

# snapshot.

a glimpse of Life!



February 2008

## Hollywood and Hope in Enterprise, Oregon



Bob Lenz

The landscape was beautiful, surrounded by snowcapped mountains and rolling hillsides. It looked like little Switzerland. Cattle could be seen on every hillside, and the local folks kept joking about how there were “more cows than people in this county.” We spoke at two high schools in neighboring communities that day, and between them there were only 380 students. One of the two had students bussed in from another school, so technically there were students from three high schools at our programs.

We got there by plane, after which came a five hour drive through the countryside. I wondered to myself, “Why are we here?” I learned that it was because of a senior girl who heard me speak at Creation West Festival. She returned from the event and told her youth leader, “All I want before I graduate high school is for my friends to hear Bob. They have to hear how he talks about real life and ties in the gospel.” The youth pastor later told me, “How do you say no to a request like that?”

### READY FOR UNITY

In this small county there were tons of churches, mostly because of splits and factions, and several were really at odds with each other. But about a year ago, God began calling them to reconciliation and unity. Our program was the first event where churches from almost every denomination in the community were willing to collaborate. It was kind of ironic that the youth workers drove me to the school assembly program in a beat up 70's Volkswagen van. It almost seemed like a symbolic sign of peace.

We held the assembly programs during the day and had a good response. Later that evening we were scheduled for a community outreach with free pizza and a band, and I would share the gospel. A neutral place that everyone could agree upon to hold the event was at the town's only movie theater. When you called their movie hotline, the automated voice mail said, “Wednesday night – Wild Hogs with John Travolta, Thursday night – Bob Lenz and Noon Day Sun at 7:00pm.” When we got there they had us up on the marquee. I laughed at the thought of our names in lights. But our true hope was for Christ to shine, not us. He was the one we wanted people to meet that night.

Is Bob “coming to a theater near you?” Check our calendar online at [www.lifespeaking.com](http://www.lifespeaking.com)!

Since the community was so small, we hoped for 100 youth to return for the rally, but we had over 300 with standing room only. It was an awesome night. Noon Day Sun played a concert and kids were singing, dancing and having a great time, and I got to share a talk titled, “Looking for Love.” Through it, I shared about how we are designed for a relationship with God, yet we try everything else in the world to fill the emptiness inside. Then came the time for the opportunity to respond to the gospel. Because of all the different denominations and their various styles of worship, it was decided upon to have people walk to the front of the auditorium in response to the gospel rather than having people raise their hands to receive Christ.

### CONAN THE ... PIZZA CHEF?

Normally at about that same time the sponsor will be arranging and setting up the pizza for fellowship afterwards. The pizza place, called “New York Richie's Pizza,” was across the street, and it was supposed to be the best pizza in town. We heard stories of how the owner was well known in this small town; he had appeared in numerous television shows and starred as Conan the Barbarian for the Universal Studios attraction “The Adventures of Conan.”

But when the youth pastor went across the street to get the pizza, Richie was no where to be found. In fact, the door was locked. The youth pastor started knocking and pounding to get anyone's attention. Finally, someone came to the door, but they were just part time help and couldn't even figure out how to open the door from the inside. The youth pastor tried to

yell through the door to find out where Richie was, but they didn't know and the door stayed locked. Frustrated, he came back across the street to tell a fellow youth pastor that they better start coming up with another plan. "What do we do? Richie's disappeared!" he said. The other youth pastor, with tears streaming down his face, pointed to the front of the room. There was Richie, along with another 100 people asking Jesus to be Lord of their lives.

During the prayer time I got to speak with Richie. He told me how the truth of the message hit home. He had it all: a couple Dodge Viper sports cars, money, fame, success and women, yet he had no peace in his heart. He looked at me and said, "That's what I want." We prayed with him to commit his life to Christ and to live for what matters.

### **"IT'S GOT TO BE REAL"**

Afterwards, Richie went to get the pizza for everyone and he personally brought a piece to me. He told me that the youth pastors owed him \$600 for the pizza, but that he wanted them to donate that money to Life! Promotions instead so others could hear the good news. One of the youth pastors was stunned. He was, frankly, a little skeptical about Richie's sincerity in responding to the gospel that night, but when he heard about the donated pizza he said, "You know when it touches Richie's pocket book, then it's got to be real."

The young girl who was the catalyst for bringing us in ended up not only impacting her friends and peers for Christ, but an entire community. There we were, putting on an event for youth, and yes, 100 youth came to Christ, but we love it just as much when a Hollywood actor from New York who sells pizza in a small town meets Christ! God brought us right across the street from this unlikely pizza joint, and we'll keep following Him to meet others where they are at too.

***You can be a part of reaching young people—and even barbarian pizza chefs—for Christ!*** Donate online now at [www.lifepromotions.com](http://www.lifepromotions.com). Click on "Supporters." Thank you!

For the Kingdom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Bob", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Life! Promotions**

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