

New Song News



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Dinner Is Served!

Recently, 17 year-old Jazmin has taken a serious interest in baking! At first, she made a family favorite, tres leches cake, to share at a church dinner. When that was well received and fully devoured, she began working in the kitchen with her houseparents baking cookies, bread, and some meals. Jazmin now has a page-long list of goodies with which she experiments, needing little or no assistance.

The girls' houseparents, Tonya and Kyle Augsburg, regularly invite the girls to help prepare meals. Each of the girls have learned to make all sorts of dishes, from French bread, to chili, to shrimp shish-kabob, to fried chicken and waffles. None of them had much cooking experience prior to enrolling at New Song, so they have learned a lot!

Experiences like food preparation and hosting guests over meals provide many discipleship moments in the girls' lives. While self-sufficiency

in the kitchen and making meals from scratch are valuable, the Augsburgs have something much greater in mind when teaching the girls to cook. These moments are used as opportunities to stretch and challenge them, and in the process, mentor the girls so that new social skills are developed, new interests are explored, and the importance of serving others is demonstrated.



Equipping children for life,
through the love of Christ Jesus.

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From *the Heart*

A message from the Director

The Value of Stability

Stability promotes growth. That's especially true in the life of a teenager.

Steady, predictable, peaceful home environments give teenagers the type of setting they need in order to learn, grow, and thrive. When you add Christian discipleship, challenging academics, a culture of love, and a beautiful, recreational campus setting to such a steady home life, the outcomes can be extremely fruitful.

Fruitful outcomes. That's what we are seeing in the lives of the five teenage girls who are in our care on the New Song campus. We are excited to see the girls develop new interests, desires, and abilities with each passing month. Our students are making progress in school, in relational skills, and in their spiritual growth, and we are all very proud of them.

I've been reading 2 Corinthians, and recently I came across chapters 8 and 9. In those chapters there are some spiritually enriching statements the Holy Spirit penned through the apostle Paul about the *grace* of giving.

In the chapters, Paul encourages Christ-followers in Corinth to make a *bountiful* gift to the saints, one that is given out of an *abundance of joy*. He says that he knows the believers in Corinth are *ready* to give and that they are now *able* to do so. Paul then challenges the Corinthians to *prove* their love for the saints by *abounding in this gracious work* of giving, done out of an *overflowing of many thanksgivings to God*.

Perhaps these verses are helpful to you as you consider the possibility of supporting the ministry of New Song financially. We need your help.

Earlier this year, New Song made the huge transition from being a beautiful real estate development to becoming a fully functioning campus community for at-risk kids. Operating the campus is expensive. But for kids who've come from difficult backgrounds, there are no short cuts. Such children need holistic care in order to heal, grow, and mature.

Our ability to offer comprehensive care is only possible if generous people do the *gracious work of giving*.



Bob Schloss
Founder/Executive Director

If you would like to become a much-needed Family Sponsor of the girls or otherwise support the ministry of New Song, please consider using the enclosed envelope.

Providing teens with ongoing, life-on-life discipleship throughout each day on campus is proving to be a real strength of the New Song team. I invite you to come alongside of us as we make much of Jesus Christ, providing a stable home life where children are growing and flourishing, to the glory of God.

For Christ and kids,

Robert P. Schloss, JD
Founder/Executive Director



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One week the Augsburgers asked Jazmin if she would like to prepare a traditional Mexican dinner for the house. She was eager to do so, and she knew exactly what she wanted to make: spaghetti blanco con carne. The houseparents shopped for the ingredients together at the Mexican grocery and provided some culinary guidance, and Jazmin herself prepared the special meal for the rest of the house of ten.

Everyone enjoyed Jazmin's cooking, and she greatly benefitted from the responsibility of preparing and serving the meal. The food was delicious, but the experience she had was even better. Tremendous confidence was built, and she experienced the joy of serving others.

All of the girls are becoming good cooks, each with her own specialty. Guests are invited into the home regularly to provide the girls with opportunities to cook, practice hospitality, and become good hosts. These are wonderful experiences for the girls, and also contribute to New Song's broad-reaching goal of equipping kids for life!

A Holistic, Hospitable Education

By Lindsey McCracken, New Song Teacher



The book *Holes*, by Louis Sachar, is a riveting story about a boy named Stanley who is wrongfully convicted of theft and must choose between going to jail or Camp Green Lake. He decides to go to the “camp,” where he is forced to dig holes in the hot sun as punishment for his alleged crime. The book describes how Stanley and the other youth there are supposedly digging in order to “build character” under the orders of the mysterious warden, who is actually using the prisoners’ hard labor to look for buried treasure.

