

MCA CONNECTION



Mission Transformational Encounter 101 with Luke Kuepfers

Luke and Amy Kuepfer currently reside in Wilmore, Kentucky along with their three children: Brittany, Courtney, and Jamin.

Luke is the founder and former Field Director of Global Tribes Outreach, a non-profit organization committed to church planting and social work in Southeast Asia. Luke is passionate about motivating the church toward missional thinking and

practice in all areas of life. He firmly believes that having our thinking challenged is not enough; it must be transformed into change. Luke has extensive experience in missions mobilization, leadership training and team development. Amy stays busy homeschooling the three Kuepfer children. She enjoys one-on-one conversations with women of purpose and opportunities to write inspirational pieces for her blog.

Luke and his family will be at MCA for the annual Mission Conference weekend on October 15-16. He will be sharing Saturday night at 7:00pm, Sunday morning at 9:00am and

10:30am, then closing out the weekend on Sunday at 6:00pm.

Please plan to attend the 2011 Mission Conference at MCA. Invite your friends and be prepared to be transformed!



Luke, Amy, Brittany, Courtney and Jamin

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

Pastor Appreciation Month
Core Group Leader Training (9th)
Mission Conference (15th)

DECEMBER

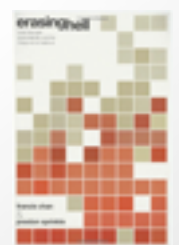
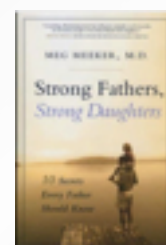
Mighty in the Land Ministry (4th)
"A Life of No Regrets"
with Robert Rogers
Christmas Service (25th)

PASTOR'S PICKS....

Looking for something to read?
Check out Jeremy and Jeff's top picks.

Strong Fathers,
Strong Daughters
by Meg Meeker

Erasing Hell
by Francis Chan &
Preston Sprinkle



Family Spotlight

The Kevin and Janelle Hofstetter Family



Kevin, Janelle, Nate, Jarrett and Myla

The Hofstetter family has been attending MCA for the past three years. Both Kevin and Janelle grew up in the Dalton and Kidron communities. Kevin and Janelle did not meet by chance. Their brothers were friends in High School and thought the two would make a good couple, so they hooked them up. After 13 years of marriage their family has increase in number from two to five with the addition of three children. Their oldest son Nate is nine. Then came Jarrett who is six and Myla, who is the most recent addition, is 18 months. Their family lives near Dalton and they enjoy the small town rural living that Wayne County offers.

Kevin works for Sugarcreek

Township in Wayne County. He takes care of roads in the Dalton and Kidron areas. In the summer doing road repairs and in the winter he keeps the roads clear from snow. Janelle enjoys managing their household and keeping up with their three energetic children. Both Kevin and Janelle have enjoyed watching their children progress through the various stages of childhood. Most recently they have been adjusting to having Myla running around the house and are loving every minute of it!

The Hofstetters enjoy relaxing around a campfire in the backyard and cooking over the open fire. They have a special taste for a good steak, seasoned with salt. Combine that with vegetables cooked over the fire, in olive oil and kosher salt, and you have the perfect Hofstetter family dinner.

A New Beginning

by Jeff Polen

The Area 51 Youth Group is off to a fantastic start of the new school year. Every year we welcome the incoming freshman and staff to join us for the first time at our annual Youth Fun Weekend. This year Youth Fun Weekend was September 9-11. We spent most of our weekend at the church (playing games, cooking hot dogs, burning the old stage, etc.) but we spent Saturday at Mohican Adventures where we went canoeing, putt-putt golfing, and slamming into each other on a very wet bumper cars track. Wait -I think it was actually supposed to be a Go-Kart track. We had a great weekend.

During Sunday School of Youth Fun Weekend, the Youth Group members elected their Youth Group Team Leaders. Because the Youth Group is so large, we like to break up into smaller groups (or teams) and every

group has a Team Leader. This year the elected leaders are Amanda Detweiler, Thomas Troyer, and Kayla Yoder. Those three teams will compete in a year-long challenge that we call Reality Y.G. They will also be growing together spiritually when we break up into small groups.

A pair of Youth Staff are also assigned to each small group. This year Dennis & Gladys Miller are with Thomas Troyer. Mark Rowe & Heather Schlabach are with Amanda Detweiler, and Jeff & Jodi Polen are with Kayla Yoder. Jeff & Jodi will only be with a team until a third pair of Youth Staff will be able to join the Youth Group.

For Sunday School we started the year by going back to the basics... We are going through a video series with teaching from Francis Chan. The series is called "BASIC". We started out by



looking at our need to Fear God, Follow Jesus, and rely on the Holy Spirit.

The next big thing on our radar is the Fall I Am Retreat at Skyview Ranch in Millersburg, OH. This will be the third year that we have gone to the I Am retreat, but it is the first year that it has been an official Area 51 event. More information about that retreat can be found at www.filltheearth.com.

MCA Speaks

How Great Thou Art by Ruth Hershberger

“Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the works thy hands have made.” This turned out to be the theme song of our recent trip to Alaska. We traveled with Nelson Miller, his wife, five daughters and his wife’s sister. One of the things that made this trip so neat was that Nelson would get so excited over the awesome scenery. “Girls, just look at that” he would exclaim over and over. Then someone would start singing, “When I look down from lofty mountains grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.”

This was a tent camping trip, so we had many occasions to experience nature. We camped by a glacier, we camped surrounded by snow-capped mountains and we camped by Cook’s Inlet (this is as far west as you can drive in North America). Out of the 34 days we were gone, we only slept in motels five nights. Four nights because it was raining hard and one night because of grizzly bears. Light rain didn’t keep us from camping!

When Nelson was a boy in school, his teacher told him that there was a place that the sun shone at midnight. Ever since then, he has had a goal of seeing the midnight sun. So we drove to Prudhoe Bay. Prudhoe Bay is on the Arctic Ocean and is as far north as you can drive in North America. It is

If you would like to contribute an article for the next edition of the MCA CONNECTION please contact Keith Tennefoss at (330) 695-3011 or ktennefoss@mcachurch.org.

a collection of buildings built on the tundra and is owned by the oil companies. You have to drive the haul road to get there, 416 miles of mostly gravel road. For those of you who watch “Ice Road Truckers” on TV, that’s the road!!

When we got there it was cloudy and misting, no sun in sight. We took a tour of the oilfields and stuck our feet in the Arctic Ocean. Cold!! Still no sun. We got our motel room (this is where the grizzly’s were), ate supper and kept watching the sky. It was bright daylight, but no sun. I asked God if he would please let the sun shine for Nelson. This was a once in a lifetime trip for him and if he didn’t see it now, he probably never would. Around 10:30pm the clouds started parting. At 11:55pm there it was, the midnight sun! It broke through the clouds and we could see the full sun. They were so excited! They stayed outside walking the streets until 2:30am, just amazed. I told Nelson that God had given him a miracle. “I see the stars (sun), I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.”

We saw glaciers calving, went fishing in the Pacific Ocean for Halibut and saw bears, moose, elk, caribou, mountain goats, dall and stone sheep and some fantastic scenery. What a great land Alaska is.

After Danny’s ordeal with his health this spring (40 days in the hospital and 6 surgeries) I just thanked the Lord that he was able to go and had no problems. “Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art.”

Jeremy’s Jots

What about us? by Jeremy Miller

They are young single men who spend several years saving upwards of \$10,000 to participate in an activity they know will change their lives. They find this activity so necessary to their faith that they are willing to suspend attending college, marrying their girlfriends, or finding a job. Moreover, to be accepted into this program, a young man must regularly pray, faithfully attend their place of worship, study scripture, be sexually pure, adhere to certain health codes, consistently tithe...etc. After acceptance into this program, these young people may only call home twice each year and are discouraged from even attending the funerals of

immediate family members. In spite of these obstacles, each year thousands of young men apply for this program. What is the program? A two year Mormon Mission.

