



ON THE LEVEL



GOING DEEP WITHOUT GOING UNDER

MICHAEL MATA OFFERS MEASURING TOOLS FOR TRANSFORMATION

In this issue

Feature Articles:

Going Deep... - *Cover*

Here's My Take - *Page 2*

Brief news and breakthroughs - *Page 3*

Caught on Camera - *Pages 4-5*

Going Deep (cont) - *Page 6*

Here's My Take (cont) - *Page 6*

Before you go - *Page 7*

Check this out - *Page 7*

Message board - *Back*

Volume 7 / Issue 2 / Sept. 2006

The list isn't getting shorter! Almost daily an urban youth is touted by popular culture to sample—or assume—some new “values-shifting” vice. Every form of communication (from blogging to word-of-mouth) is pressuring, “try this, obey that, just do this.” And whatever the “this or that” is, after a youth has had a good dose—it's the urban youth worker who's often tasked with the adventure of rescuing them from what could seem an endless pit.

Preaching the Bible to urban teenagers behind a music stand is how some youth workers are called to address the complexities of risk youth. Others take the recreational route and load up the van to sporting events or buffets, to expose them to environments beyond their—sometimes blighted—neighborhoods. Still, there are the more “issue focused” urban leaders who attack vices head on by promoting abstinence, gang intervention or recovery from various addictions.

How far reaching are these approaches? Time usually reveals.

26 years ago, Michael Mata was a new youth pastor at First Church of the Nazarene in Los Angeles. Seminary training prepared Michael well for his first job in full-time ministry. To his youth group he'd articulate and illustrate scripture, challenge them to commit their hearts to studying the Bible and empower them to understand the application of its truths. Coupled with a creative activities schedule, Michael kept youth pretty involved and off the streets.

After a while he began to grapple with the question that if transformation was to occur among the LA inner city kids he was reaching, would it require more than preaching, praying and playing?

VENTURING DEEPER

“When I was engaged with ministry to youth, some guys came to me looking for jobs,” Michael recalls. “I knew I had to be about more than just Bible study and youth activities...but it just wasn't within the traditional youth manual of a church ministry.”

“The challenge, at that time, was not enough resources or models,” he said. “...in terms of specific kinds of program initiatives we were [just] learning

the ropes. And in one way it was probably a good thing because I had to go deep in the relationships. It was just me and the youth...I had to develop them. When the youth came to talk to me [about their] challenges, not being equipped nor having the resources was a turning point for me.”

Seeking out information through the works of John Perkins and others, Michael realized there was more to access for his own development which would translate to meeting the needs of his church's youth.



AVOID THE MESSIAH COMPLEX

“We feel very much impassioned and empowered by our faith that sometimes we want to do it all,” Michael observes. “We're compelled to respond and we overextend our own capacities and abilities. Either we have to enhance our skill levels—which sometimes we don't have time to do because

▶ *continued page 6*



HERE'S MY TAKE

Beyond skin deep.

BY GERALD BELL

I caught the movie "Waist Deep" over the summer. This typical violence-filled LA-based drama zeroed in on an Ex-con (Otis) who, now back on the streets, seemed determined to make a respectable life for he and his 10-year old son, Junior.

All the threats, deaths, and thefts that play out in "Waist Deep" point to the single parent's plight to save Junior who gets kidnapped as ransom for some past dirty money owed to a one-eyed gangster, Big Meat.

To meet the debt, Otis murdered a half dozen rivals, robbed three banks, escaped a high-speed police chase, and fell in love with the girl who helped set up his son's kidnapping. Hmmmm...?

As I watched an inner city father's rare passion to save a son, I thought how too many urban youth are compelled to look to gang leaders, cell mates, and drug lords for that kind of white knuckle expression of love and concern for their young lives.

I couldn't help but further question if there is a youth worker, coach, or mentor so committed that they would go—as this film depicts—"waist-deep" or into harms way to fulfill their promise to a youth.

