

THE MADISON AVENUE

VISION

Madison Avenue
Christian Reformed
Church

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The Madison Avenue
Vision

JUDAH!

THE PRAISE OF THE LORD

Over the years, worship services held at Madison Avenue Christian Reformed Church have been enriched by the choirs, which have graced its stages. The contemporary as well as hymn styles of music resonated through the sanctuary in order to give God the praise. The most recent addition to Madison Avenue's worship services arose from a void created when the Mass Choir was disbanded in 2006. Members longed for a choir and voiced their opinions to the Elders.

Elder and Worship Minister Douglas Harrison led the effort to propose and plan a new choir. The Elders of the church considered the proposal and on January 15th planning for what was to be the Judah Choir began. Judah musicians include Chief Musician, Ron Foster, Director John Fairley, among others.

The Judah Choir made its

debut at the 11:00 service on February 24, 2008. Their next performance was on Easter Sunday 2008.

What exactly is in a name? In the case of the Judah Choir their name means everything. Judah means the praise of the Lord. Jesus is referred to as the 'Lion of Judah' because He is a descendant of the tribe of Judah (one of the 12 sons of Jacob, later called Israel). The Judah Choir offers vibrant praise to the Lord and His holy name. Their name helps describe their purpose, which is to offer worship to God, nurture God's people and evangelize the lost world. Their goals are in alignment with Madison Avenue's goal of transforming the community. Their method of choice... using the voices God gave them to show the world Christ's love and give thanksgiving for what He has done.

The scope of the choir is to reach out to the community by including anyone interested in participating. The



SEAL OF THE TRIBE OF
JUDAH

Judah Choir is open to teenagers, adults, and members of Madison Avenue as well as non-members. This diverse blend of people from the community helps expand on their mission of reaching the community. According to Mrs. Freida Watson, one of the best aspects of being a part of the choir is the variety of people that participate as well as the old gospel tradition.

The Judah Choir is a seasonal choir, performing on special days and events such as Black History Month and Easter. The Judah Choir last participate in Sunday worship on Neighbor Sunday, June 22, 2008.

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Intentional Disciple making Initiative

By Waldron Scott



Waldron and Georgia Scott at home in Paterson, NJ

Jesus left us with a number of commands, notably that we should love one another. But he left us with only one commission, usually known as the Great Commission. That one assignment is that we should "make disciples." This assignment is found in all four Gospels and the Book of Acts, but its most detailed expression is in Matthew 28:18-20:

Then Jesus came to them [the eleven apostles] and said, "All authority in

heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

So Pastor John Algera has encouraged the church to make 2008 a year of intentional disciple making.

To make disciples is to help others learn to follow Jesus at new levels of commitment. Beginning mid-January we conducted an eight-week workshop to develop our disciple making skills. A dozen members completed the course and are now engaged in giving personal, individual attention to others in our congregation. A second workshop is scheduled to begin mid-September.



CONGRATULATIONS

TO PASTOR JOHN AND DEBRA ALGERA

ON CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF MINISTRY TO THE MADISON AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH AND THE GREATER PATERSON COMMUNITY

Crossroads Ministry Center



**MINISTRY CENTER—
Madison Avenue
Crossroads Community
Ministries, Inc.**

For the past 15 years, the Madison Avenue Crossroads Community Ministries (MACCM), the service arm of the Madison Avenue Christian Reformed Church, has occupied (rented) the 2nd floor of the industrial building at 511 East 22nd Street as a Ministry Center. After making many overtures to acquire the building over the years, the owner, Mr.

Bernie Gallant, has agreed to sell the entire building at a very generous price as he closes his business due to retirement.

Since the building housed a factory, several environmental tests had to be done prior to the sale. These tests are now completed, and we are awaiting certification from the State of New Jersey.

It is anticipated that the closing of the sale will be completed during 2008.

Plans for the full utilization of the space have already begun.

Join us in praying for a quick and successful sale, and for effective utilization plans which will help to transform the neighborhood.



Meet our new Missionaries

The Lees minister in Tijuana, Mexico where they are engaged in developing local church leadership.

Tijuana is a city of three million people, located directly across the border from San Diego, California.

James was born in South Korea but grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Los Angeles, California where he learned Spanish and developed a love for Spanish Speakers.

Barbarita served several summers in Yucatan, Mexico where she also learned the Spanish language and developed a passion for Mexico and its people. Both graduated from Reformed Bible College with Bachelors degrees in Missions. James obtained a Masters in Missions at Calvin Theological Seminary, while Barbara completed Nursing studies.

The Lees are currently supported by the Christian

Reformed World Missions (CRWM) as well as several churches. In addition to his many duties as a part of the overall CRWM team in Mexico, James specifically works with a new church plant in Tijuana.