Our New Song students recently finished studying the book in our Literature class, and during our time of reading and discussion we determined that true character-building comes from things like friendship and perseverance through conflict rather than just digging holes. To top off the unit, I led the girls and a few friends in an experience-based learning project unlike any they had ever done before—digging a 3ft. x 3ft. hole!

This fun, hands-on project is just one example of the unique opportunity I have as a teacher to educate my students holistically and hospitably. These two words, holistic and hospitable, define the education I hope to provide to my students at New Song. I want them to become excellent learners and thinkers, but I don’t want it to stop there.

My higher goal is for my students to grow in relationship to God and others. And because I get to be part of their lives on and off campus – attending birthday parties, walking them home and hanging out after school, inviting them into my own home – I have the unique privilege to teach to those goals in a setting unlike any other school provides.



What does this holistic and hospitable education look like on a daily basis? Each school day begins with chapel, typically led by New Song’s Campus Director, Kyle Augsburger. After the girls say goodbye to houseparents and staff I lead them in a brief “homeroom” activity, designed to improve student study skills and reflection about past learning.

Then students work on daily goals through an accredited online curriculum, which is helpful due to the wide range of grade levels of students in our classroom. They receive tutoring with their online work until we get to our Literature course where we meet as a class and I am able to teach them as a group. I end each day by conferencing with each student individually to go over homework goals and provide one-on-one discipleship.

These daily routines have now become a normal part of life in the classroom for Jazmin, Lauryn, Jessica, Julie, and Alexa. The girls are showing signs of growth daily, and with each sign I marvel at the privilege it is to be here, to teach these girls, and to be part of this exciting time in New Song’s story.



GROWING SPIRITUALLY



CONQUERING FEARS



PROGRESSING ACADEMICALLY



LEARNING SOCIAL SKILLS



OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES



Financial Investments, Spiritual Returns

By Ross Templeton, New Song Board Chairman



What does it mean to trust God with our finances? How does trust fit with the idea of Christian stewardship? These are tough questions that all of us wrestle with, even those responsible for stewarding ministries like New Song.

While I don't have all the answers, I would like to share a few reflections about how I've seen God's grace through New Song's journey. I hope these simple thoughts will highlight the faithful and abundant provision of our loving Father.

I've had the joy of being involved with New Song since its early days. In 2005, I had the opportunity to attend a zoning hearing in Nashville, IN. It was an eye-opening experience. While Bob and a few board members presented a detailed and thoughtful plan for the ministry and campus, they met significant resistance from a group of outspoken critics of the proposal. At that time, the ministry had very little financial support, gaining approval for a campus looked unlikely, and New Song's future appeared anything but certain.

But God had given Bob and the founding team a clear call and vision, along with the conviction to pursue it wholeheartedly. The Lord had equipped His people and was leading them with His Spirit. God didn't need the team to have all the pieces in place – the right skills or resources or plans – He just wanted them to trust and obey Him. That's exactly what they did, and God took care of the rest!

Think for a moment about the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. Three servants are each given a different sum of money to invest. Two servants invest successfully and please the master, while the other buries the money in the ground for safe-keeping. The point of the parable isn't about financial investing; rather, it's about wholeheartedly placing our faith in the Master and embracing the "risk" of following His plan. The more that was "risked" in faith, the greater was the return on investment.

Personally, I am honored to work alongside of Bob, Lisa, and our other board members to help guide the ministry. As a financial services professional, I know that certain building blocks are critical to any organization's financial health and sustainability: sound leadership, a strong and diverse income base, clear and measurable goals, and a plan for the future.

I'm thankful that New Song has each of these elements in place and is actively building on them. In fact, we recently completed a three-year plan, which provides a framework for managing New Song's finances and fundraising. If you'd like to see the details, please email Bob at RSchloss@NewSongMission.org and he'll gladly send you a copy.

Of course, these efforts to exercise good stewardship and planning are useless if we fail to listen for His guidance, humble ourselves, and rely on His provision. I am thankful that New Song's story is one of ongoing dependence on God's strength and provision, not our own. Our plans are wholly dependent upon God working through people who will respond generously in support of His work with children and youth on the New Song campus.

My wife Rebecca and I have been blessed by the experience of supporting New Song with our time, prayers, and finances. We have confidence in New Song's future and we hope you'll join us as we continue investing to sustain and expand the ministry in the days ahead.

From the initial seed of God's calling, New Song has blossomed into a beautiful, lively campus with children who are seeing a new way to live and be loved. We praise God for this special place of grace He has created in the hills of Brown County.

