

Zimbra Collaboration Suite

claudew@wthands.com

So proud of my church!

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So proud of my church! Tuesday, November 25, 2008 5:18:38 PM

From: shannon@xroadschurch.us

To: crystal@wthands.com; claudew@wthands.com

Lowell McNaney, Crossroads United Methodist Church

2008 has been an incredible year at Crossroads! This year we focused on five words: Reach, Connect, Equip, Unleash and Restore, and I believe we took each of those areas to another level as a church. We have seen hundreds give their life to Christ on the local level as well as thousands bow their knees to Jesus on our mission trips. This year we sent teams to Puerto Rico, Senegal, South Africa, Brazil, Mexico, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic as well as individuals to Kenya, Romania, Belgium, Zambia, and the Czech Republic. We also supported missionaries in Kenya, Senegal, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Ethiopia, Venezuela, Brazil, Romania, South Africa, the Czech Republic, the Middle East, and the United States. All told, we have given around a quarter of a million dollars to mission work throughout the globe thus far. We also continue to reach people around the world and around our community through such ministries as Operation Christmas Child, Rebound Men's Ministry, Angel Food Ministry, and providing meals at the Samaritan's House Night Shelter. Furthermore, we assisted over 90 families in crisis this year by paying their power, heating, or housing bills and adopted 40 needy families through Cooperative Christian Ministry by providing Christmas gifts and food for them. Our Christmas Spectacular continues to reach orphans, the hurting, and the homeless. Our Men's Ministry reaches dozens of homeless men, alcoholics, and drug addicts on a monthly basis. Our One Heart Women's Ministry added a prison ministry to their already bustling outreach. Our Student Choir Ministry sent a team of 34 to the inner city streets of Boston as well as outreach trips to both Mexico and to a poor region of the North Carolina mountains. Our children have also been active in outreach as they have provided an Autumnfest and brought *Kid's Blitz* to the community and, in collaboration with Cabarrus County Dept of Social Services, With These Hands ministry, and Bethpage UMC, they will be sponsoring Christmas for all 91 children in foster care in Cabarrus County. We started a Bike Ministry this year where bikes are donated to us, repaired and then given to people in need.

Our Connections Class for newcomers has been amazing in connecting people and unleashing them to ministry. This class involves an eight-week commitment and is not for the faint of heart. Of those 108 people who have completed the class and joined the church so far this year, we have, amazingly, a nearly 100% involvement rate in a ministry. We held a Connection Fair this year,