I searched deep into the DVULI files to find among our family some who walk out their calling perhaps down a dangerous path. Byron Alston, Geraldine Anderson, Curt Gibson, and Norman Redwing are still active and alive to reflect on how deep they've gone to preserve or rescue the life of the youth they serve...Here's their take:

BYRON ALSTON (Indianapolis, 2005)

A mother of three children called me about her 15-year old son who owed a gang \$2,500 in dope money. The father, a product of the penal system, was not in the home and they were pretty broke. Because the gang had come to the house and threatened the mother, she knew someone had to intervene. The gang was determined to settle the score at any cost, and involving the police in this case was not an option for the mom.

After talking with the mom I went to see Biscuit, the gang's big leader and told him to let the kid out of the gang and forget about the money. Biscuit was pretty mad at me, but he knows I used to be where he is and there was enough respect for what I do in the neighborhood that he agreed to let the boy off.

While this sounds like a pretty harmless transaction, if Biscuit wanted to, my life could have ended that day. His gang could have gunned me down or blown up my house. But what kept it from escalating to that level is my relationship with Biscuit. I knew this mother didn't want to lose her son and I couldn't stand to see another kid die over materialism and hanging with the wrong crew, so really, it was worth risking.

This youth who started out a petty drug runner is now age 17 and works for my summer program. He was let out of the gang and is basically on the right track. I was also in this kid's shoes once, and I remember that all I ever wanted was someone to help.

Byron Alston is the Executive Director of Save The Youth.

GERALDINE ANDERSON (Minneapolis 2006)

Geraldine Anderson believes a person can either be infected or affected with HIV/AIDS. When her husband tested positive some ten years ago, their marriage was shaken! To date, 23 of her nieces and nephews have lost their parents to the fatal virus. Of her 16 family members who have contracted the disease (all through drug abuse) two remain alive. In 1996, when her husband was given six-months to live, he thought it best she leave him to avoid any risks. She refused. And rather than abandon her



sibling's surviving children, she embraced them even more. Five of them came to live with her.

"We lost some friends," says Geraldine. But they gained so much more. Following her husband's diagnosis they immediately co-founded a ministry to reach individuals infected and families affected by HIV/AIDS. "We hope to spread the knowledge not the disease," she said.

A native of New York, Geraldine was raised around family members sharing needles, uncles selling drugs to survive, and aunts teaching others how to use cocaine. Now she watches her husband take 36 pills a day to fight the infection brought on by a sordid past of drug abuse.

"I am a former nurse's assistant and was raised to be a caregiver," she said. "So I believe you have to save a life before you can save a soul."

With her exposure to at-risk youth and families, Geraldine says if she isn't careful a simple fight could put her at risk. "If I get scratched breaking up a fight and there is an exchange of blood I could contract HIV," she said. "But I'm more concerned with meeting people where they are and educating them."

The Andersons host an annual family barbecue to remember family members who have died from HIV/AIDS.

Geraldine Anderson is the co-founder and Executive Director of Wake Up We're Affected.

CURT GIBSON (Los Angeles, 2005)

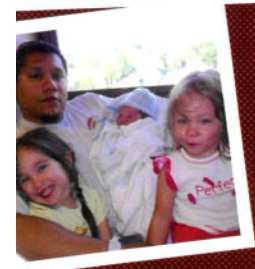
When Curt Gibson has the opportunity, he allows a youth or two to tag along with him to speaking engagements. On one occasion when required to travel via plane, Curt invited Demetrious—a teen he mentors. With bags packed, Curt's wife, Kathy was driving him to the airport and had agreed to pick up Demetrious on the way. As they turned onto the block where Demetrious lives, two opposing gangs (the Villa Boys and the Bloods) were enthralled in a heated debate directly in front of the apartment complex where Curt was to pick up his young traveling companion.

As Curt and his wife sat waiting for Demetrious to come to the car, one of the gang members lifted up his shirt to reveal a 38 hand gun



► continued page 6

BRIEF NEWS AND BREAKTHROUGHS



Edwin & Sonja Arevalo (Paterson 2001) couldn't wait to announce the arrival of Michael Vincent who was born on Friday, June 16 at 3:40 p.m. Their bouncing baby boy weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 21 in. long. The delivery process was a bit of a "roller coaster" ride, describes Edwin. "But when he began to cry it was the

best thing I had ever heard."

