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Count On Me!

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Michael Rintelman  
Executive Director

## Executive Director's Update

As I think about Christmas past, I can't help but recall what my brothers and I remember as the "Packer Christmas." Growing up in the 70s in the afterglow of the Green Bay Packer dynasty of the 60s, watching the Packers was a weekly event in the fall. Merchandising was not what it is today and Packer clothing and memorabilia were scarce and expensive.

With five boys to shop for, the Christmas budget did not allow for extravagant NFL merchandise.

On that Christmas day, my two younger brothers and I were amazed at the gifts our Mom and Dad had for us. Our Mom had made football-shaped Packer pillows with her own home-crafted Packer logo. As we dug deeper into the pile of presents, we opened Packer-green zipped front sweaters with a Packer patch on the front and Packer stripes on the sleeves. If that wasn't enough, we also received Packer sweatshirts with yellow sleeves and a big Packer helmet in the center and a pair of Packer sock-slippers.

In one day, we had received more Packer items than we had ever believed possible, but Mom and Dad were not finished. After all the gifts were opened from under the tree and we were all basking in the remarkable afterglow of such a great Christmas, our Mom announced that she had three more gifts to give. When we opened the gifts, we could hardly believe our eyes! There were parka jackets like those worn by the Packers on the sidelines. They had hoods

that unzipped to make a bright Packer-yellow fan across your shoulders. For a ten-year old boy, this was the best Christmas ever.

I especially love the true meaning of Christmas – that God loved us so much that He sent His only Son to be born in Bethlehem's manger. That is love! As you celebrate Christmas this year, I hope you create fond memories for yourself and your family. I also ask, as my mother did so many years ago, that you reserve one last gift for The Milwaukee Outreach Center. Many people count on us to help them find their way in life. Please remember TMOC in Christmas and year-end giving – it will pay dividends for many years to come. Merry Christmas!!



The staff of The Milwaukee Outreach Center wish you a Merry Christmas. Left to Right: Michael Rintelman, Melissa Whiting, Bill Lange, Angie Miller, Gary Shoults and Will Hope.

# The Milwaukee Outreach Center



Special Christmas Edition

DECEMBER 2005



## The Wonders of Christmas

There is something timeless and eternal about the Christmas story. We asked our staff to share with you one of their favorite memories of Christmas. Our prayer is that the wonders of Christmas will fill your home and our city for "there has been a Savior born for you, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

*Walking to Sunday school on Christmas morning is one of my favorite boyhood memories. My parents didn't attend church but they wanted my brother and I to go first to Sunday school before opening our gifts. The Christmas story was so real to me that the delay in opening the gifts only intensified the wonders of Christmas.*

– Will Hope

*As a child between second and fourth grade I remember walking some distance to an evening Christmas program. At this service a girl from my school played Noel on her violin. Over the years I have come to see that children in Christmas programs bring to life the real meaning of God sending His son to save us from our sins. My prayer for each Christmas program is that God would touch the hearts of children so they know how much He loves them.*

– Marilyn Rintelman

*As a child I would always wake up like clockwork around four o'clock in the morning to see the presents under the tree. Now that I'm older, I still wake up early to go and look at the tree. Instead of the excitement of presents, I enjoy the Lord's presence as I spend some time with Him. I'm so thankful for the gift of His son and the joy of Christmas.*

– Angie Miller

*A favorite memory of Christmas started with popcorn and a drink from a vending machine on Christmas Eve. In 1988 our family spent our first Christmas by ourselves in another state. I remember how Sarah (8) and Josh (5) marveled at the pre-revolutionary war festivities of Williamsburg, Virginia. There were no Christmas trees. I can vividly see broad smiles on their faces when they were asked to carry a lantern and the surprised look when they found the secret passage. We then ate our Christmas dinner at The King's Arms in the village.*

– Bill Lange

*Candy canes, mistletoe, trees, family and of course, the story that never gets old – a Baby born in a manger. These are just a few things that I wait for during the other eleven months of the year. Christmas is the one time of year when family time is truly cherished and enjoying each other's company is more important than anything the world may throw at us.*

– Melissa Whiting

*One of my favorite memories is the candlelight service on Christmas Eve and the singing of Silent Night. The light, the majesty, the holiness and the miracle of Immanuel – God with us – is an indescribable gift. How awesome that God would stoop so lovingly to become the unblemished Lamb and our Savior!*

– Gary Shoults

# Northbrook Church is Serious About Helping People

Northbrook Church in Richfield is committed to taking the Gospel everywhere – both to Milwaukee and to other countries. We would like you to meet Bob Robinson, associate pastor of missions and hear his heart for engaging people in ministry.

