs, our church-adopted, unreached Muslim people group are

requesting Bibles and personal follow up after hearing radio broadcasts written and recorded through the Twin-City-based and Westwood supported Uyghur Media Ministry, run by our missionary expelled from Asia.

Students

This was the first time there was a camp and a mission/service experience for all three of our programs. 302 students, 5th-12th grades went to camp and 67 students served in the name of Jesus for week-long missions/service experiences. Any given week during this last ministry season, around 500 students participated regularly in student ministry programs. They gathered in large and small groups to be challenged by peers and leaders as they dove into the Scriptures. Groups of students could be found in hallways, stairwells and closets at Westwood every week.

Worship Services

There were many highlights this past year, including the "Everybody" series at Christmas, the extended study in the prophetic Book of Daniel (January through May), the "Seder Passover" service on Palm Sunday and the innovative "Text Messages from God" series last spring. The ELEMENTS service continued to grow and reach new people.

LifeKeys

The LifeKeys curriculum is an effective tool to uncover talents, spiritual gifts, passions, values and personality. The LifeKeys team facilitated 8 sessions on and off campus for 157 people—a 50% increase. Two new delivery venues proved successful as LifeKeys curriculum was offered for Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study and to an existing couples' small group in Waconia.

TRANSFORMING LIVES • IM

Children's Ministry

More than 1,200 children (birth-grade 4) participated in Children's Ministries programming each week. Lots of learning, growing and FUN! Grades K-4 created giant American flags graced with prayers and notes of encouragement to Westwood family members serving in the Armed Forces. Crayons and markers were collected for a special Backpack giving project through Love, Inc., which benefits local people in need

Desks for Malawi

Westwood Children's and Student Ministries partnered with World Relief to raise money for much-needed desks for schools in Malawi, Africa—\$5,619 was raised; enough for 112 desks!

Holiday Family Events

The third annual Trunk & Treat family event was a blast, with many of the 400 kids, moms and dads inviting friends, neighbors and family!



Elizabeth Hunnicutt led worship for the two off-site Easter services held at the Chaska High school, allowing our attendance to grow a thousand people to just under 6,000!

Our Advent Workshop was a meaningful time as families prepared their hearts for Jesus.

VBS

Vacation Bible School took us to "Crocodile Dock—Where Fearless Kids Shine for Jesus!" The Dock was rockin' as 750 kids and 415 volunteers gathered to learn, worship and

pray! Fishing For Life, which benefits inner-city ministries such as Teen Challenge, received almost \$4,000 raised by VBS kids through lemonade

stands, bake sales and other creative ideas the kids came up with all by themselves. With 90

kids accepting Christ, some of whom went on to be baptized, it was a VBS to remember!

Special Families

Special Families Respite Nights welcomed new and old friends at two separate opportunities for parents to spend a special night out while their children with special needs and their siblings enjoyed games, crafts, snacks and movies. No one wanted it to end! Our Guardian Angels Ministry served seven families this year, with a total of 18 care-givers. Kids were loved and cared for, allowing parents to worship in the service.

Preschool

Our preschool had it's highest attendance ever and parents were so appreciative of the faith-based program that included prayers for the children and a lot of personal attention.

Small Groups 63 small groups met in homes or coffee shops or on campus. 30 new leaders were trained to support the demand for new groups. We piloted six “Simply Connected” small groups (48 people) as an assimilation strategy for young married couples. Using an online survey, these relational small groups were organized around similar interests. 48 people participated in these monthly dinner gatherings. More than 80 adults met in **“Small Groups in the ROUND”** Sunday evenings for connection and spiritual growth.

Women’s Bible Study At three different time options, more than 170 women participated in the fall session and 120 in the winter. With many varied offerings, including Beth Moore studies, women were excited to have live teaching on Tuesday mornings

by a Westwood member. Women expressed that being part of Bible study has been a great support and has inspired them to grow in their knowledge of Jesus and apply His truth to their lives.

MOPS Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) ran two day and one evening programs. Over 150 women attended, many not from Westwood. Two moms who accepted Christ in the 2008 session are now serving in leadership! Some moms participated in a six-week Bible study launched after a ses-

sion on anger. MOPS hosted the national leadership summit simulcast by MOPS International.

Women’s Retreat A Women’s “Mini-Retreat” was held on a Friday evening. 150

The evening included music, a speaker and a buffet dinner in the Worship Center before time for crafts and games downstairs.

Women’s Special Events offered three different connection events this year as well as the new “Tour of Tables” which brought over 100 women! At each event, women commented on how good it felt to be together and develop relationships. The Women’s Holiday Dessert continues to be the largest event with many men and women serving and over 950 women attending this two-night event! The goal of giving women an opportunity to accept Jesus was met with



First-ever Feed My Starving Children food packing event at Westwood in November, 2008. 700 people packed 150,000 meals!

women participated. This fun, inexpensive event, fostered connection opportunities that provided for spiritual growth.

19 women accepting Christ!

PACKTING THE COMMUNITY

Music Outreach Celebration Arts sent several music teams into the community to “Make God Known.” Light-house, a worship team led by Chuck Kirchoff, participated in Joyful Noise Family Fest, an event sponsored by KTIS. Carol Zimmerman and her band played at local coffee shops and restaurants, along with Kenni Holmen and the Westwood Horn Trio. Living Proof, a Southern Gospel Quartet, sang at the State Fair. Every month a worship team goes to Summerwood Senior Residence in Chanhassen to lead in singing.

Concerts/Events Our Concert Series included PFR and Sarah Renner—two great evenings of Celebration! Holiday concerts and musicals hosted by JELLYS, JAM, and the Worship Choir and Orches-

tra were to capacity audiences. The Visual Arts Ministry Team hosted “Blessings,” an art show, at the “Godspell” event and created art to support the “What’s Going to Happen” sermon series.