▶ Nes & Dana Espinosa (Philadelphia, 2002) had a baby boy, Justis Nehemiah on Wednesday, May 24 at 11:47 p.m. Justis weighted 7 lbs. 7 oz. and stretched 20 in. long. "Praise the Lord...The baby is well and so are we," said Nes.



Katie & Ken Van Timmeren (Former Staff, 2001-2006) welcomed a healthy baby boy, James Neil at 5:44 a.m. on May 27, 2006. James weighed in at 5 lbs. 5 oz. and was 17 1/2 in. long. Katie and Ken are grateful for a healthy baby who just didn't want to wait his turn - three weeks early, but doing just fine.



▶ Mark & Krystal Juarez (San Antonio, 2001) are now leaders of the young singles ministry at My Friend's House Christian Fellowship. Mark says the group continues to grow and they have expanded the teaching content to include new learning tools and expanded social activities. Although several other church responsibilities keep Mark's plate full, he continues to strive to make "personal balance" a priority.

▶ Eugene Blackwell (Pittsburgh, 2006) received his official ordination to the office of Minister of the Word and Sacraments on June 11, 2006 with the Presbyterian Church. Having to complete his Masters of Divinity and five examinations, Eugene said it was worth the investment and he felt honored by the achievement. "It was a blessed service with family, friends and the presence of the Lord," he said.

Ricardo & Emily Rivera (Grand Rapids, 2000) beamed at the birth of Elliana Marie on June 30, 2006 at 12:35 p.m. Weighing in at 7 lbs. 7 oz. and 19 1/2 in. long. "She is a beautiful baby girl and we are blessed to have her," Rick said. "Her brother loves her and just wants to hold her all the time."



▶ Lorenze & Jamie Jefferson (Pittsburgh, 2006) gave birth to their first child, Lorenze David on April 27, 2006. He weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and measured 19 in. long. "He's strong as an ox," says Lorenze Sr. "He's been a joy, but he's teaching me patience and all those things that go with fatherhood."

▶ Mike Hilf (Pittsburgh, 2006) wed Emily on May 6, 2006 at East Minster Presbyterian Church. He cried during the ceremony when, "I thought about how God had brought such a wonderful woman into my life...I really love her passion for God, and her love for the outdoors and adventure." The Hilfs spent their honeymoon in Hawaii.

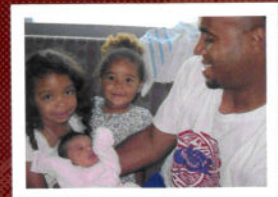
▶ Michael Allwood & Jamila (Boston, 2006) laughed, cried and were blurry eyed when they exchanged "I Dos" on June 10, 2006 at Raffael's at Walpole in Walpole, MA. "It was a fun-loving weekend," Mike said. "She's so beautiful, amazing and I can truly say she's the love of my life."



Max Torres (Houston 2003) accepted the Director of Programs position with Bayshore Christian Ministries in East Palo Alto California. "This is a perfect match for what I do," he said. "It feels like the right place to be and I have not felt this peace in over 15 years." Max will guide several ministry programs and lead the recruitment of interns and volunteers.

▶ Milton Chen (Houston 2003) was praying for an opportunity to relocate to southern California. The new Director of Youth at Hollywood Presbyterian received what he was praying for and more last July. Now in a new city, new church and ministry position, Milton oversees the spiritual development of nearly 100 youth. "It's a completely different environment," says Milton. "It will be a challenge in some areas, but definitely a blessing in others."

▶ Domingo & Vivian Mota (Los Angeles, 2005) are so blessed that their third daughter, Eliana Marie was born June 18, 2006 (Father's Day) at 8:50 p.m. She weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. and measured 20 in. long. "She has brought a joyful busyness to our lives," says Domingo. "It is awesome to see her smile and hear her giggle."



▶ Tim & Katina Morris (Chicago, 2002) Gave birth to Timothy Kaleb on Monday, July 31, 2006 at 8:12 a.m. Weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz. and 20 in. long, Little Timothy "has big feet and he's got big hands," his father says. "I thought how awesome God is as I watched him being born in the delivery room. It was stunning."