More information about the Lees is available on the Christian Reformed World Missions website www.crwmm.org



James and Barbarita Lee with son Jae-Min (Joshua)

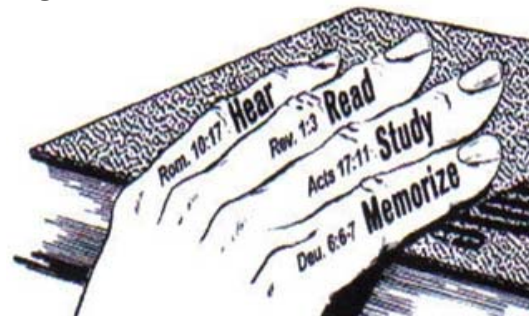
Disciple making Tip of the Month

The Bible is the single most important resource we have for our own discipleship and for helping others to become followers of Jesus.

There are four basic ways to engage the Bible, as illustrated in the picture on the right. We can hear it preached (Romans 10:14); we can read it daily (Revelation 1:3); we can

study it in depth (Acts 17:11); and we can memorize select portions of it (Deuteronomy 6:6). Finally, we can meditate (Psalm 1:2-3) on what we have heard, read, studied or memorized.

Tools to help us do all these things are available in the church's bookstore. Pay it a visit!



Disciple making—The HAND Illustration

English as a Second Language (ESL)

The city of Paterson has changed over the years. The demographics went from a majority white community to an interracial community. Along with African Americans, an ethnic group that is adding to the diverse tapestry of Paterson is Paterson's Hispanic population.

In order to provide places of worship for Hispanics who are more comfortable hearing the word in their

own language, churches such as Jesus Te Llama have been created. In addition to the creation of churches, courses in English have been set up in various schools and churches. These courses are known as English As A Second Language or ESL courses.

ESL is designed to reach out to any population that doesn't speak English as a first language and promote

bilingualism. Bilingualism would ensure more opportunities in the workforce as well as everyday life.

Jesus wants disciples of all nations and Madison Avenue reaches out to the Hispanic community through the ESL program offered.

The schedule for ESL goes as follows, there are classes on both Mondays and Wednesdays, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm for group

1 and Wednesday, Friday at 6:00 pm for group 2A and Saturday at 6:00 pm for group 2B.

The instructors for the ESL classes are Mrs. Emma Anderson, Carmen Roberto and Luisa Nales. In the future there may be classes for English speakers that may want to learn Spanish. Either way programs and services are ways to reach out to every part of Gods people.



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*If you would like to
contribute to this newsletter,
suggest a topic, or submit an
article please email us at*

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EDITOR'S CORNER

This is the first issue of the Newsletter of the Madison Avenue Christian Reformed Church located in Paterson, New Jersey.

The editor's task is to inform the congregation of the church, the clients of our service arm, the Madison Avenue Crossroads Community Ministries, and the public at large about key happenings at Madison Avenue.

This issue mainly highlights 2 key areas of our lives together... Worship and Discipleship. Disciple making is our primary critical initiative for the church in our current season.

We highlight JUDAH... the praise of the Lord... our new choir, which is open to all (not just to members of the church), and also several articles on Disciple making.

If you want to see an article on a particular topic, or want to submit an article for consideration, please contact the church office at (973) 279-3132 Ext. 11 (or the Executive Minister on Ext. 21) or send an e-mail to mail@macrc.org.

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PLEASE REMEMBER TO USE AN OFFERING ENVELOPE FOR ALL CASH GIFTS IF YOU WANT AN END OF YEAR RECEIPT!

Why be a disciple?

By Andre Greene

During His lifetime Jesus led his people by example in order that people would know how to live. After His resurrection he entrusted a select group of twelve men and a few women with a renewed mission.

The mission was two fold, the first was to live a life of holiness so others may see Jesus through them and the second part of Jesus' command was to be disciples and to create more disciples. The foundation of the church is built on the disciples whom Jesus commissioned after his death, and is continued to this day by new disciples.

What exactly is a disciple? A disciple is a follower of an idea or person. Christians of yesterday as well as today are called to be disciples of Jesus, spreading His word and building His church for the purpose of creating first believers, and then disciples.

At Madison Avenue Christian Reformed Church, the command issued by Jesus Christ to be disciples is being carried out through the Intentional Discipleship Initiative (I.D.I). The leader and coordinator of the I.D.I is Mr. Waldron Scott, a deacon in the church. The I.D.I is a process designed to teach people to create believers and then disciples.

The biggest and most important part of any community and church are the people. The I.D.I reaches out to people in order to bring them to belief in God and into a church. The ultimate goal is to create disciples who will spread the Word of God. Through a comprehensive eight week experience, participants will learn how to be disciples.

Continued discipleship is one way Madison Avenue reaches out to the

community in the midst of poverty and social disarray. When Jesus told Christians to make disciples it wasn't a request but a command.

The Intentional Discipleship Initiative is one method Madison Avenue Christian Reformed Church uses to bring people to Christ.



Andre Greene is a student at Morgan State University. He is entering his Sophomore year.