

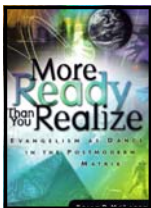
Merry Christmas from Rockside Church

4100 Rockside Road
Independence, Oh 44131



December 2004

More Ready at Rockside



A nine-week series entitled "More Ready... at Rockside" ended in November. The series included a series of teachings, small groups and a book for each participant. Eight Journey Groups involving 73 cross-generational participants met weekly using DVD's and hand-outs created by the pastoral staff. Bryan McLaren's book *More Ready Than You Realize* helped us look at evangelism in a post-modern matrix through spiritual friendships and missional sensitivity to our culture.

Loving Our Leaders



Pastor Donna,
Lydia and Bryan

The advisory board and staff, spouses and children enjoyed an Ohio autumn evening in the Cleveland Metroparks including a hayride, food and cider and gifts of appreciation for their great work.



Pastor Donna and the advisory board

Our First Birthday



A member shares what God has done in the last year.

"Ramping Up at Rockside" was the sermon series in August leading up to our **First Birthday** celebrated the second weekend in September, 2004. A concert of praise was held on Saturday evening with area pastors and guests invited to hear the personal stories of those touched by God during the past year.

Thank you to those who sent congratulatory e-mails, flowers and cards! We appreciate your continued support.



Saturday Night Worship Celebration



The Clay Family with
Pastor Donna and Lydia

On Sunday, September 12 special guests included Independence Mayor Fred P. Ramos who presented a city proclamation to Rockside Church. Also guests District Superintendent Rev. Doug & Gail Clay and daughters were present. Following the service, the leadership team and their families gathered with the Clays for a time of leadership development.

Missionary Visits

8/8 David Verzilli, home missionary to Native Americans and his family were our guests for church and our summer picnic at Liberty Pavilion in Independence.

11/7 Tim Strange, missionary to El Salvador visited to describe his journey.

11/21 Ricky and Cherie Herrera, complete in clown costume, visited Rockside Kids to talk about missions in Tonga.



The Herreras in Rockside Kids

Loving Our City



- July 2nd we hosted a booth selling sloppy joes, then stayed for evening fireworks.
- Lydia and a team of Rockside kids workers facilitated an event for the summer day care of Independence on July 19, 21 & 22. The kids enjoyed crazy games and relay races
- August 2 volunteers worked the Peter Lowe Seminar at the Gund Arena
- August 7 the Rockside Worship Band played from a moving trailer (above) while the rest of the church walked with the float greeting the crowd with candy and flyers during the Home Days Parade.
- December 4 we attended the tree lighting festivities in the city and sponsored a decorated Christmas tree bearing our name.
- December 5 candy canes, literature, laptops and smiles were found at the Rockside Church table as an estimated 600 guests passed through the Holiday Festival sponsored by the city.
- December 12 Pastor Donna spoke and prayed at the Civic Center's Holiday Memorial service honoring those who have lost loved ones.
- On various summer afternoons we passed out cold water bottles and cards to evening rush hour traffic.

Rockside Youth



6/2 honored two high school graduates

6/23 laser tag social

6/28 2 students and 2 counselors went to Senior High Camp

7/10 Hosted 23 students from San Diego, CA, canvassed 12 streets, presented outreach at skate parks in Garfield Heights and at 6th Street Harbor downtown Cleveland giving out coke,

Rockside Youth participated in Youth Convention last month in Columbus.

water, flyers and doing stomp team routines.

7/24 Huntington Beach picnic

8/28 Cedar Point Trip



Youth Convention in Columbus

Rockside Kids Summer Review



July 4th: Kids dive for candy



July BGMC: kids eat rice on our pretend missions trip



August: A lesson on water baptism along with fun water games



August: Family Spiritual Night

Also in August, 3 students from Rockside Kids attended KIDS KAMP for the first time! Miss Lydia also attended as a counselor.

BGMC Giving



Rockside Kids have been busy raising money for BGMC in 2004. Our goal was \$300...the kids have almost doubled the goal in their giving this year!