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Hispanic Prayer Breakfast and Bush Address Inspires DVULI Grads

The 2006 National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast and Conference was held in Washington, D.C. June 6-8, 2006. This year's DeVos Urban Leadership alumni delegation included Phil Abeyta (Denver, 2003), Rick Diaz (San Antonio, 1999) Juan Gomez (Houston, 2005) Joe Gonzales (Denver, 2005), Bobby LaCourt (Philadelphia, 2002), Maria Rodriguez (Los Angeles, 2005) Benny Santiago (Indianapolis, 2005), and Tanya Trujillo (Denver, 2005).

President George Bush again delivered the keynote address during the breakfast. Other guest speakers were Senators Ted Kennedy, John McCain and Harry Reid.

"It was very interesting to see where the president and others in Washington stand on the issue of Latinos in the nation," said Rick Diaz former DeVos Initiative city coordinator. "I believe that their heart and passion is evident in that they truly want to help make a difference in the Latino population of the United States...Meeting President George Bush, Senator Hillary Clinton, Senator Ted Kennedy and all the other various dignitaries was certainly the highlight of my career thus far."

Luis Cortes, Jr., President of Esperanza USA, the organization that coordinates the annual conference stated that, "For five years the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast has raised critical awareness of civic education, participation and action of Latino clergy and leaders nationwide." This year the 3-day event hosted close to 700 ministers and lay leaders and awareness was raised in the areas of immigration, HIV/AIDS, and housing.

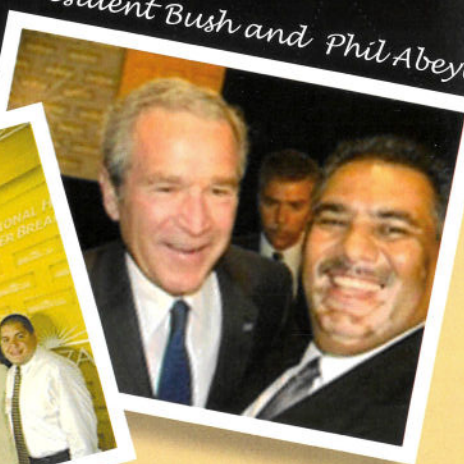
"I had the opportunity to network with other organizations and clergy about important issues in our community," said DVULI alumnus Bobby LaCourt. "I am alarmed by the HIV/AIDS statistics. My goal is to educate our youth on issues that are destroying our community."

Each year DVULI staff liaisons select alumni who represent the Latino community to attend the annual breakfast and conference. The event gives delegates an opportunity to connect with ministerial leaders from all around the United States and to be informed about current affairs impacting the Hispanic community. Visitations to meet with respective State Congressional representatives on Capitol Hill are coordinated, as well as workshops on advocacy, leadership and other issues.



2006 Delegation

President Bush and Phil Abeyta



Dear Mr. and Mrs. DeVos,
Thank you for the opportunity to attend the National Prayer Breakfast in our nation's capitol. I was blessed to have attended such an important gathering of Hispanic leaders and our nation's political representatives, especially the President of the United States. What impressed me most about this trip was the investment made on behalf of all Americans by the men and women who have served, and are currently serving this country. Their beliefs, convictions, and, for some, their sacrifices have benefited all of us who enjoy living in this country. With all the concern over the immigration issue, seeing the moral foundation and conviction of our country's leaders, as well as listening to our current leaders, brings into perspective why America is the destination of many immigrants. I was also impressed by the Lord to translate what I saw and experienced about our country into my personal ministry to Him and His church. I was challenged to maintain the fervor and passion for ministry that I started out with. As the many memorials surrounded the institutions of government, I wanted to live in such a way as to leave a "memorial" for the cause of Christ in all I did for Him! I doubt that I will soon forget this experience. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Phil Abeyta



Joe Gonzalez and Phil Abeyta



Maria & Tanya

Congratulations DeVos Urban Leadership Graduates!

