

## Thoughts from Chris

Upon writing this letter I have just arrived back from a short trip to Monrovia, the capital city of Liberia, West Africa. It was hot, humid, dirty and amazing! We played with thousands of kids, ate well, lead revival services for a couple thousand Liberians, trained some pastors and started a non profit farming project to equip farmers and give produce to schools. I saw a tremendous amount of poverty but also a lot of hope.

When the plane touched down in Newark, NJ the fiat screened TVs were all showing the same thing—the economic crisis. So many have so much in the U.S. and yet are not satisfied. A person who lives everyday focused only on getting the next dollar or next million have in essence the same insecurity—their hope rests in the dollar. Whether rich or poor, recession or boom, take out the only insurance money can't buy, the ever secure, always trustworthy Jesus. Even in the worst of circumstances the people in Liberia who had nothing but Jesus, had joy. I know that the Gate is going to be built and students are going to continue to be encouraged and equipped because if God is behind this it will succeed! I believe God is behind this and if we join together we can do it.

Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”  
**Matthew 19:26**

*Chris*

### Volunteer Opportunities:

- Tutor kids after school
- Hang out with the kids at FUSE
- Help cook lunches or suppers
- Teach an after-school class

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### CHS Collaboration Expands

We have been working with Mike Vetter, the Central School District's Food Service Director, to ensure that all the proper steps are taken to enable The Gate to be a warm super snack distribution site for the high school after school program on Thursdays. The Gate serves as a recreational program option as part of our collaborative efforts.

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### Spring Break Camp

Board member, Ben Bobeda, and Gate volunteer Micah Swan headed off to Camp Koinonia during spring break. Accompanied by Tuesday Lunch Mom, Diane Silberstein, to cook delicious meals and snacks, a pick-up load of sports equipment and games, and a bus full of high school youth, (six were students who come to The Gate) they survived several days enjoying spring break activities, strengthening friendships and having discussions of eternal value. It was a time that embodied The Gate mission statement, winning, equipping, mentoring and empowering youth.

### 2008 Finance Update

Last year was solid financially. We covered all of our expenses and added over \$13,000 to our balance sheet. The summary results below show total contributions to date at \$319,296! And that's not including the Weyerhaeuser in-kind donation. Thank you for all your support.

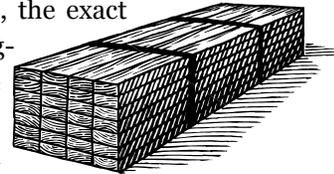
	2008	Cumulative
Gifts Received	48,841	319,296
Other Income	3,489	12,857
Fundraising Exp.	8,070	24,398
Program Expense	7,570	2,083
Building Expense	17,425	85,644
Admin. Expense	5,727	18,229
Net Funds	13,539	191,800

### Welcome Barbara!

We are thankful for Gate volunteer Barbara Kent-Macias. Barbara is new to the Monmouth-Independence area and is enjoying getting to know several youth of the community as she makes delicious favorites from the kitchen like muffin pizzas, brownie sundaes and nutritious apple and orange slices. She been a mom and foster mom throughout her life and is making a difference in youth's lives on Thursdays after school.

### Weyerhaeuser Donates Lumber

In spite of the difficulties that caused Weyerhaeuser to close the Dallas mill, they made good on their promise to supply the dimensional lumber for construction of The Gate. As noted in the article on the new building plans, the exact lumber needs are changing some and so the company was able to increase the donation a little to make sure we had enough of the basic elements to frame the building. Thank you Weyerhaeuser and Mike Ainsworth.



### Year Two Senior Successes

All five of the seniors who have now been mentored by The Gate volunteers for almost two years will complete their senior project presentations ahead of time. In fact two of the students who coordinated a Christmas party for children at Colonia Amistad have already met the district and state senior project benchmarks. The others are set to make final presentations the first week in May. It is rewarding to be a small part of an individual student's success.

### Building Plans - Option F?

Once we completed our site survey for The Gate, we discovered that the design encroached on the BPA power line easement by several feet. This sent us back to the drawing board. Mike Junge, our architect from Carison Veit generated several options for us to choose from—A through E. We chose option F which we think will be the best of all five. The big changes were a rotation of the gym by 90° and the elimination of the second story and the stage. The drawings are on The Gate bulletin board and Mike is generating a rendering similar to the one we've had showing how the building will look next to the existing church building. As soon as that's available we'll post it as well.

### 4th Annual Golf Tournament

The 4th annual "Scramble for The Gate" will be held Saturday, August 15 at Oak Knoll Golf Course. Get your foursome together and sign up early. \$75 per player gets you a chicken dinner and 18 holes of golf with cart (carts are limited so sign up early, first come first served). Lots of awards and prizes and a chance to win a Traeger Grill are in the raffle. For more information or a registration form email Joe Johnson at joevicjohnson@msn.com.

### Summer Service Team Re-Ups!

Under the direction of board member Diane Silberstein, the Summer Service Team is anxious to start helping our greater community again this summer. She has written a grant or two and is making a list of service learning projects that have been suggested by youth and adults throughout the year. She welcomes all willing Talmadge and Central students as well as adult volunteers.