



"And pray for us too,
that God may open a door for our message..."
Colossians 4:3

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My Testimony cont.

By Michelle Abate

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In August 2007, I snapped for some reason and tried to kill myself by taking a large amount of pills. I had to go to a mental health unit for about two weeks because of it. After that it was very rare that I drank or used drugs. On June 13, 2008, my boyfriend committed suicide. It's been the hardest thing I've ever dealt with. After that, I lost it. I was drinking every day, popping pills, and using cocaine. I even did heroin. I can't remember most of the summer because I was so high. I didn't care about anything. I just wanted to die. Then one day I met with some of the TNT staff; Mike, Grant, Emilie, and Andrea for lunch. Mike made me cry because he made me realize how bad I was getting. I was going through withdrawal and I couldn't stop itching. He convinced me eventually to go to the Awakening tent

revival that evening. No one thought that I'd really go, including myself. I felt terrible going through withdrawal; my skin was itching and burning, but something told me to go to The Awakening. I went and sat quietly on the side and listened to Katie Barclay's testimony and began to cry. I got up at the end and threw all of the drugs in my purse into the fire. Then Mike, Dave, Grant, Ryan, and so many other people put their hands on me. They started to pray for me one by one and I started to cry so hard I was shaking. I silently prayed for forgiveness and strength. When we finished the prayer the itching and burning stopped. I was amazed! I felt so relieved. I stopped drinking, and using drugs. I now have a sliver ring that I never take off. It says "love waits." It means I'm saving myself for marriage. If I didn't accept Jesus into my heart, I honestly

believe I would be dead. I'm still having a hard time dealing with Eric's death, but nothing is easy. I refuse to give up. What makes you weak in the end will make you real strong. If I didn't have Jesus, I wouldn't be strong. God is the one thing I know I can always count on. Drugs, alcohol, friends, lovers, and parents will let you down. But you can always depend on God. He will never hurt you, because he loves you, no matter what.

TNT Explosion is published quarterly and edited by Kristen Shuey. Our goal is to share with the friends of TNT Youth Ministry the mission this outreach ministry has in reaching the lost youth in Ephrata with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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EXPLOSION

THE NEWSLETTER OF TNT YOUTH MINISTRIES

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The Awakening '08

By Grant Gehman, TNT Director

This past July TNT hosted our Annual tent revival called The Awakening. From July 20 to July 24 several hundred youth, young adults, and even some adults gathered together in the field behind Ephrata United Zion to worship, pray, and hear from the Lord. The theme of this year's Awakening was purity. We invited several speakers to come to the different nights and share their testimonies and challenge the youth of Ephrata to be sexually pure. The speakers that shared on the different nights were; Bill Taylor, Mike Wenger, Jill Garman, Dave Fry, and Brett Rush. Topics that were shared about were; purity in relationships, modesty, purity in what you listen to, the temptations of lust, and the forgiveness that God offers through his son Jesus. At the closing of each night the youth were invited to make "True Love Waits" pledges to save themselves for marriage, and invite Christ to be Lord of their lives. This was an amazing week for some of the youth that come out to TNT. Several of them accepted Christ into their lives or rededicated their lives to him. One of our youth, Katie Barclay, shared her



The Awakening '08: July 20-24, in the field behind Ephrata United Zion Church.

testimony for the first time in front of a large group and did an amazing job. It is always exciting to see God move and work in the lives of young

people. We were really blessed by this year's Awakening and look forward to what God has in store for next year.

TNT Accepts Online Donations

By Grant Gehman, TNT Director

TNT Youth Ministry is now accepting online donations through Paypal. Paypal is an online organization that allows us to receive donations through our website. If you are interested in this donation option, you can visit our website, www.tntyouthministry.com.

Donate Now!

Donate

TNT Youth Ministry is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit youth outreach dedicated to reaching as many Ephrata area youth for Christ as possible. We reach out through community events, serving in the public schools, hang out nights, and Bible studies. We depend on supporters to give us the opportunity to share Christ's love with the youth of our community.

All gifts to TNT Youth Ministry are tax deductible.

com, and click on the "Donate Now" button for more information. Donations made through Paypal are tax deductible, and can be done using credit cards and/or online accounts. Please check it out! Thanks!

Back To School

By Mike Wenger, TNT Executive Director



Near the beginning of the school year, TNT helps Ephrata Middle School celebrate Red Ribbon Week, an anti-drug campaign, by speaking to the kids about the dangers of using drugs. This picture shows (left to right) Mike Wenger, Michelle Abate, and Vern Strohl sharing to a group of 7th graders.

