



above: John and Hoops

below: the Fuqua Family



There have been some cool things going on at Hoops of Hope. I want to announce that John Wallace is joining our staff. John has served this great country as a Captain in the Air Force for 12 years and here are a few of his thoughts.

"I decided to go a different direction with my life. All the other doors in my life have been closing all around me, leading me to this one open door. I have always loved God, kids, and basketball. A guy I play pick-up basketball with approached me about a year ago and told me about this ministry he was involved in, Hoops of Hope. He asked me where I was in my walk with God and we talked for a while. I told him I admired what he was doing but that it is was not for me, though the idea never really left my mind. My biggest fear keeping from doing it was a lack of financial security; I would have to raise my own support. Well, I had a very interesting winter, with breaking my hand playing basketball, being laid off from my job, and the huge car accident which left me physically, emotionally, and financially beat-up. None of my plans were working out for me. So I prayed and actually had to admit I was not really focusing on what God had for me. I was humbled and asked God what He wanted from me. And the same thing kept popping into my head about Hoops of Hope. So I called Brent, the founder of Hoops and had a meeting with him to pick his brain. I kept praying about it and felt more and more like that was exactly where God was telling me to go. So I made that decision, after much council from my Dad, people at church, and some really close friends. I truly believe I was created for this ministry. This is all a huge step and change in life for me. I always saw myself as being an Air Force officer, but God obviously had other plans for me. I am really excited that God is using me directly and that I have a more meaningful purpose for my life now. I would just like to ask you to pray for me. This is uncharted territory for me, so I know I need some serious wisdom." Let's continue to pray for John as he is now raising his financial support and will be assisting me with basketball camps this summer. (See the picture of John and Hoops to your left)

PRISON TEAM

We had our most successful prison teams in years from both a ministry standpoint and from the relationships of the teammates. I wanted a couple of our guys to share about their experience.

Josh Stanek has been the team coach the last few years along with playing. He has done a great job of leading our men. Prison team quote: ***"Basketball is just the vehicle that allows us to share the Word of God."*** *To be a part of the prison ministry is simply a blessing! Over the past six years I have been amazed and humbled by how God has used this ministry to do amazing things with the men and facilities we've witnessed in. I have seen transformations in these prisons that I could never have imagined. The HOH basketball team has become a long-standing tradition in a lot of these prisons. Every year I get calls from facilities anxious to schedule games. The best part about these requests is that they are not just about basketball, they are because the men inside want us to come back so they can hear more about a relationship with God! Wow! God is God!"*

2 Corinthians 2:14, *"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him."*

Ross Haverhals has been our center for eight seasons. He shares, "The prison team again enjoyed God's blessings this season. The team played a full schedule and was warmly welcomed by the inmates in all facilities, an unprecedented year indeed. We again saw the Lord work miracles in the hearts and minds of the inmates. Our prayers were answered as several new (and younger) members joined the team."

Sadly (for me not for him), Ross is moving to Chicago to attend seminary for the next three years. I wish he and his wife Leah much success there. Also, I am selfishly praying that he will find a job here after he graduates. Ross, you are awesome!! I, as well as the whole team, are going to miss you greatly!

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The Sermon on the Mount is the greatest discourse on Christian instruction ever given. It is found in the book of Matthew and takes up three chapters (5, 6 & 7). It covers a range of subjects and familiar topics. It has the Beatitudes, better known as the blessed are's... It has the Lord's Prayer and the Golden Rule. It contains familiar illustrations as "salt and light" and "a city set on a hill". This sermon was given on the side of a hill and the crowds were large because Jesus had already begun His healing ministry. The crowd had come to see miracles but instead the Lord begins to instruct them on Christian living.

There is so much "good stuff" in here that it is hard to narrow it down but I want to hit some of the highlights. In Matthew 5:11 & 12 it says, *"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."* That is an amazing thing to try and do. What is our first instinct when someone says something bad about us? It is to defend ourselves! Yet, Jesus says that if we are persecuted for doing good then our reward will be great in heaven!

He goes onto say that He is not abolishing the Law (10 commandments) but He is fulfilling it. If we think we can keep the Law, Jesus shows us that is impossible. We are guilty of murder by having hate in our heart and guilty of adultery by lusting in our heart. It is impossible for us to be perfect and earn our way to heaven. Also, we are not to swear an oath but let our *"Yes be Yes and our No be No"*

The next teaching is particularly challenging. Read Mathew 5:38-44 *"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth. But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."*

Chapter 6 tells us that we are not to do our good works so others praise us for them. Verses 3 and 4 say, *"But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."* We are also to pray that way, secretly not for acclaim. The Lord's Prayer is given as a model prayer. *"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."* In this prayer God is worshipped and given His proper respect. We are to look to Him daily for our sustenance, forgive others as we have been forgiven and seek God's protection from evil.