The DeVos Urban Leadership 2005/2006 training year saw over 60 participants fulfill their commitment to finishing the 15-month training program, completing breakthrough plans and trusting the process!

Denver, Houston, Indianapolis, Los Angeles and Portland city groups each held graduation ceremonies in their respective cities to honor local participants and to recognize spouses, mentors and others who supported them along their learning journey.

This was the first round of training for Indianapolis and city coach Maureen Hankerson (Birmingham 1999) said "the group jelled very well." During her presentations to individual

graduates, Maureen shared how remarkably many in the "Indy-group" engaged the learning process. "They really pulled through," she said.

A highlight at the Indianapolis graduation was an original poetry performance by local youth Michael Grady. The 23-year old University of Indiana student received a standing ovation for his inspiring tribute to the graduates titled "Little Things Add Up."

The DVULI staff extends congratulations to all the participants, city coordinators and coaches for their hard work and accomplishments. Awesome job graduates!

Little Things Add Up

by: Michael D. Grady

So much to do...so little time...
 So much to do...so little time...
 What brought me here was that gleam in their eyes...
 That innocence...and the pain in their cries...
 Their dreams...nightmares...their lows...their highs...
 Their desire to learn more...one day at a time...
 What brought me here was their liveliness and energy...
 And our interaction forms this...perfect kind of symmetry...
 It's difficult to explain...my drive...or my hunger...
 But when I'm around youth - I feel 10 to 20 years younger...
 They need me...
 Role models today are wearing platinum chains and crooked hats...
 Degrading women and themselves in pop music, r&b songs
 and raps...
 They need me...
 More televisions are being substitute parents...by the dozens...
 Radios are aunts and uncles...play stations are the cousins...
 Ipods and cell phones dominate a child's zone...
 And can eventually-collectively corrupt a child's home...
 They need me...
 Low self esteem and self respect...
 No guidance or supervision leads to teenage sex...
 Working and going to school leads to teenage sweat...
 Then the cost of raising babies leads to teenage debt...
 And he didn't want a relationship...so he's her teenage ex...
 18 'n paying child support...sending teenage checks...
 They need me...
 Cause some schools are still lacking resources...
 Some have it all - while others work with small portions...
 Out-dated books...and perhaps out-dated courses...
 Delivered out of mouths of some ill-equipped sources...
 And unfortunately some voices are encouraging the wrong choices...
 Cause sports is not the only road to Porsches and Rolls Royce's...
 Our children dream small because of small expectations...
 But to earn big things they'll have to learn what's called patience...
 They need me...
 Cause too few are contemplating college and universities...
 Scared of adversity...
 Or may not think they're worthy, see...
 This is the mentality...that we need to shake...
 It's the brutality that we need to face...
 This is the harsh reality...that we need to break...
 In all actuality all we need is faith...
 Cause violence is still prevalent...Drugs are still problems...
 And it'll take more than a small effort to solve 'em...
 They need me...but honestly I'm just one person...
 Even if I did a lot what if the problems still worsen...

(To read the rest of this poem, please go to our website www.devosurbanleadership.org and click resources)

Indianapolis



Denver



Houston



Portland



Los Angeles



DeVos Urban Leadership Staff

Ron Carter,
Program Director
ronc@rdvcorp.com

Eileen Kooreman,
Operations Manager
eileenk@rdvcorp.com

Gerald Bell,
Communications Manager
geraldb@rdvcorp.com

Liz Koster,
Administrative Assistant
lizk@rdvcorp.com

Ginny Vander Hart,
Foundations Director
virginia@rdvcorp.com

DeVos Urban Leadership Initiative
PO Box 230257, Grand Rapids, MI 49523-0257
Phone: 616-643-4700 | Fax: 616-774-0116

COVER STORY - CONT.

we kind of feel like we're putting out fires all the time. Or we try to find the people who have those kinds of skills to come in, but that takes other resources.

"If we don't think holistically in terms of leveraging resources, our own capacity in the community with others, or identify assets we can tap into, we can quickly—in our attempt to be deep—express ourselves too thinly that we're not doing any effective work." He continues, "There's a confusion between doing a lot of things and defining that as being deep. And there's a big danger of confusing being busy and being effective.