## How does your church encourage people to become involved in missions?

Short-term mission trips have really spurred our people on here in Milwaukee and across the seas. We have done various projects in Milwaukee and there are those who go into the city on a weekly basis. Most of those involved in Milwaukee have been on overseas trips. This has awakened our church to the needs around us. About 20 percent of our congregation has been down in Milwaukee at one time or another for some kind of ministry.

We have about 70 to 80 people who go on short-term missions trips every year. Missions is part of our culture here in the church. Before they go, they complete six to eight weeks of training.

Another thing that helps is that each year we have two missions conferences. Missions Fest involves a number of our missionaries who meet the congregation and visit with our staff and those who are interested in missions. We also have Urban Fest that emphasizes ministries in Milwaukee.

Every staff member and elder is encouraged to go on a missions trip. Our senior pastor, Lee Hayward, is also very missions minded and takes at least two missions trips a year. He just came back from Nigeria where he was teaching 470 pastors. He has done this in India, Guatemala and other places.

## What do you see as the greatest challenge for our city and community?

The biggest challenge is getting the Christians together – especially the leadership. This is difficult because of the territorial mindset that is everywhere.

## Please tell us about your relationship with The Milwaukee Outreach Center and why you support this ministry.

Jack Brown was a member of this church for a long time and this is how we got involved. We also used your former building for starting Centrobroom Church and connected with you through your Thanksgiving outreach and other events.

## What things do you believe have contributed to the vitality of Northbrook?

What makes this church work so well is the priesthood of the believer. Ministry is given to as many people that want it. Naturally there is training involved, but the people feel that there is nothing that can stop them in doing ministry. This is what makes us grow.

We have made a point to make pathways rather than gateways. Many churches put gateways for people to go through before they can do anything, instead of a pathway that leads people to a certain ministry.

We also emphasize the need to look for your gift and your talent and then use it in ministry.

Our church doesn't emphasize the clergy, we go by first names. We don't sit on the platform or make a big thing of who we are. We're just one of the workers here. We're part of the ministry. We are here to shepherd the people and equip them so they can do the ministry.

As an example, last Palm Sunday we started a daughter church in West Bend. They now have almost 400 members. Why? Everybody is involved.

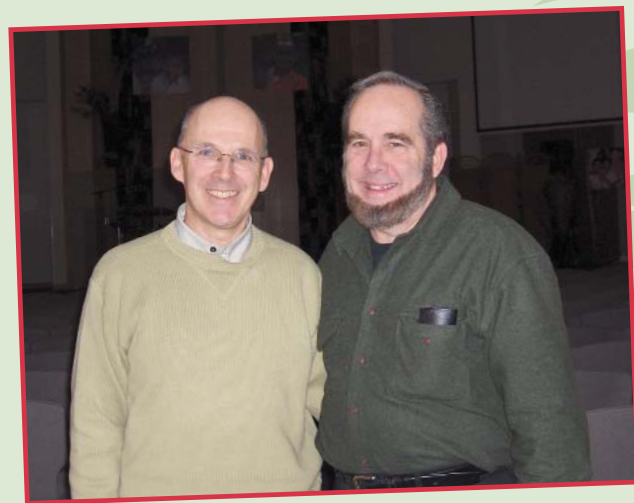
## What are some of your mission goals for 2006?

One of our goals for Milwaukee is to work with Inter-Varsity in reaching international students and involve our congregation in this neat mission field. Another goal is in partnerships overseas. I see missions changing on the foreign field. For instance, if we can help a church in Venezuela develop a good missions program and support them, they can send missionaries into countries that I can't go to. We're trying to be very careful not to duplicate ministry that is already being done. If there is already a viable preaching church, we don't need to send evangelists or church planters to those places. I feel that we need to start working more in partnership with foreign churches and pastors.

