



the Lampost

an EVERY-SO-OFTEN NEWSLETTER OF LAMPOST THEATRE CO.

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up and coming and going...

At the Theater...

- May 12: Christian Women's Club
brunch and presentation
- May 12: Dinner Theater
Grundy National Bank bus tour
- May 13: Dessert Theater (get tickets!)
performance of *Connection Terminated*
- May 14: Enrique Ochoa
live acoustic music on the lawn
- May 24: Dekalog #3 & 4
join us for a viewing of these intriguing
short films followed by discussion
- June 16: Dinner Theater
North Kansas Rec Dept. bus tour
- June 18: Mike Hummerichouse
live music in a variety of styles

What about your small group?

Looking for something to build fellowship and community? We have a variety of programs available for dessert or dinner theaters. **Give us a call!**

On the Road...

- May 18: Walnut Ridge Baptist Academy
elementary chapel
- June 8: Youth Rally Webster City
Connection Terminated
- May 15: Ascension Lutheran Waterloo
Youth & Children's event
- June 22-July 1: *Troupe Team of Dylan, Steven, Sarah, & Myka will be at the Teen Missions, Int'l boot camp in Florida. They will train numerous teams for overseas evangelism and street ministry as well as minister in performance.*
- June 27-July 1: *Hansons (Jeff, Marsha, Rachel) will be teaching and ministering at the AALC national youth conference in Estes Park, CO.*
- July 2-6: *Hansons working with Navigators at Snow Mnt. in CO.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ABOVE!

empowering the LOCAL CHURCH

Lately in our newsletters, we have been focusing a lot on the new theater/coffeeshop and our college ministry. But we still do a lot of work with individual churches to empower their ministry. We know how important the local church is in the life of a believer. So we thought we'd take a "refresher" look at our work on that level. Who knows: maybe some of the following will inspire ways we can serve your church.

TRAIL GUIDES: One of the most exciting things we do is pioneer brand new ministries in a church. We are partnering now with a church that wants to establish creative ministries: drama, media, and creative communications. We started by getting to know the church better. We attended worship services and met with leaders to consider the needs, history, and "flavor" of the church. From there we set up some major training sessions to introduce a vision for this kind of ministry. That paved the way to develop dramas for Sunday morning using people from the congregation. As we identify leaders and a core team, we will mentor them in how to carry out this ministry with their specific church. Finally, we will pull back into more of a "consulting" role, checking in on the progress of this new ministry and providing resources as needed. Each time we do this with a church, the outcome looks slightly different. We try to develop a 'model' based on the needs and context of that specific church. Yes, it takes more time and energy that way, but the focus is to establish an effective and sustainable ministry.

RESOURCE POOL: We continue to publish a number of resources for local church ministry and outreach. Ranging from individual scripts to training videos, these resources are used across the US and abroad. Now we are preparing to release some of our major outreach productions like *The Wedding*. In addition, each week we develop new sketches for events like BASIC. We are beginning to put these on DVD so churches can more easily visualize how to utilize these scripts.

A PLACE ASIDE: We have been discovering whole new ways to use the theater. An important step in developing community within a church is to create fellowship opportunities that nurture interaction and relationship. Now Sunday School groups, adult fellowships, and youth groups can schedule a dessert or dinner theater exclusively for their group. The atmosphere is ideal for interacting and enjoying each other's company over a good meal or tasty dessert. A performance by Lampost provides entertainment that is both enjoyable and spiritually enriching. Of course there's always time for discussion afterward... Also consider the additional impact: instead of entertainment and meal expenses going to support some restaurant franchise, they go to support outreach, missions, and college discipleship!

THE OCCASIONAL PICK-ME-UP: Sometimes our support for local churches comes from a smaller-scale involvement. A single workshop in ministry, worship, or drama; A dramatic presentation from Lampost in their Sunday service; A short video to enhance worship; Training for a short-term mission team. We are always looking for ways to empower the local church. Please contact us if you'd like to explore ways we can be of service to yours.

may 2009

SHOP STORY

Who would have guessed he'd find peace at a coffeeshop? Ever since he got back from Iraq, he has spells of trembling that he can't control. There are the fears, the frustrations, the constriction in his heart.

Little things can set off panic attacks. Like the morning he argued with his roommate. It was like a straw breaking the camel's back. He didn't know if he could take it anymore. In the midst of his shaking, he drove to Lampost. He drove by, actually. Then he drove by again. Three times he passed the parking lot, trying to decide whether he wanted to go in for a coffee at a time like this. When he finally decided to park and enter, he composed himself. Ordering his coffee, it only took one question. Marsha, standing behind the counter asked it because she really wanted to know.

"How is everything with you?"

That's all it took. The stilted breathing, the shaking started. Subtly at first. He answered as truthfully as courtesy would allow:

"Actually, not so good."

That may have been where the conversation stopped under normal circumstances. But this was not Starbucks, and the woman behind the counter was not just there to serve coffee.

"Do you want to sit down with us and talk about it?"

As he sat down with the team members who had gathered for devotions, he poured out his heart. Their hearts broke with his as he shared the details and they conveyed the Love of God in the midst of his overwhelmed state. After some sharing the shaking was worse.

"What I'd like you to do is go out back to the stream. Do you have time to just sit there for a while and tell the Lord all these things that are on your heart?"

He said he did. That he had to. That something had to happen, and maybe this was it.

I think the Angels rejoiced with us as he returned from the back yard some time later. Calm was on his face. Peace was in his eyes, and the shaking had stopped. He shared about how he encountered God - both in our back yard and in our concern for his troubles. There was prayer.

Each time I see him back for an event, smiling, hanging out with the gang, or just ordering coffee — I can't help but wonder what would have happened if there hadn't been this coffeeshop. If we hadn't been there for devotions. If there were no stream in the back yard. If Marsha hadn't asked.

Each time I see him, I wonder what would have happened if God weren't so totally cool.



NEW ROAD PRODUCTION

We've just finished developing a new production that will now be available for touring. *Connection Terminated* examines the challenges to having ears to hear and eyes to see the needs around us. If we are to bring Christ to the world, we need to connect with it's needs.

The show includes the characteristic Lampost blend of comedy, interpretive theatre, music, and video. The ensemble of Dylan, Sarah, Myka, and Steven will be taking the production to Teen Missions this summer, where they will share it with hundreds of teens as they train teams for overseas ministry.

The show premiered on Seerley Blvd. last month in a dessert theater, and will be repeated here on May

13. It is already scheduled for a few churches and youth rallies, and is also available for groups who want to schedule a dessert or dinner theater at Lampost. Please pray for the message to hit home.

new training video

We are finishing up production on yet another outreach/drama training video. The video teaches a team how to perform Ooga-Chucka, a unique piece that uses an invented language to replace a conventional script. The resulting comedy conveys a clear message about who should be in charge of your life.

Lampost training videos are used across the US by churches, college groups, and outreach teams. They are also used internationally at a number of missions training centers. For more info, call us or visit the website at www.lampost.com.

three leaders,
one rabble,
and a language all
Their own...

OOGA-CHUCKA



out with the old:
the team prepares to replace the old ragged carpet in the Theatre thanks to a special donation!



finishing faithful: yet another BASIC Drama Discipleship Team finishes up a year of 30 Thursday nights.



i'm a doll: Matt & Marissa play a couple trapped in a Barbie-like mentality. A scene from our Spring dinner theaters.

teaching the Word: Jeff speaks at BASIC.

