

FOLLOW THE LEADER

I am sure this game brings back many memories. Remember when someone in the middle of the chain stumbled and lost hold of the person in front, causing a mini train wreck for those behind. Or the time when the last person just plain got tired of being the “caboose,” and sat down, dropping out of the game. Just because this person dropped out, did not in anyway stop the rest of us from playing. There was always one leader who got going faster and faster to the point the fun was now gone. This, to me, was probably the most frustrating. It was as if they were only concerned with themselves. As I think about it, no one forced me to play. I could have left at anytime. I didn’t, and by staying I made the decision to continue playing, regardless of who was leading, recognizing the fact that following this person might cost me something; in this case having fun playing the game. Amidst the frustration of this leader, I knew I could count on the whistle being blown. This whistle was mom’s way of getting our attention, and that it was time to come home. To be honest, there probably were more times of wanting to play a little longer rather than come home right away. The whistle, however, was a clear call to come home. It wouldn’t have done me much good to go to the home of one of my friends. Yes it was a home, but it was not my

Regardless of this, one thing is for certain. The day is coming when God’s horn will be blown signaling it’s time to come home. The question we have to ask ourselves is, “Am I ready?”. The other night while leading the junior high boys bible study, this question was asked. “Are you ready?” A few of them honestly said, “I am not.” Other responses included, “I’m getting there.”, “I think I am.”, “I don’t know how.”. This then provided a wonderful opportunity to share with the boys the truth about Jesus’ death on the cross. If you think about it, His death was in response to our sin. Scripture is clear that all have sinned. Scripture is equally clear, that there is only one, who can pay the complete and full price of my sin – Jesus. Scripture also tells us, I must make the choice to willfully follow God Almighty, in order to hear His whistle calling me home. Scripture also tells me I have to be prepared for when He comes.

The mission of LHM is: Transforming the hearts of at-risk children in NE Minneapolis by restoring hope. Embracing Today’s Children; Equipping Tomorrows Leaders.

A part of what we are doing is restoring hope for a future, of who these children and youth



home. I knew where I lived and the whistle meant for me to return to my home.

This illustrates much more than the life of Steve as a young boy. It does in fact tell a great deal about who we will follow now and how we will respond to this person's leadership. It also reminds us of the cost in following and lastly, that there will be a day when we are called to stand before a Holy God.

The church, a holy, set apart, people of God have been given the charge to live out the game follow the leader. The difference in our life is that God is our leader and He will never do anything to harm us. He will never go too fast, nor will he make things so difficult that we are not able to hang on. Life may get very difficult, but in these times we are told there is a purpose (James 1:2-4). Granted there will be times when we tire and would like to sit down and take a break. There will be times when we stumble and lose our handle on the one in front who provides the direction we need.

can become, as well as addressing their eternal future. One of my desires is to see the kids we serve become faithful in their service to our Lord.

If you have gone through a time in your life, where you felt as if you had no hope, you know how devastating that can be. When someone came to your aid, it was as if you were given a breath of fresh air, the courage and strength to continue amidst the storm. The many prayer supporters, volunteers and financial supporters at Living Hope Ministries, collectively are accomplishing this. If you would like to become part of an effective ministry in Northeast Minneapolis serving at-risk children, I would welcome a call and/or a visit.

Follow the Leader: Are you ready?

Steve Moen

Embracing Today's Children; Equipping Tomorrow's Leaders

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One by One Tutoring Program

Our One by One program this year was a very busy one. We had nearly 40 students and tutors working 1-on-1 every Tuesday or Thursday night. Students are in grades K-6. I saw a lot of learning and growing going on, both in our students and in our tutors, many of whom are students themselves at Northwestern or Bethel colleges. A few tutors shared stories with me, and I am including them here. I think they really tell the story of our One by One program. Enjoy!

Starlett Heideman
1by1 Coordinator

From a 6th grade tutor ~
"Paul had a real tough time remembering the right steps for adding fractions. He was probably very bored and frustrated with it because we would practice it every week. One week, I asked him do it again, expecting the same issues to come up, but to my surprise, he did it perfectly! I was so happy he finally got it. I asked him why did he just now figure it out, he said 'something just clicked in his mind' about it. With the 6th grade curriculum moving so fast and not



From a 5th grade tutor ~

With the 6th grade curriculum moving so fast and not looking back, it's nice that One by One can help make sure students can revisit what they did not get right even though the school has 'moved on'."