Mathew 7:1 is the most misquoted verse in the Bible and is usually done so by someone who is living in sin and doesn't want you to bother them with the facts! It says, *"Do not judge, or you too will be judged."* *They will tell you that you can't judge their lifestyle because it says so right there in the Bible. Well, they need to read the rest of the section that says, "For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."* It tells us we are to judge...ourselves first and then we can see clearly to judge others correctly. It is not logical to say we should never judge someone. If that were true, then we wouldn't have a court system or prisons for those that break this nation's laws. Also, if someone says not to judge him or her then they have made a judgment, that they were judged!! Jesus wants us to judge ourselves first, and then we can make a right judgment of someone else and in doing so we have helped them. For Proverbs 27:5 says, *"Better is open rebuke than hidden love"*. Our motivation needs to be love and the exhortation of one another.

In the following verses the Lord tells us, *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."* It could be better translated as always asking or continually knocking and seeking. If we do this we begin to see what God's will is for our lives.



Upward Shows



USA, BCI Training!



Is the Christian life always easy? Not according to Jesus. *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”*

Is everyone that says that they are a Christian telling the truth? *“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”*

Finally, Jesus tells us to build our life on “The Rock”...Him! *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.”*

Wow, there is so much good stuff in there that I hope you will take a few days and read through these chapters and see what the Lord wants to teach you!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

January

9 shows in Alabama, 3 days, 2,900 people
3 shows for the Women’s prison in Denver

February & March

7-day mission trip to Peru with a group of 12. Over 100 came to the Lord. I want to share one story with you. We were in the mall when two sisters, Sylvia and Arleta came up to us and were begging. They were ages 4 and 8, same as Seth and Jaden. They were very dirty and not taken care of very well. It broke my heart to hear their story. They go to school till about 1pm then head over to the mall to beg till 10pm when the mall closes. They have to walk alone for 20 minutes to get home. If they don’t earn at least 10 soles (about \$3.50) then they get disciplined. Teresa, one of our translators began to share God’s truth with them about how God loves them and how they were truly a princess in His eyes. You could see their complexion just totally change as they absorbed these truths. You can see in the picture that Sylvia, the older one has band-aids on both her palms. That is because she has been burned with a cigarette as a form of discipline. It is just heartbreaking so please be in prayer for both these girls.

9 Upward shows, 16 days, 8 states, 4700 people, 16 flights. Praise God that many surrendered their heart to Jesus including about 40-50 that came forward in South Carolina.

If you ever think you like to travel, I will share a story of what happened on my last trip. I had to fly to Columbus, OH thru Chicago to get to a show on Saturday night. Unfortunately, Columbus had the most snow it had had in 98 years and the airport was closed. I got a hotel room in Chicago and waited until the next day. The church had rescheduled the show for 3pm Sunday afternoon so I took the first flight out and made it to the show. Then, I was supposed to catch a flight that night to Seattle thru Chicago at 8pm. It was almost 2 hours late going out so when I got to Chicago I had to really hoof it to the next gate and made it on the flight b/c it was late, too. I made it to the hotel in Seattle at 1:30 am. I slept, did a show that night, and flew out the next morning. Traveling is awesome!!

May

John and I trained at the Olympic Training Center with BCI Edge (www.bciedge.org). This team had pro players that were traveling overseas to play in a tournament. It was great to play against such high level players. Sharm is the director and you can pray for him as he goes through chemo for cancer. (Pictures to the left)



In Peru: above Sylvia and Arleta





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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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**IMPACTING ETERNITY
THROUGH BASKETBALL**



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

2008 SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP SCHEDULE

June

2-6	Colorado Springs, CO	Rocky Mountain Calvary
9-13	Colorado Springs, CO	Rocky Mountain Calvary
16-20	Hemet CA	Valley Evan Free Church

July

7-11	Colorado Springs, CO	Vista Grande Baptist Church
21-25	Colorado Springs, CO	Mountain Springs Church
28-Aug 1	Colorado Springs, CO	Village 7 Presbyterian Church

Prayer Requests

1. For us to continue booking basketball camps and Upward award shows
2. For our financial situation to improve
3. For Sharm to be healed
4. For John as he raises support