

## BIM Newsletter 2005

**Greetings from Moundbuilder land! We're glad to be able to give you an update of what some Builders in Ministry are doing around the world! And we have one other update about Builders in Ministry: Ashlee Alley, '98, has taken over moderating the Builders in Ministry email newsletter instead of Szetho Wei Shen "Z." A big thanks to Z for getting us started and keeping us informed. Before we hear from some others, here's a little update on me...**

### *Greetings from Ashlee Alley, '98 in Winfield, KS*

I sent an update on the Builders in Ministry email in the summer of 2004 saying that I was the Assistant Director of Campus Ministries at Asbury College in Wilmore, KY. Well, as of July, 2005, I left Asbury after serving there 3 years and came back to Southwestern as the Director of Discipleship Southwestern and Coordinator of Campus Ministry. I'm so pleased to be back here and I'm really enjoying the opportunity to serve somewhere that was so formative for me. Discipleship Southwestern is a wonderful program that I feel privileged to lead. The students never cease to amaze me in their passion for God and the ways that they desire to serve God and one another! God is at work on this campus in exciting ways! Please keep us in your prayers.

### *Jason Speegle, '99 in the Dominican Republic*

My wife, Mandie, and I are currently serving Jesus as missionaries in the Dominican Republic. Mandie works as an administrator at a dental clinic that serves people who cannot afford private dental care. We opened the dental clinic in March of 2004. I currently teach high school mathematics and physics at a bilingual high school (Dominico Americano) in Santo Domingo. In addition to teaching, I am the National Coordinator for Conceptos Financieros Crown (Crown Financial Ministries) here in the DR. We have spent the last year beginning to establish Crown here have planned two large events (called Catalytic Events) for February 2006. The first event, a Financial Seminar for pastors and Christian leaders just happened, and the second is for Christian business men and women. Through these events, we are hoping not only to introduce Crown on a large scale, but also to teach God's financial principles to many people. If you would like to see what God is doing in our ministry in the Dominican Republic, check out our blog: [speegledr.blogspot.com](http://speegledr.blogspot.com).

### *Amy (Tiger) Givens, '04 in Altus, OK*

I am serving as the youth minister at First United Methodist Church in Altus, Oklahoma! I have been here for a year and a half now and things have just been going great. When I started, the youth were in a rebuilding phase, and so it has been very exciting to be a part of that and to see how our group is growing in participation and spiritual growth. There are so many blessings that I have here in this church, and one of those is a very supportive staff and congregation. We have taken some great steps in building a great youth ministry with lots of support from other adults and growing youth leadership. For all those in ministry, you know it can be tiring and frustrating at times, but it is great to serve the Lord by doing what we can to share God's love and to help others along in their spiritual journey and to express their faith. Keep the faith!

### *Message from Angela DeFisher*

What a great idea to help us stay connected and exchange ideas! As of July 1st I am the pastor of the Wathena, Kansas United Methodist Church. (For those of you who have never heard of Wathena, its located on Hwy. 36 about 7 miles west of St. Joseph Missouri) I am enjoying things so far. I've already made my first hospital call and performed my first funeral. I am anxiously awaiting the end of this month when I will begin seminary (again, this time for an M.Div.) at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. I never thought I'd be excited to be going back to grad school, but I'm looking forward to acquiring tools to be more effective in my ministry. (My first time

in grad school was at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, KY. where I earned an MA in Counseling. I've been working in community mental health since graduating in 2000.)

The church I am serving is an aging congregation but they are wanting to do more outreach to the younger families in the area and to build up their children's and youth programming. Any suggestions are welcome as to how to go about this.

Blessings,

Angela DeFisher, class of 1998

#### *Encouragement from Ashlee Alley*

I'm so encouraged to see this email and to see the impact that Builders are making in ministry all across the country, and the world! I graduated from SC in 1998 and it's so good to hear about so many current students who are following God into ministry, both while you're a student and after you graduate! After 2 years of working on staff with Fellowship of Christian Athletes with my office there on campus at Southwestern, I felt called to attend seminary. One year ago I completed a Master of Divinity at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky! All through my seminary education, I felt called to serve Christ's church in campus ministry. I am currently the Assistant Director of Campus Ministry at Asbury College, also in Wilmore, Kentucky, where I oversee several student ministry programs--a pastoral care program, a women in ministry program, and summer ministry teams. It truly is exciting to see how God is at work in our midst here and around the world! - Ashlee Alley

#### *Greetings from Carlos Nogami in Oklahoma*

I have been serving as an intern for seven weeks already in Project Transformation here in Oklahoma City. This ministry mainly involves a summer day camp for children (1st-6th grade) that goes from Monday-Thursday. This program creates an opportunity for local churches located in the inner urban areas of OKC to reach out to their communities. As part of the program, five interns are placed at each church where we are in charge of leading Bible study lessons, computer lab, recreation time, arts & crafts, and music. There are a total of twenty interns, including five of us from SC, and all of us get to stay at the Oklahoma City University campus. So far, this internship program has helped so much to grow in my faith and to experience children's ministry in a great Christian atmosphere. God bless you all!