"In terms of youth development, it isn't just keeping people out of trouble it's helping them understand who they are and what they are capable of. I think Jesus did that quite often when he asked people 'are you sure you want me to heal you? Do you understand the implications?' Those questions are very deep issues that he's trying to address. He wasn't going around healing anybody and everyone, but there was something else happening and we need to look at what are we really called to do?"

HOW DO YOU GO DEEP?

In 1992 when the LA riots occurred, Michael was then teaching at the college level. He enlisted some of his student's involvement to help bring supplies and support to neighborhoods where there was a loss of electricity and water. Food was needed also because stores were wiped out by looters or closed down. "We utilized our networks to move resources to highly impacted communities," he said. "At that time we were working in partnership with World Vision and a lot of churches."

HERE'S MY TAKE - CONT.

he possessed. A couple other gang members walked around their car looking inside and began to holler threats to their rivals. Curt realized his vehicle was being used for cover. When Demetrious finally approached the car, the door opened and he tossed his luggage in and told Curt he'd be right back. Swiftly returning to the apartment, while much of the street is in an uproar, Curt urged him to hurry. It turned out the kid was going back for a sandwich he forgot! Gun shots were fired into the air, and the three escaped unharmed to make the flight.

"It's fairly common place for us," says Curt. "The whole street knows who we are and they know that my wife and I care."

Since 1989 Curt has ministered to youth at-risk in Southern California. He accepts that God has called him to live and work in an ethnically diverse community and, moreover, embraces the reality that part of what makes his work effective is relationships with gang leadership. "I don't want to rescue kids from this," says Curt. "I want to redeem the whole street. I'm not alone. God is everywhere and on that street."

Curt Gibson is the director of Neighborhood Student Mentoring at Lake Avenue Community Foundation.

NORMAN REDWING (Memphis 2002)

A drunken father showed up at Tuesday evening youth group to pick up his six children. Norman Redwing, who was leading the group had received warning from the kids' mother



Linking with local community groups, churches and some larger organizations was the key to going deeper. Michael says, "We need to get into a different level of engaging, once we find those people who have lot of capacity."

PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE

"As I say to [youth workers] all the time in terms of sustainability, you may not see the fruit of what you've done but you have to believe that there are seeds of hope that you have planted." Michael continues, "And that they see themselves as catalysts. They see themselves as facilitators, and ultimately that they can embody what they teach and see what we have been helping them understand.

"Unless it becomes a part of who they are, youth workers are going to be frustrated and defeated," he adds. "But here's an opportunity where the youth are always watching and listening. That was clear in my experience as a youth pastor. So this is a great opportunity to develop the future leaders of our community. That's an awesome task, so I want to affirm what [urban leaders] are doing."

The mission of keeping youth from being hung by pop culture values—to helping them become active agents of change—will demand more than routine programming and colorful sermons. Michael says he's witnessed the fruits of going deep from former students who report from around the world the impact they are seeing in their urban ministry contexts. He also says that more and more urban ministries and denominations have become sensitive to the needs of youth but, "we still have a ways to go."

about their dad's state and therefore refused to let the man leave with his children. The father had physically abused the mother while the children were away at church.

When the youth service ended Norman decided that for the safety of the children he and the kids should sleep overnight at the church. The father later returned and knocked at the church door. Norman stepped outside to speak with the father who was carrying a gun and demanded that Norman not get involved in the affairs of this family.

"[The children] were afraid. I was too when I saw the gun," admits Norman. "But I refused to give him the kids. He would have just had to hurt me."

Using profanity, the father continued to threaten Norman who, though fearful, never backed down.

"A calming came over me," Norman recalls. "His anger subsided as we continued to have dialogue. I figured if he really wanted to kill me he would have done it then...but the Holy Spirit took over."

Norman explained to the father how he only wanted to help him and his children. The father left them at peace. He was later arrested and issued a five-year prison sentence.

"I wouldn't want to find myself in a situation like that again," says Norman "But to save a child's life, I would."

