

snapshot.

a glimpse of Life!



October 2009

What Has Power Over You?



Bob Lenz

It's been a while since I've sent an update on the ministry. It's amazing how the summer flew by and now we've already seen snow flurries here in Wisconsin! It's been a busy summer where I was able to speak at 13 different Christian music festivals across the country. The stories could fill a novel.

At one festival there were nearly 3,000 youth who were considered fringe. They were there listening to screamo music and after I spoke, more than 200 came to believe that Jesus loves them, died for them, and is living for them. My heart was infused with passion beyond myself and after my talk I didn't just cry, but wept for this generation. At another festival we saw hundreds come to faith and 350 Compassion kids were sponsored.

Despite traveling the country and sharing the gospel, I want to share some highlights of our own festivals right here in our backyard, Wisconsin.

We just wrapped up our own one-day festival, Power of One, on October 10th. Great bands and more than a dozen speakers shared throughout the day. For my keynote address I asked the question, "What has power over you?" Tears flowed as I ran through the list: cutting, drugs, drinking, sex, eating disorders, video games, the influence of friends, and a host of others. Our young people, yes, even Christian kids, are battling these powers of darkness. A 12 year old girl spoke with one of our staff members earlier in the day, sharing how she was cutting and had already attempted suicide once before. She offered her a bible study, prayed with her and is trying to keep the lines of communication open. Another 15 year old connected with the band Pillar and shared how she had been in and out of rehab and had also attempted suicide several times. She told them, "I don't know God, and if He does exist, I don't know if I would be able to believe he loved me. I haven't felt loved in 5 years." Pray as we seek to share the unconditional love of God with her.

The need is so incredibly great that I often feel overwhelmed. My heart breaks every time I hear stories like these. On my own, I have no power to change the lives of young people. But as I shared during my talk at Power of One, there is a power greater than my limited abilities, a power greater than the strongholds of cutting, suicide and addiction. I shared Acts 1:8 "When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere." As we prayed for the bondage of sin to be released and for the power of the Holy Spirit to take over, many young people responded. I recall a small group of girls huddled together in prayer and learned that one of the girls gave her life to Christ during that time. Another youth leader shared, "Thank you so much, Bob, for your heart and obedience to God. Last night my youth and I were at Power of One and one of our teens gave his life to Christ... Praise God."



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As you can see, Power of One is so much more than entertainment. Yet the paradox is that kids are entertained as well, and given opportunities to express their faith through music, dancing and screaming at the top of their lungs, having an awesome time worshipping the God of power.

And that's just the Power of One! We also heard countless stories from the ministry of Lifest in July as well...



"Worshipping God outside is indescribable, a very miniscule glimpse of heaven."

"I just got back from Lifest last night and wow – what a festival! I'm so different and I'm so on fire! Your festival confirmed what everyone has been telling me for weeks, "You can make a difference here!" From the prayer tent to the speakers, comedians, bands... It was so real. Jesus was everywhere."

"Listening to a speaker share a part of her personal life let me know that I'm not alone, and never have been, I was just not looking in the right direction."

"I absolutely loved the prayer tent. My 7 year old and I spent well over an hour in there and could have been longer. Can't wait to see next years tent!"

"After 2 years of isolation from relationships, God used Lifest & a group of new friends to remind me why community is so great. Healing is awesome."

"Lifest gave us the opportunity to be closer to each other and to see how diverse God is: music-fellowship-hugs-seminars-new friends-cooperation-sharing-and soooooo much more! We will never forget it and are already thinking about next year!"

This year's Lifest was a success, not just from an attendance stand point, but more importantly, from a ministry standpoint. Sunday morning's worship service was the biggest in its 11 year history because we offered free admission for everyone. It was a great opportunity for those who were thinking of checking out Lifest to get a glimpse of what it was like, or for attendees to invite friends who might never have come otherwise. More than 10,000 people gathered for speaker, Paul Young and worship with Jeremy Camp. It capped off 5 days of ministry, including more than 50 speakers and seminars and over 100 concerts and comedians.

A special highlight of this year's event was an offering that was taken on the Thursday of Lifest to honor the memory of Liz Mohl, the young girl who died at Lifest 2007. Her family has set up a memorial fund to provide music scholarships for students. Once again, attendees were moved to show they care, and \$20,000 was raised. Our largest offering prior to that was \$12,000. It was another step in healing for Liz's family and we ask you to continue praying for them as they still grieve her loss.

Seeing youth come to Christ is our passion at Life Promotions. It's what I live for. And Lifest and Power of One both proved to be opportunities where thousands of people were impacted, grew in their faith, and were able to worship with abandon. Thank you for your part, whether you pray, attend our events, or support the ministry in other ways. You ARE a vital part in seeing young people come to Christ, and you help them personally experience the power of our risen Lord.

For the Kingdom,

Bob Lenz
International Speaker

You can be a part of reaching young people with messages of hope and the love of Christ!

If you'd like to support the ministry of Life Promotions, visit www.lifepromotions.com or e-mail daver@lifepromotions.com.



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