

MCA CONNECTION

MCA Speaks

by Sheldon Mullet

On October 3, 2007 the final scene of the drama Heaven's Gates and Hells Flames had just come to an end and a 13 year old boy named Tyson Miller was about to make the most important decision of his life. He raised his hand, walked forward, and gave his life to God. His life had been changed forever. Not only would his life be changed because of his decision, but many other lives would be affected as well. Tyson lived his life to glorify God and to be a good example to those that he came in contact with. It was well known that his desire was to have his life make a difference for God.

Less than five years later, 17 year old Tyson was killed in an auto accident on Sunday, June 17, 2012. On that day Tyson experienced the reward of the decision he had made at Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames as a young boy. His life had been



changed for the remainder of his time on earth, and now it has also been changed for the eternity that he is spending with his creator, God.

Tyson was a part of the Hiland High School class of 2013. About two months after the passing of their classmate, the Hiland senior class had a meeting and decided to honor Tyson's life and faith with the drama, Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames. It was the class's wish to partner with the parents of Tyson (Duane and Emma Miller), the rest of Tyson's

family, the youth pastor at Tyson's church (Wes Miller), and The Pier as host of the event. Administrators of the East Holmes Schools were in full support of the event. The dates were set for September 9-11.

The cast for the drama was made up of many of the students from the senior class at Hiland and other families and individuals from the area including a number of MCA youth members, adults, and children.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

Worship Night (10th)
 "New to MCA" Lunch (21st)

NOVEMBER

Christmas Inspiration (6th)
 Worship Night (14th)
 Communion (25th)

DECEMBER

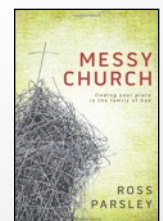
Worship Night (12th)
 Area51 New Years Eve Party (31st)

PASTOR'S PICKS....

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

Beauty Will Save
 The World
 by Brian Zahnd

Messy Church
 by Ross Parsley



Family Spotlight

The Andy and Jodie Shaw Family



Andy, Jodie, Riley and Miranda

Andy and Jodie live near Fredericksburg with their two children Riley (age 7) and Miranda (age 5). They have lived at their home outside of Fredericksburg for 12 years and started attending MCA in 2010.

Andy grew up in Fredericksburg near their current home and Jodi grew up in Smithville. They met on a blind date that was setup by coworkers and soon realized that it was a match made in heaven. The birth of Riley and Miranda made their family complete. Their family is very important to them.

Andy is a substitute teacher in the East Holmes School District and recently became the Coach of the Hiland Jr. High Track Team. Jodie is a nurse at Walnut Hills Nursing Home and also works in the cafeteria for East Holmes Schools. Their girls attend Berlin Elementary School.

Swimming is the families favorite pass time and they also enjoy cats. In fact, their girls LOVE cats! They currently enjoy 3 pet cats and a ton of stuffed animal cats. The family's favorite recipe is Apple Crisp. Check it out on page 4.

More Awesome Than a Cat Boxing a Grizzly Bear

by Jeff Polen

I like new things. I like fresh things.

To be fair, I like old things that are time-tested and proven to be good, lovely, and true. But my heart resonates with something new and fresh.

This year I decided to update the Area 51 logo. In the past we have had an alien as our logo. The alien had a purpose and reminded us that we are "not of this world" (see 1 Peter 2:11). I liked the alien, but as I read Scripture I am constantly reminded that we worship a God who is infinitely creative and is always doing something new (see Revelation 21:4).

I was recently on the internet looking for graphics to use for our Sunday morning service and I stumbled across what has now become the new Area 51 logo. It was a cat boxing a grizzly bear. I thought it was hilarious. It was new, fresh...

I decided to use it.

God is doing something new in our church. He is doing something new in our Youth Group. It is exciting to be a part of. We have a new set of Seniors who are stepping up and becoming the leaders that God has created them to be. We have a new set of Freshmen who are already fitting right in to the Youth Group. We have two new sets of Youth Staff and two new Youth Group Apprentices.

We recently witnessed a large portion of our Youth Group participate in the Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames drama and I am anticipating that we will continue to experience the impact of that powerful event.

There is also a significant excitement over the fact that we are jumping into "The Story" along with the rest of the church.



God is doing something new and awesome in the Area 51 Youth Group. In fact, it is more awesome than a cat boxing a grizzly bear -and that is pretty cool.



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Heaven's Gates & Hells Flame by Sheldon Mullet

On Friday, September 7 they came together for the first time at The Pier and went through an intense and powerful prayer and devotion time to prepare for the weekend ahead of them. Following a similar experience Saturday morning, the cast received their parts and began practicing for the performances scheduled for Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings. Prior to each performance, the cast went through an extremely powerful prayer time. Many cast members would say that was what enabled them to overcome the deep spiritual warfare and to perform the drama in a way that they, themselves, could not do.

Each night the drama started off with a dramatic crucifixion scene and spiritual battle between Jesus and the Devil with Christ prevailing. That was followed by eight scenes of ordinary people on earth that experience death and then are put before the angel with the Book of Life to have their eternal destiny determined. There were a total of around 2,300 people in attendance, including all of the performances. In fact, the drama was held over

through Wednesday evening as a result of the incredible turnout. As a cast member, I would say that this was the most powerful spiritual encounter I have ever had. It is really unexplainable, but when you see 325 people come to God and give their life to Him over four days, the feeling shouldn't be explainable, in my opinion. It is simply "a God thing." I believe that the cast grew closer to God during the drama than we ever could have imagined.