A Supportive Community For Kids

Campus communities for at-risk kids require a significant, high-quality staff in order to be effective. God has assembled a very supportive community of staff members for the teens in our care.

On our Brown County campus, Campus Director Kyle Augsburger and his wife Tonya are serving as the primary houseparents for the five teenage girls in our care. "Kyle and Tonya have been providing the consistent nurturing, encouragement, and biblical discipleship that the girls really need," shared Bob Schloss, New Song's Executive Director. "I am very thankful that they have temporarily stepped into the houseparent role."

Houseparenting at New Song is a full-time ministry that involves discipling students in the Lord, planning meals, coordinating schedules, helping with homework, hosting guests, and attending off-campus outings with students such as church, shopping, and recreation. Houseparenting also involves helping the children learn how to cook, do laundry, build social skills, and develop life goals.

In his Campus Director role, Kyle oversees campus operations, provides classroom support, leads our chapel program, mentors houseparents, and helps coordinate volunteer work teams.

Our boys' home Houseparents, Logan and Olivia Stoner, are a vital part of our campus team and currently provide respite care in the girls' home, caring for the girls a week or more at a time periodically. Logan and Olivia also give important classroom support, organize and oversee student activities, and help with overall campus needs. Logan and Olivia patiently await the boys that will come to live in their home, in God's good timing.

Our new classroom teacher, Lindsey McCracken, has created a professional, challenging academic environment for our students. Kyla Ramirez, who works as our part-time Teaching Coordinator, provides teacher support, administrative assistance, and substitute teaches as needed.

Lisa Schloss is New Song's licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and oversees programming, case management, parent interactions, campus events, and spends time with students one-on-one and as a group. Lisa also leads the ministry's Plan of Care team, ensuring that each student is making progress toward specific goals that have been set, coaches houseparents, and works alongside of her husband Bob on a variety of ministry projects.



At our Columbus office, Office Manager Shelley Benefiel primarily supports the work of our Executive Director. Shelley holds many administrative aspects of the ministry together behind the scenes, and having been with New Song since nearly its beginning, has seen God work mightily throughout the years. Carol Skiles, New Song's part-time Bookkeeper, attends to financial record keeping and provides much-needed monthly financial reports to Bob and the Board of Directors. Anne Waskom is New Song's part-time Communications Assistant, helping to coordinate many of our marketing and outreach efforts.

"Each staff member goes above and beyond their defined role in order to meet whatever needs exist at the time, contributing to the "community feel" that makes ministries like New Song such special places," shared Bob. "We are an extension of God's love to the children in our care, and we hope we do that better with each passing day."

To God be the glory for the wonderful community culture He has created!



Equipping Children for Life

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Check us out on...



New Song Mission is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry which is solely supported through the generosity of ministry friends—thanks for helping us equip children for life!

Conflicts are Opportunities

By Kyle Augsburger, Campus Director

The Bible has much to say about interpersonal relationships and provides very practical guidance for navigating conflicts. Students at New Song, like all of us, have regular opportunities to put peacemaking to use, and recently they were given the tools to do so.

School at New Song begins each day with a chapel period where students learn God's Word and its application to their lives. Our students recently completed a month-long study about conflict resolution, learning invaluable tools that can benefit them throughout their lives.

The girls were taught that at the center of every conflict is a desire that wages war in the heart. James 4:1-12 teaches us that truth. In a conflict, we often see the ruling desire in the other party before we identify the one in our own heart. But it takes two to quarrel.

James offers the remedy we need for our conflicts, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Hard as it is, we are to take the first step and humble ourselves, pursuing resolution with the grace that God promises to give. We cannot charge into conflicts with the intent to win the dispute, nor can we run away from it.

Resolution requires a commitment to please God no matter how the other person responds. Jesus instructs his followers to "take the log out of their own eye" before trying to help remove the speck in their brother's. Examining our own personal motives requires great humility.

Through the peacemaking study in chapel, which consisted of nearly 20 lessons, our students learned how to own their part of conflicts and make sincere confessions. They learned that God always commands us to take the first step, and not to passively wait for the other person to come.

We have seen the students begin to respond to these truths by taking responsibility for their words and actions, by admitting their sin and seeking forgiveness. At the same time, they have been learning what it means to forgive, which can be very difficult.

We concluded this important series by asking the class to explain how the lessons over the last four weeks had impacted them. As the students shared a personal application to the truths that had influenced them, our staff was blessed to hear their real-life applications. After all, growth and change is the goal of studying the Word of God!

Chapel services at New Song allow us to unpack such important teachings like peacemaking every day. I am grateful that the students have been responsive to the scriptures and are demonstrating a desire to please God by putting what they've learned into practice.