"My name is Megan and I've been tutoring with One by One for almost 6 years. When I began, my intentions were to be a sub because I already teach for a career. After the first night, I informed the leader that I wanted to be full time. Working with young children, who want to learn and struggle in their daily lives, is truly a blessing. I've worked with 4 students in all, but have been with the same young lady, Jenny, for over 4 years. It's been amazing watching her grow emotionally, academically and spiritually. Every week is a learning experience for both of us. You build a trust and a bond that can positively affect the lives of these children forever. The need continues to grow and there will always be children that can benefit from extra academic support, along with the love of God. It's been an awesome experience for me each year."

From a first grade teacher ~

"WOW! I just needed to send a quick email to let you know how far Sam's reading has come this year. In the fall, he was really struggling with basic reading concepts and not interested in reading. I just tested him today and he is at the higher end of 'grade level' and is reading with comprehension and expression! I know he has been working with a tutor and it has made a huge difference."

Junior High Youth Group

God is doing mighty things in LHM's youth group. This semester we have added new opportunities for the youth to be involved with, resulting in some of them being at the church three times a week. On Monday nights we have youth group, where we have been studying the book *Bondage Breakers* by Neil Anderson and Dave Park. On Wednesdays, we have started girls' and boys' Bible studies, which give the students a more intimate setting for learning about God and asking questions. Recently, our tutoring program for junior high began. Each student is matched with one tutor/mentor and receives not only academic help, but spiritual teaching and the love of Christ.

It is exciting for me to see some of the students seeking truth and beginning to change and grow closer to Christ. They ask great questions about the Lord and life, and it is a privilege to offer the wisdom that God has revealed to us in his Word. I am also encouraged by the friendships that are developing between the kids and their desire to invite their friends to join our community.

We currently have about 14 students who are consistently involved in our Monday and Wednesday night programs.

Highlights for the kids have been two fun events at Northwestern College. In February, we took them swimming at the college pool, and in April they came and played basketball and went canoeing. Another great experience was having a local Christian rapper and his wife as guest speakers in youth group. This has been a wonderful experience to create these enjoyable memories with the kids.

Some of the youth leaders will soon be leaving for the summer, but the Lord has given me the opportunity to stay in Northeast Minneapolis. I hope to continue to build relationships with the junior and senior high girls. I anticipate that God will move in their hearts and draw some into radical obedience to Him. Please pray for the youth and their leaders. The Enemy is at work to distract, tempt, deceive, and accuse, but we know that the Lord has the victory, and all the more when his people pray.

Alyssa Stynsberg





Junior and Senior High Tutoring Program

Junior/Senior High tutoring is a new program this year. It is an exciting mentoring program as well as helping out with school work. Eight Northwestern College students go to the church every Thursday and pick up some of the students on the way. We work on homework one on one with about six students for the first portion of time with a snack and end the night with a bible study on the Ten Commandments. This program not only helps these students to catch up on school work and get help where it's needed, but it also is more importantly about the relationships that are able to be built. The students are able to see what a young man or woman of God can look like. The Northwestern students and youth of LHM benefit and learn equally from one another. It has been successful program thus far and God willing, it will be continue this coming fall.

Amy Rahn



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Ways you can help LHM

- ◆ Van driver for summer programs
- ◆ H³ Summer Camp:
 - Physical Education
 - Program volunteers
 - Chapel
 - Chaperone on field trips
 - Funding
- ◆ Begin a discipling relationship with a junior high student
- ◆ Summer car wash

2009 Events Calendar

June 5 - 6	Rummage Sale
June - July	H ³ ~ Hope, Help and Health
June 15 - 19	Vacation Bible School Session 1
July 20 - 24	Vacation Bible School Session 2
September 21	Annual Golf Outing

Please help us with our Annual Rummage Sale!

Living Hope Ministries will accept donations for its annual rummage sale on June 5 and 6. We are requesting items in *good, working condition only*. Donated items are tax deductible. We also need volunteers for set up on June 3 and 4 and workers for June 5 and 6. For information and to schedule drop off, please contact Kelli at 612-789-0494 or Jill at 612-789-2244.