It was such an honor doing the drama in memory of my good friend. Having his parents at the drama every night to support us, seeing their display table in memory of Tyson, experiencing so many people make the decision to follow Christ, and feeling God's presence in the drama and in my personal life in an unbelievable way made that week one that I will truly never forget. Tyson Miller's life surely did, and will continue to make a difference. To God be the glory!

Would you like to contribute an article for the MCA CONNECTION? Contact Keith Tennefoss at ktennefoss@mcachurch.org.

Jeremy's Jots

The Coop by Jeremy Miller

All parents have goals for their kids. Some are fanatical about raising kind kids and others about raising honest kids. I am doggedly determined that my children never assume the grocery store grows their food. Last year I ordered a foraging book on "Edible North American Plants." Something in me felt liberated and manly knowing I could lose our family in the great outdoors and survive on grilled cattail. Unfortunately, foraging

in theory was more fun than the reality of trying to figure out if I was picking the poisonous berries or the really healthy kind.

All has not been lost. My drive to create a self-sufficient family got a recent boost when we became responsible for a mobile chicken coop. It should be noted that my wife doesn't share my passion for raising kids who can survive in the wild. She claims our household is the wild and thus wasn't overly impressed with additional wildlife on our property. In

my estimation, however, this endeavor has been a roaring success. Each morning I tow the coop to a fresh plot of land, fill the water, and let the production begin. Later in the morning the kids sprint out to the coop, open the hatch, and check for eggs. Their egg gathering exuberance has led to a few needed corrections. There was the egg that flew out of Judah's hand as he excitedly waved his trophy about. There was also the

morning that Sadie got up bright and early, went downstairs, unlocked the back door, strolled barefooted across the yard ...in 40 degree weather, checked the coop, walked back up stairs, curled up with Sarah and informed her that "the chickens haven't laid their eggs yet" as her iced feet dropped room temperature by 20 degrees.

In spite of the hiccups and additional effort required, there is something invigorating about participating in the process of acquiring our food. It seems to me that this principle of participation is true with most things we care about. This year the MCA family is walking through The Story together. As followers of Christ, we care about the story of the world and what God is doing. Therefore, extra time invested in reading and thinking about what we hear in the messages and the conversations we will have in our core groups can't help but give us a greater sense of ownership and add value to the process. May God bless us in proportion to our investment.



Mission Moment

REACHing For Something More by Everett Troyer

The summer of 2006, after I graduated high school, the MCA youth group went on a mission trip to the Dream Center in Los Angeles, California. It was here that God revealed himself to me and showed me that he is my reason to live in life. I got excited about worship, missions, and sharing Jesus to people who are hurt and have no hope.

In my freshman year of college, the fall of 2006, I picked up a guitar for the first time, I enjoyed it and wanted to work to get better at it. During this time of life, MCA had just brought on Jeff Polen as Director of Music and Youth Pastor. I got to know Jeff through the extra year I spent as a part of the youth group. Jeff later invited me to be part of a Worship Team Apprentice program, but I declined due to night classes in college and my current work schedule. It wasn't until the fall of 2009, when God blessed me with a flexible traveling salesman job, that I started the Worship Team Apprentice program. After completing two five-month courses of devoted book reading, Bible reading, journaling, and guitar playing, this season of life became the pinnacle of my spiritual life. I loved learning and being a student of the Word. I also learned to enjoy reading, something I hated growing up and refused to do.

While I was traveling for work over my birthday in December 2011, I took a moment to reflect where I was at in life and what God had done in my life. The thought of REACH came to my mind. From what little I knew, I loved what REACH had to offer: learning, intense Biblical training, community living with other believers, and proclaiming the gospel to the nations. After several months of prayer, I felt God was leading me there, and I decided to pursue REACH.

The next step was to count the costs. What was I giving up? What about my job? Where was it going to take me? What are other people going to say? If I get accepted, will I follow through? Through all the fears of

what other people might say, I was put at peace that this was where God was leading me. "And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left."-Isaiah 30:21.



Thus far, REACH is everything I hoped it would be. It is community living with believers, Biblical teachings, thoughtful and challenging conversations, and sharing Jesus light to a broken world. It is a challenge to work with five others, especially with clashing personalities. But we unite for one cause, proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. We work to love God and love people.

In 2013 Everett, along with the others on his REACH team, will travel to Granada, Spain. Here they will minister to people through relationships, teaching and service. Please pray for Everett as he steps out and reaches for something more.

Apple Crisp

Shaw Family Favorite

Ingredients:

4 cups.....Sliced Apples	1 cupWater
1 cupSugar	2 TFlour

Topping:

1/2 cupMargarine	1 cupFlour
1 cupBrown Sugar	1 cupOatmeal

Instructions:

1. Place Apples in the bottom of an 8"x12" pan
2. Mix sugar, water and flour; bring to a boil
3. Pour mixture over the apples
4. Combine topping ingredients and sprinkle over the top
5. Bake at 400 for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown