

The Fuqua Family



Merry Christmas

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday season. We have had a great year of ministry. I performed about 60 ball handling shows, directed 6 weeks of basketball camp (500 campers and coaches), went on one mission trip to Peru and we had 7 prison basketball games. In total there were over 12,500 people touched by Hoops of Hope with several hundred trusting in the Lord as Savior!

The Lord has brought us through the most difficult financial situation we have ever faced at Hoops of Hope. Even in the tough economic times, the Lord has shown who He is!! With some unexpected giving in the fall we are now doing well!! Praise the Lord! Thank you for being a part of that.

New Jersey



Brad Ewing

Hey gang! My name is Brad Ewing and I am the worship leader at Brent's church, Rocky Mountain Calvary. I also love to write songs, whether worship songs or "artist" type songs. Brent asked me to share a bit about this new album that is finished. It's called Songs for the Storm. The heart behind this 4-song EP is to give this CD to people that are going through a hard time (or "storm"). We all have them. My family and I went through a huge one in 2001 with the loss of our two year old son, Jake, in a car accident. The whole story can be read at www.bradewing.com but needless to say, it was the biggest trial we had ever been through. The pain was unimaginable and the days seemed to drag on for weeks. BUT GOD! Don't you just love that phrase? God came through. He showed up in our lives like I have never experienced Him before and a large part of that was through songs that He used in my life to bring healing and comfort in that dark season. So, as a songwriter, I want to return the love and hopefully write songs that can do the same for someone else as they go through a hard time. I love how God can grab a hold of a song and use it to draw others into His presence and that is my prayer with this latest album. I pray that you'd take a moment to download it and share it with others. The cool thing is that it's a donation type project, so you can either give towards it or get the songs for free. Go to the website, www.bradewing.com to learn more. Thanks for reading and may God's peace be your greatest good! Brad (brad@unseenmusic.org)

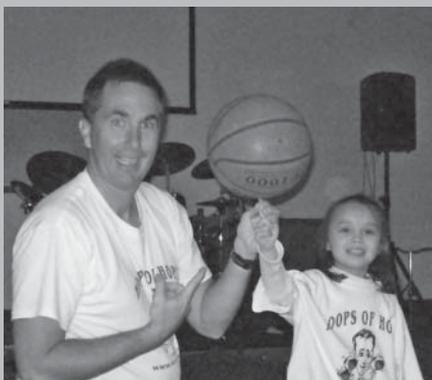
Brad is one of my favorite people!! We have been to Peru a couple of times with our church on mission trips. The Lord has given him two things, a joy for living and tremendous musical talent. He has used both to honor the Lord.



In the Beginning

In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. John 1:1-5 NIV

This is an amazing portion of Scripture because it starts the same as Genesis 1:1 and then places Jesus in places where you would expect God to be. It tells us that Jesus was the Creator and is eternal. It also shows that the Word of God is not only a book but also a person and that Jesus has all the holy and divine attributes. This makes the Christmas story even more amazing because the eternal and holy God actually elected to come and be born as a



Hemet, CA



Mountain Springs



Rocky Mountain Calvary



baby in order to become our Savior.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. Luke 2:6-23 NIV

Our God is an amazing God and the fact that He sent his own Son to come and die for our sins still moves me!

Ministry Highlights

June

- Two weeks of basketball camp at my home church, Rocky Mountain Calvary. A big thanks to all the coaches that volunteered. We saw several kids come to the Lord that week! ++insert Rocky mt (2)++

- A week of basketball camp in Hemet, CA with Valley Evangelical Church and First Presbyterian Church with 180 campers and coaches. The camp was so big that we had to use 10 hoops. We wrapped the week up with a ball handling show and a coach's basketball game for the parents. This was our ninth year out there! I want to thank Pastor Jeff, Pastor Scott, Coach Carter and Beth Button for working so hard!

July

- A week of basketball camp at Vista Grande Baptist Church in Colorado Springs. This was our first year there, and Pastor Greg Teel did a great job recruiting coaches and kids.

- A week of basketball camp at Mountain Springs Church in Colorado Springs. Adam Muse and Bridget O'Canina set up the camp and Bridget was there all week to help run it. It is our fourth year there and we had a big turnout!

- A week of basketball camp at Village Seven Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs. This was our ninth year there. Robin Gorab did a wonderful job of setting it up again and directing the camp. We had nearly 100 kids and coaches there with several coming to the Lord. I also did a ball handling show for their Vacation Bible School. They had a sports theme and the show went perfectly with what they were doing.