There are others. This year roughly 8,000 young men and women suspended their lives and agreed to spend two years volunteering with the Peace Corps. Since its establishment in 1961, more than 200,000 people have served in this way.

What about us? While many of our churches no longer participate in voluntary service, our own denomination has a rich history of young people willing to give 1-2 years of their lives, serving others without pay in underserved areas across the world.

What about us right now? Below are several questions for our consideration and discussion:

What dynamics contribute to our hesitancy to spend two years of our lives intentionally growing our faith at a Bible College, in Missions, or in Service?

Should it bother us that secularists and Mormons are often more willing than we are to surrender significant chunks of their time to endeavors that cost time and lose money but serve people and grow faith?

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew: 16:25

Mission Moment

The Twelve Month Miracle by Paul Mullet

Every 8 seconds, somewhere in the world, another person decides to follow Christ after watching the Jesus film. That is 10,800 people per day, 324,000 per month and 3.8 million per year.

Based on the gospel of Luke, the Jesus Film has been translated into more than 1,110 languages with new languages added monthly. A recently added language is Ron. Approximately 115,000 Ron-speaking people live in Nigeria's Plateau State located in the center of the country. Many follow Islam or traditional religions including ancestral worship. This recent addition was made possible by the vision of the MCA mission board and the generosity and hard work of the MCA congregation and surrounding community.

Less than a year ago, MCA committed to "adopt" the Ron people and fund the cost of translating the Jesus Film into their language. With a price tag of over \$40,000, this seemed like a huge task, which we initially thought would probably be a 3-year project.

God used our first fundraiser at CiCi's Pizza last November as the springboard to begin this process. The holiday season brought the largest fundraiser of the campaign. "Christmas

for Jesus" challenged us to take a portion of our Christmas spending and invest in the Jesus Film project. Jesus' birthday was celebrated in a huge way, raising over \$27,000.

The children of MCA gave sacrificially and helped in a big way from collecting change with the



"What's in Your Pocket" banks to exceeding their offering goal at VBS and donating all of it to the Jesus Film Project. (This also earned them the privilege of throwing pies in faces of Jesus Film team members.)

Sunday School classes pushed towards the goal with an offering at a local toy auction, Mexican haystack dinner, Mother-Daughter banquet, and Scentsy Candle party. Individuals also contributed by providing donations and matching funds for several events.

All these months of hard work led to our grand finale, "The Jesus Film Festival." Competitive individuals showcased their skills at the softball

and corn-hole tournaments. Some cooled off on the warm muggy day at the dunking tank. Children enjoyed the jump house and bungee ride. There was plenty of delicious food including a chicken BBQ and refreshing homemade ice-cream. Amidst the activities, people were bidding for items on the silent auction, including quilts and furniture items. After concerts by John Schmid and Polen Band, the day concluded by watching the Jesus Film. The festival raised approximately \$8,800. On August 21, exactly 9 months after our first fundraiser, we announced that our goal of raising finances to translate the Jesus Film into the Ron language had been reached, totaling \$47,036.05.

Political unrest and violence have slowed the recording progress. Recently over 60 people lost their lives in the Plateau State. In spite of this setback, recording should be completed by year's end. If all goes well with recording and post production steps, in the next 12-18 months the Ron people will hear the story of Jesus in their mother tongue through the Jesus Film.

A big thank you to everyone for helping to accomplish this God-sized project! The Ron people will forever be grateful for your hard work and generosity. To God be the glory!

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY'S

The Truth project®

Wednesday Nights
at MCA
7:00pm - 8:15pm

"Do you really believe that what you believe is really real?"