School has started and once again TNT has the privilege and honor to be there along side the students of the Ephrata area. Bible studies have

begun in the Ephrata High School, the Middle School, and the new Intermediate School. The Bible studies are going very well, as we are seeing

The Ephrata Parade

By Mike Wenger, TNT Executive Director

Every year TNT has a float in the Ephrata parade, not in an attempt to win the best float award, but to see how many youth we can impact at the parade. Our float is a bit different from other floats because we encourage youth to jump on our float at any time, to get a free t-shirt and ride along as much as you like. This is a great way for us as a ministry to connect with youth and encourage them to be a part of the family of God, to see what it feels like. This year's float theme was "Fighting for the Youth of Ephrata." We want to see Jesus impact these youth and see them get victory over sin in their lives. The TNT float is just one way to say, "You're loved and special. God will accept you no matter what." 🌟



We are waiting in line for the parade to start. On the float we had youth playing video games and the Imani worship band.

many students coming out for the worship and teaching.

We are also blessed to serve on the Student Assistant Program, which is a team of administration and teachers that help students who are struggling with school and issues at home. Through this program, we are able to mentor and encourage youth to stay in school and to help them realize that they are awesome and loved.

At lunch time we help monitor students in the cafeteria. This is a great way to connect with the students and develop relationships so that when we see them outside of school or at TNT, we can then share the message and love of Christ.

We are very thankful for the open doors we have on the Ephrata campuses and that we are allowed to roam the halls, connect with youth, and be able to help them have a better day. We may not be able to share Jesus openly at public schools, but we can share His love in our actions. 🌟

SPOTLIGHT



My Testimony

By Michelle Abate

Before I accepted Jesus, my life was filled with disappointment, sex, drugs, alcohol, and a truck-load of other things I'm not proud of. I had a horrible, lonely, and confusing childhood. My hero, my brother, was shot and killed the day before his eighteenth birthday. I was four. That was the first of many traumatiz-

ing experiences. My parents got a divorce when I was eight. By that time, I had dealt with more things than most adults have. I drank for my first time at nine years old with my mom. I started smoking weed in eighth grade. I drank and smoked only occasionally. I started smoking cigarettes. I actually remember being in eighth grade and me and two of my girlfriends had a contest to see who could make out with more people in a month. I started kissing girls, and guys I barely knew. I think I was just searching for someone to love me, but in all the wrong places. In ninth grade, age fourteen, I started drinking and smoking weed a little more. I began popping pills once in a while. I got my first serious boyfriend in December of that year. Two months later, we were smoking some weed, and he took my virginity. He told me he loved me and I thought I loved him. Soon, he began using me for sex. He was always screaming at me, criticizing me, or in some way hurting me. I resorted to drinking more. Tenth grade came around

and I was still with him. I drank half a bottle of liquor before school, and drank the other half throughout the day at school. I did that everyday for the entire year. After school I'd either smoke weed or drink more. I was very depressed and looking for something to help me escape. Well, eventually my relationship with him ended. A year and three months I put up with him using me and treating me no better than dirt. I became pretty depressed after the break-up, so taking the pills became an every day thing. On April 20, 2007, I overdosed so badly on pills that I almost died. I was in the hospital for about two weeks. Somehow, that didn't stop me. Two days after I got out of the hospital, I was snorting pills in the bathroom at school. On May 20, 2007, I began dating Eric Goodman. We had sex not even ten minutes after we started dating. He got me to slow down on drinking and pills. Things were going good for awhile.

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TNT Auction

By Mike Wenger, TNT Executive Director

TNT Youth Ministry would like to thank all businesses and individuals who gave and donated to the TNT Benefit Auction. It was a tremendous success and we were very blessed. We also want to thank all those who volunteered and those that came to bid on items. We couldn't do this ministry without all your love and support. So from the bottom of our hearts: thank you!! 🌟



Katie Barclay shows off a beautiful and delicious sandcastle cake that she donated to be sold at the TNT Auction.

Year End Donations

By Grant Gehman, TNT Director

This is important for anyone who is planning on giving a year end donation to TNT Youth Ministry. If you are planning on receiving a 2008 tax deduction for end of the year giving, then the donation must be postmarked on or before December 31st. The check date is not important. Remember, it is the post mark date that determines for which year you will receive a tax deduction slip.

Thanks,
TNT Youth Ministry