Student Music/Arts WATCH, our theatre arts discipleship ministry for 5th-9th graders performed “Godspell” in January and “High Cotton” this summer. Our Student Worship Ministry formed a band known as the Breakfast Boys because their debut was leading worship at the Men’s Breakfast. Well received, they led worship on several Sunday mornings!

Community Care is committed to being there for people in need. Westwood people extended the love of Christ through prayer, meals, visitation,

home maintenance, transportation and assistance with relocation. We offer one-to-one caring relationships, classes, pastoral care, referral resources and encouragement through the love of Christ and offer various support groups. In November, the **Financial Resource Team** was formed, a team of caring individuals knowledgeable about the financial, housing and employment industries who made themselves available to individuals within the congregation who are facing challenges in these areas. Lay and pastoral team members met with many individuals in the congregation to provide support, assistance and links to community resources.

Love Inc. Working in partnership with **Love INC** a unique organization that links 16 churches in Eastern Carver

County to meet needs in the community, Westwood hosted Food To Fight Hunger and distributed Thanksgiving dinner to those in need in the community. Our web-based **Needs Board** continually expanded throughout the last year, providing items and services such as appliances, clothing, furniture, housing, job opportunities and other resources.

Support Ministries Individuals experiencing significant transition and loss received and gave hope and encouragement in Christ through **GriefShare, DivorceCare and DivorceCare for Kids**. These teams expanded to include new initiatives. GriefShare sponsored “Surviving the Holidays” and DivorceCare expanded its ministry to teens in a program called

Continued on back

“Safe Journey.” **Job Transition**, a faith-based group covering a range of topics designed to build relationships and business contacts through sharing, listening and supporting each other, began last Fall. **Life Coaches**, a Christ-centered mentoring program for children in single-parent homes to assist on their walk with God, added seven new mentors. The **Prayer Shawl ministry** knitted and crocheted dozens of prayer shawls which Westwood distributed to people in need of a tangible reminder of God’s infinite love for them. Our **Prayer Team** ministry prayed with Westwood members after each Sunday service and prayed over 50 prayers a week to those requesting prayer. Hundreds of meals were delivered through the **Meals Ministry** team to those dealing with illness, hospitalization and other circumstances where an expression of God’s love and a hot meal are needed. The **Funeral Hospitality Team** responded to families experiencing the loss of a loved one by preparing and serving meals after the services for our Westwood families. The **Wedding Hospitality Team** helped couples getting married by coordinating their event and the use of our facilities.

Men’s Ministry Men reaching men for Christ is the aim of this ministry and this year we succeeded in bringing many men together in and through Christ by hosting events such as the **Men’s Breakfast** that featured live music and an inspirational challenge from Paul Olson. The **Men’s Retreat** hosted 75 men at Madden’s for golfing and coaching from the author of *The Spirit-Led Leader*, Tim Geoffrion. Men were also provided fellowship and fun during a **Pheasant Hunt** and other events such as bowling and golfing. **Success Through Scriptures** was launched, sending father/son teams to Canada for fishing and bonding. Men also explored themes of betrayal, loyalty, humility, pride, and power to live and to love like Jesus through two **Men’s Bible Studies**. Lastly, the **Summit Leadership for Men** held in Montana provided the challenge and adventure of leadership as a follower of Christ.

Marriage Ministry

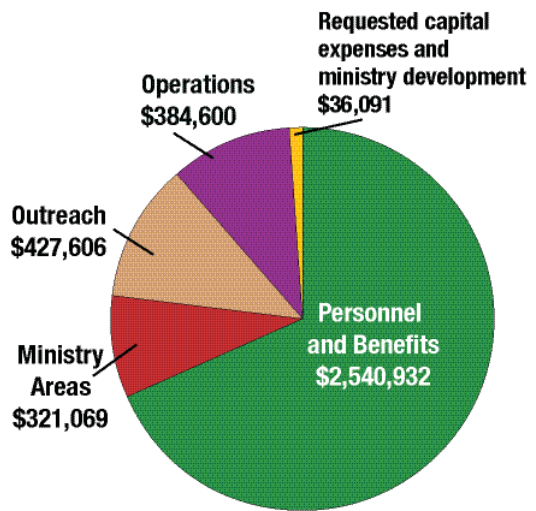
Couples were resourced to grow in love with one another and Christ through several avenues including The Marriage Course, the Engaged Couples Workshop, the Couple’s Dessert, and one-on-one pre-marital and marital counseling.



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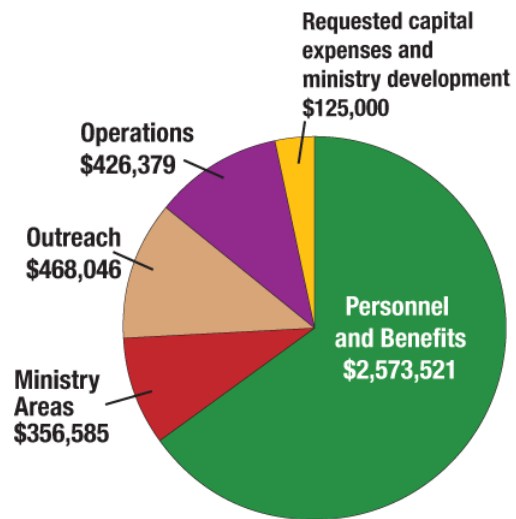
2009 Operating Expenses

2009 Operating Expenses and Capital Expenses: \$3,710,298



2010 Operating Budget

2010 Operating Budget and Capital Budget: \$3,949,531



10-Year Worship Attendance

Worship Attendance 2000-2009

