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The Brink Connection

Summer 2010

God can even use a broken hand!

I recently heard a great God-story come out of our Athletes in Action ministry that I wanted to share with you. A couple of months ago, AIA (Athletes in Action) sent a hockey team on an exciting ministry trip to Russia. The team was made up of Christian athletes from several colleges and universities. For two weeks, they used the platform of hockey to share the hope of Christ in partnership with local Russian churches in seven different cities. God opened doors for them to share the love of Christ with hundreds of fans, players, coaches and local officials through their hockey games and clinics. Additionally, they had multiple opportunities to minister at local churches, orphanages and drug rehabilitation centers.

The highlight of the trip was having a young Russian player named Valera join the team. This became necessary when their team captain, Benji, broke his hand in the first game. During the ten days that followed Valera joined the AIA team in hours of bus travel, games, practices, outreaches and Bible study. Through translation he heard about the love of Christ. Through the lives and witness of

the players and coaches he saw what it looked like to live and play for Christ. Near the end of the tour, Darin, the team Chaplain and discipler asked Valera in private if he was ready to become a child of God. He responded positively.

Later that morning the team studied in Galatians that those who put their faith in Christ become fully adopted sons and heirs of God. Near the end of the study Darin told the team that Valera was ready to become a Christian. The whole team was overwhelmed by the sweet presence and amazing power of the Holy Spirit as Benji led Valera in a prayer to receive Christ. The whole team wept openly as they rejoiced in the miracle that was taking place in their presence. Benji told the team that at first he was confused and frustrated by his injury. But after Valera trusted Christ, he could see the greater purposes of God and that he would gladly break his hand a hundred times if it meant Valera would become his brother in Christ.



Internet ministry in action

My role in Information Technology only plays a small role in supporting an AIA hockey team in Russia, but our TruthMedia department relies much more heavily on the tools and services I help provide. So, it's always especially exciting to hear how I'm helping make a difference through the internet ministry they do so creatively and effectively. For example, one of our TruthMedia writers recently posted an article about God's love and forgiveness to our powertochange.com site. Within 10 minutes, a visitor to the site, named AnnMarie, posted this comment: "I do find it difficult to believe in my heart sometimes (actually most of the time) especially when one thing after another always seems to go wrong. I always wonder deep down, if I am not good enough for His [God's] blessings and if He even likes me."

One of the TruthMedia staff saw the comment, and responded right away. Here is some of what she wrote: "I do believe that God likes you, more than that He LOVES you ... It says in the Bible that He loved us before we were born, long before we knew our-

selves or knew how to love. God's love for you is epic, eternal and unchanging. If you ask Him to forgive you, He will. If you invite Him to be a part of your life He will be. You don't need to doubt that.

If this is something you'd like to talk about, we have mentors who would love to talk to you. If you are interested, reply to this email and I'll set it up for you."

AnnMarie wrote back, "I was so touched by your response that I almost cried. I do believe in the Bible and that it is truth, I have just been really struggling in some areas of faith for the past several years. Sometimes I just fear that I can never 'get it right' and please Him; that maybe there is something wrong with me. I could go into more detail about why I feel that way with a mentor. Thank you so much for caring and for replying to my comment. It meant so much."

Thanks for partnering with me to share God's love and forgiveness with people like AnnMarie!

Summer Fun

Summer has finally arrived in Vancouver! After weeks of cool weather, and on-again-off-again sun, finally the forecast looks a bit more promising. The cool weather hasn't stopped us from a few summer adventures, though. We took Silas for his first camping trip to Washington for a



night, back in early June, and just got back from a longer 5 day camping trip to the Okanagan. Silas did quite well and though we felt like we were packing our entire house in our car, we enjoyed the time immensely! Silas also seems to be living up to his name 'man of the forest' and loves to go on extended hikes with us too. We've gone for a number of local hikes with Silas comfortably

strapped to Jason's chest, happy as a clam. We are currently looking forward to taking Silas to Ontario for his first trip on an airplane. We can't wait to introduce him to some aunts and uncles who have yet to meet him, and to be all together with Jason's entire immediate family. We are also planning to do one more camping trip this summer and are heading to Whistler for a week for the annual Power to Change staff conference.

What else is new? We love our new Church, a 10 minute walk away from our home, and are still considering ways to become more involved. We joined the missions board for a meeting to see if that's where God might have us give of our time and talents, but as of yet

are undecided about our involvement there. We also regularly attend a life group that meets only 5 minutes away. We have found some great connections from this group and are planning a few get-togethers over the summer months. Jason just completed a season of soccer as part of our Church team, and loved getting a chance to run around (although the games were a bit too late in the evening to draw many fans, including Silas).

We love being in our home and are getting more 'settled' in Walnut Grove. One way we have taken advantage of our neighbourhood is through our community garden. We have rented a plot for a year and are currently trying our hands at vegetable gardening. It's been a lot of fun and a good way to meet neighbours.



Prayer Requests

- For the various Power to Change ministries as they make plans that kick-off in the fall
- Power to Change isn't immune to the financial downturn, but we know that God will provide for His work to go forward. Pray for ministry partners who will be excited about joining financially in the work.
- For Shannon and I to grow into the kinds of parents that God wants us to be! It's a daunting responsibility to "train up a child in the way he should go."

To Donate:

Go to powertochange.org, click on "Donate", and type "Brink" in the Donation search.

Life as Parents!

As for our new role as parents, we are very thankful for God's consistent presence and grace through the highs and lows of parenthood. So much to learn! Silas is almost 6 months already (hard to believe) and despite some rocky beginnings with Shannon having some postpartum health issues and adjusting to having a little person in the home, we are starting to get into our groove and really enjoying this time with Silas. He's so much fun! Some of his newest tricks include:

- making the most fantastic gurgling noises and a loud belly laugh (for the oddest reasons!)
- grabbing anything he can and shoving it into his mouth (including his feet)
- sitting up (almost)
- spitting up on every surface in our home (marking his territory we think)
- bouncing off the door frames in his jolly jumper

We are very blessed and thankful for all that God has done for us over these past 6 months. He's so faithful and good to us. In every circumstance we're learning to choose joy and to praise Him. We hope and pray that you too are experiencing God's abundant strength and love amidst whatever joys and sorrows you're experiencing. Please let us know how we can pray for you and encourage you! Keep in touch!



Yours in Christ,

Jason and Shannon Brink