We are also doing more things to decentralize our missions structure. In the New Year we will fast and pray for 40 days that God would awaken us to listen to His voice and seek His face. This will be our twentieth anniversary and we want to keep our focus clear.



Bob Robinson, associate pastor of missions at Northbrook Church, gives serious attention to building relationships with people around the world.



Bob Robinson of Northbrook Church (right) and Will Hope from TMOC (left) recently visited together about the work of helping people in Milwaukee and in other countries.

# Count On Me!

## Today I'm enclosing:

- My monthly commitment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- A special Christmas/End of Year gift for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## I would like...

- to attend the Phoenix Life Skills program
- to schedule TMOC at our missions fair/conference in 2006
- to visit with a Christian counselor

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (last)  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



# Ronald Moseley's Story

When you first meet Ronald Moseley, you will be drawn to his quick smile and the twinkle in his eye. For people seeking help through Children's Service Society of Wisconsin, Moseley (48) is their first ray of hope. More than a receptionist, he helps people through a very complex system of services.

Moseley has always been serious about his work. For 17 years, he was a case coordinator for the State of Illinois in rehabilitation services. At every turn of his career, he has been diligent in his work. Even during times when he was between positions, he took jobs in fast food, laundry services, and nursing home care just to keep working.

A secret part of Moseley's life began to affect his work when he realized that he had become a functional crack cocaine addict. He said, "I came to the point where I didn't care about anything and I then decided to seek help, ending up in a halfway house. I eventually resigned my position with the State but drugs continued to be a part of my life until 1999."

He came to Milwaukee in 2003 to seek help from his sister. This didn't work out and in search of support, he found the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. It was here that Moseley became established in his relationship with Christ. While at the Mission, the Phoenix Life Skills program at The Milwaukee Outreach Center was recommended to him. It has been almost a year since he completed this one-week program. He commented, "Finishing Phoenix taught me the importance of listening and being responsible for my own



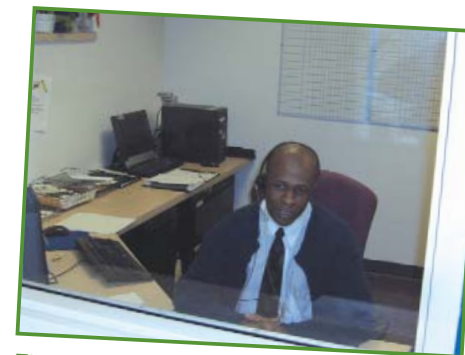
Following up on the progress of Ronald Moseley (right) is Bill Lange (left), Director of Phoenix Life Skills.

decisions. Every decision we make has consequences. When you don't keep God as your center, you end in places you shouldn't be in."

For those considering Phoenix, Moseley has some advice. "First, you must really want to make a change in your life. Secondly, you must take this program seriously by being there every day and participate. Finally, use the steps of this program to attain your

goal. The speakers will inspire you to see what really is important."

Today Moseley finds his work very rewarding. "I've gone through the joys of getting a job and the joys of losing a job. If you do the hard work, if you stay focused, if you want it bad enough, if you keep trying and if you keep praying and praying, you will find yourself. And then you will find that God is the only one who can help you."



The first point of contact for people seeking help at the Children's Service Society of Wisconsin is Ronald Moseley, a graduate from TMOC's Phoenix Life Skills program.

## Looking for Direction in 2006?

- Are you searching for answers?
- Wondering what God's plan for you might be?
- The Phoenix Life Skills program teaches people who they really are and how to find meaning in life and work.
- This is an intensive one-week 40 hour course designed to motivate and empower individuals to achieve personal and financial goals.

### Dates:

- January 16 – 20
- March 6 – 10
- April 24 – 28
- June 5 - 9

### Time:

8:45 AM – 4:00 PM (lunch provided)

Register: Call The Milwaukee Outreach Center at 414-760-0334.