Norman Redwing is the Youth Minister and Camp Director for the Memphis Leadership Foundation Urban Youth Initiative.

Coach Koster Becomes Team Member



When a new member gets added to our team it's always energizing, exciting and fun. Recently we were thrilled when RDV Corporation announced Liz Koster as the new administrative assistant for the DeVos Urban Leadership Initiative.

Liz joined our staff in July to assume administrative responsibilities that support the key managers and director of the Initiative. In this position she'll coordinate workshops, conferences, and other training events, while implementing many of the daily communications, travel arrangements, and interoffice tasks.

Before coming to the DVULI, Liz served in administrative capacities with Hope Network's Foundation in Grand Rapids, MI and with The Center for Youth and Leadership in Minneapolis, MN. During her academic stay in the Twin Cities she developed the Dream Completion Camp for a local high school, coached volleyball at the Centennial Volleyball Club and finished her undergraduate work at North Central University.

Armed with a BS in Youth Development Studies, the class of 2006 graduate has returned to her native home of Grand Rapids with a renewed vigor. "I love Grand Rapids," Liz said. "My family is here. It's a great city...I feel it will change overtime and I want to be a part of it."

Liz enjoys networking and meeting people who are connected with youth. She also admits to welcoming new challenges that help her develop both professionally and personally. "I am real excited about working here," she said. "When I learned about [the Initiative] from my mentors, Chris Brooks and Eric Iverson, I never heard anything negative...I look forward to meeting new people and assisting them and growing from there."

A champion volleyball player and coach, Liz will invest some of her after-work hours coaching local high school volleyball during the winter months. She has a sincere passion to motivate and inspire urban youth, and

has exhibited that quality in both Minneapolis and Grand Rapids. She coached the Grand Rapids Christian High School women's volleyball team to the 2003 Freshman Conference Championship title. At North Central University she was honored as the 2006 Athlete of the Year, and also received leadership awards for women's basketball and volleyball.

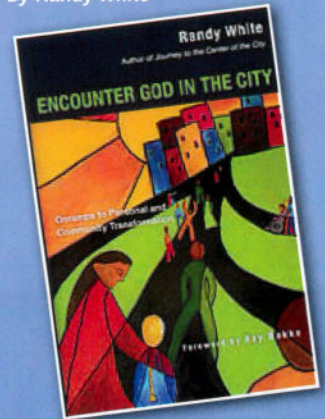
"My coaches taught me to be well-rounded," she reflects. "They told me winning isn't everything and that there is so much more to be valued than making it to the next level. You can play hard and lose, but still gain character."

We have every confidence that Liz's enthusiasm will be of great value to our team and to the DVULI alumnus and participants with which she interacts. Her understanding of the complexities of serving urban youth and the high level of support youth workers need, we hope will expand the bridge that's been built to encourage and empower the leaders we serve. Please join us in welcoming Liz Koster to the DVULI family and share in the energy, excitement and fun. You can contact Liz at lizk@rdvcorp.com.

"My coaches taught me to be well-rounded," she reflects. "They told me winning isn't everything and that there is so much more to be valued than making it to the next level. You can play hard and lose, but still gain character."

Encounter God In The City

By Randy White



"Randy White takes us on a mind-opening journey once again, this time onto the challenging and transformative pathway of discipleship in the context of the city. Based on his years of living in and studying the urban context, White distills in a manner not found in any other book. I know the power of the written text in understanding his own transformation, even as he facilitates and nurtures a similar transformation among young adults and others seeking to appreciate and encounter God in the complex and often chaotic sociocultural landscape of the city. This book would interest anyone who is grappling with the question of what it means to be a disciple of Christ in our world today. Encounter God in the City is a must-have book in particular for those who are responsible for mentoring or leading others into a full embrace of and by God. White does us all a great service by not only sharing his story but providing tangible examples and tools for transformation."

—Michael A. Mata,
National Director, Tools for Transformation, World Vision, U.S.