- I performed a show at Ethiopian Evangelical Church's sports camp. Ethiopia has a long Christian tradition. The coming of Christianity to Ethiopia is dated to the 4th century AD. A Christian philosopher from Tyre named Meropius was shipwrecked on his way to India. Meropius died in the wreck but his two companions, Frumentius and Aedesius

were washed ashore and taken to the royal palace. Later, they became the king's private secretary and royal cupbearer respectively. They served the king well, and Frumentius later became regent for the infant prince Ezana when the king died. Frumentius and Aedesius were to share their Christian faith in Aksum (as modern Ethiopia was then known). Frumentius and Aedesius later returned to the Mediterranean, traveling down the Nile through Egypt to do so. When they reached Egypt, Frumentius contacted the bishop of Alexandria and begged him to send missionaries back to Aksum, since the people there had proved so ready to receive the gospel. The bishop agreed that the need was urgent, and he appointed Frumentius to the task. He ordained Frumentius the first bishop of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Frumentius has since come to be known as the Abuna Salama or bishop of peace. His mission was successful and, with the support of king of Ethiopia the country became a Christian nation. (taken from bethel.edu)

September

- I performed two shows in Canon City, CO at a prison with Operation Starting Line (www.operationstartingline.net, it is a part of Prison Fellowship which was started by Chuck Colson, a former Nixon conspirator). It is always great to do these shows because they use quality entertainers who know the Lord. Our MC was a former writer for Saturday Night Live and the musician used to open up for the Allman Brothers and Lynyrd Skynyrd. The inmates love the shows but end up giving their lives to the Lord when they hear the message!!

- I performed at an event at a prison in Springer, NM with Patsi Gomez and her church. Patsi sings like a songbird and I have done shows with her before. You may ask where Springer, NM is and so did I! Needless to say, they do not get many outside groups coming in so they were especially pleased to see us. Patsi's band played a great show and her pastor preached a good message that many of the inmates responded to.

October

- I performed two shows at juvenile prisons in Denver. The kids were 10-17 years of age and the prisons have seen a proliferation of female inmates in the last few years. Don Smarto is the Director of Youth Direct (www.youthdirect.org) and also spoke. He travels all over the US to share his story of having brothers who got involved with the Mob and crime. Thankfully, Don chose another way and is influencing youth to come to the Lord!

- I performed a show at Pike's Peak Park Baptist Church for their Awanas.

- I performed two shows at Harvestfest at Rocky Mountain Calvary

November

- Washington Alliance Church in New Jersey flew me out to do a basketball camp for 53 kids and to preach at the Sunday service. The camp was so big that they used the local public high school gym. Pastor Mark, his wife, Whitney and Ed, Eden and Sunshine Tarpey were great hosts!!

- I performed a show at Good Shepherd Christian Academy (NJ).

Prayer Requests

1. For us to continue booking basketball camps and Upward award shows
2. Sharm to be healed
3. Arnold's health to improve
4. Paul Burch's infant daughter, Lilah who is dealing with a serious medical condition
5. The prison team's schedule and ministry
6. Stan to be healed from cancer
7. Randy to be healed from a carcinoid tumor

Village Seven



New Jersey





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Hoops of Hope is a Basketball Ministry that focuses on spreading the gospel through basketball camps, speaking at school assemblies and 'Upward' award banquets, and through running basketball tournaments. Hoops of Hope has visited schools, prisons and churches throughout the Philippines, Malaysia, India, Krygyzstan, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas, Mexico, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa and across the U.S. Literally thousands of people young and old alike learn from Hopes of Hope's expertise each year, while being exposed to the good news and hope that they have in Jesus Christ.

Hoops of Hope Basketball Ministry

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www.hoops.org hoops@hoops.org

**IMPACTING ETERNITY
THROUGH BASKETBALL**



Thank you for continuing to support us through your prayers and financial gifts. You are a blessing to us!

Schedule

December

18 Florence, CO Florence Correctional Inst-Game

Jan.- Feb.

Statewide Prison Games

March

1 Richmond, TX Faith UMC-Upward
2 Sedalia, MO First Baptist Church-Upward
7 Rolla, MO First Christian Church-Upward
8 Loganville, GA Gracepointe Church-Upward
9-10 Morristown, TN Manley Baptist Church-Upward
16 Fontana, CA Water of Life Comm Ch-Upward
17-18 Southern, CA School Assemblies
22 Owensville, MO First Baptist Church-Upward

April

22-24 Phoenix, AZ Christ's Church-CSRSM Conference
25-26 Phoenix, AZ New Valley Church