P.O. Box 230257

Grand Rapids, MI 49523-0257

www.devosurbanleadership.org

Message Board

These people have new e-mails:

Veronica Lopez (Los Angeles, 2005)
Liza Cagua (Boston, 2006)
David Stanley (Kansas City, 2003)
Derrick Reed (Pittsburgh, 2006)
Tiffany Childress (Chicago, 200)
Kristin Kutemeyer (Albuquerque, 2004)
Robyn (Dickens) Moya (San Diego, 2001)

These people have updated contact information:

Denise Fase (Grand Rapids, 1998)	John Walcott (Grand Rapids, 1998)
Christine Miller (Denver, 2005)	Earnestine Lockett (Grand Rapids, 2000)
Ricardo Rivera (Grand Rapids, 2000)	Jerry Bishop (Grand Rapids, 2000)
Jonathan Lambe (Kansas City, 2001)	Michael Jackson (Grand Rapids, 2006)
Hank and Maureen Hankerson (Birmingham, 1999)	Paul Espinoza (Denver, 2003)
Chris Womack (Boston, 2006)	Tiffany Childress (Chicago, 2002)
Tia Holcomb (Boston, 2006)	Benjamin Bryant (Indianapolis, 2005)
D'Andre Ash (Atlanta, 2006)	Bill and Maricella Preston (San Diego, 2001)
Ishmael Aguirre Jr. (Albuquerque, 2002)	Michelle Bruning (Denver, 2003)
Danny Lopez (Chicago, 2002)	Barron Lacy (Philadelphia, 2002)
Tom Lach (Chicago, 2002)	Kyle Duncan (Albuquerque, 2004)
Paul Phillips (Albuquerque, 2002)	Larry Curry (Orlando, 1998)
Brian Gornik (Philadelphia, 2004)	Al Rodríguez (Albuquerque, 2002)
Scott Hackler (Albuquerque, 2002)	Rick Diaz (San Antonio, 1999)
Clive Craigen (Chicago, 2000)	Thomas Walker (Houston, 2005)
Kristen Styf (Denver, 2003)	Derek Jackson (Grand Rapids, 2006)
Daer Kyles (Houston, 2005)	Thomas Howard (Chicago, 2000)
Allen and Deborah Wiggins (Orlando, 2000)	Colleen Leach (Albuquerque, 2002)
Andre Lewis (Houston, 2005)	Anna Scott (Orlando, 2000)
Al Williams (San Diego, 1999)	Shabrae Jackson (Philadelphia, 2004)
Ann Heerde (Grand Rapids, 2000)	Christine Garde (San Diego, 1999)
Vernon Hubbard (Houston, 2003)	Abe Oliver (Philadelphia, 2002)
Eddie Cole (Orlando, 2000)	Orrett Bailey (Atlanta, 2006)
Darren Reed (Orlando, 1998)	
Steve Faber (Grand Rapids, 2000)	

If you are interested in contacting any of these people, please visit the DeVos Urban Leadership website for updated contact information.
www.devosurbanleadership.org

Announcements

▶ Save the Date

Reunion 2007
August 22-25, 2007
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
Grand Rapids, MI

▶ Second National Conference

October 16-20, 2006
Haworth Conference Center
Holland, MI

▶ RELOAD Tour 2006/2007

Starts September 16, 2006
For more information visit: <http://www.uywi.org/reload/>

▶ Workshop 4 - Resource Networking

Atlanta and Minneapolis
Nov. 30 – Dec 2, 2006

Boston, Grand Rapids, Pittsburgh
Dec. 7 – 9, 2006

▶ And we have a winner!



Brenda Fierros (Houston, 2005) is the winner of a \$25.00 travel voucher to the DVULI Reunion 2007. Brenda had the most accurate answer to the "Guess Which Staff Person has a Surprise Behind the Bow" contest! Every entrant guessed that Katie Van Timmeren was with child. However, Brenda was the only entry that took a more specific guess at the gender. It's a boy! Congrats Brenda... See you at the Reunion.

CCDA Gathering of DVULI Fellows.

Come join DeVos grads and friends for food, fellowship and other cool stuff!

Thursday, September 28, 2006
Marriott Hotel Downtown - Salon 1
Philadelphia, PA
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm