



Above: pictures of Machu Picchu

Happy 10th anniversary to Hoops of Hope!!!!

February 28, 2006 was our 10th anniversary and it is awesome to look back and see what the Lord has done!! I can't wait to see what He does in the next ten years.

I traveled to Peru with the interns and the missions pastor from my home church, Rocky Mountain Calvary in January. We were able to do outreaches for Compassion International. It was inspiring to see how much the kids loved the Lord in spite of their poor upbringing. The highlight of the trip was going to Machu Picchu (500-year old Incan ruins) and then climbing the mountain peak. I did a lot of praying on the way up!! The peak we climbed is in the background of the picture.

Upward Awards

The Upward Basketball Award's season (Feb-April) was busy with shows in Texas, Missouri, Maryland, North Carolina, California, Indiana and Wyoming in front of nearly 8,500 people. The largest show was in Warsaw, IN with about 3,000!!! It was a very interesting award season because the bookings were coming in so slowly but Dina and I used this as a time to pray and persevere. The Lord rewarded us with a busy schedule!!

The Lord continues to show me how He has crafted my testimony to reach the people whom He has me talking to. It is very humbling to look back and see how the Lord has directed my every step.

Below: Upward Show in Warsaw, IN



Prayer Request

Chad Weikel's (our point guard) brother Ian of Ghost Troop was killed in action in Iraq this week while serving our country. Please be in prayer for his family as they mourn his loss and celebrate his life.

Team Italy

What an awesome trip this was! We played five games in consecutive nights and I did 14 ball shows. We were hosted once again by Tim and Janet Hall. They have been missionaries in Rome for nineteen years. Tim played for Athletes in Action in the 1970's when they were the best amateur team in the world!! Janet should be placed on the All-World cooking team for the meals she prepared for the team!! The team was probably the highest-level team HOH has ever put together, (both physically and spiritually). There were fourteen of us and included players, wives and also Kevin's dad and in-laws. Every one of them was such a servant and looked to fill his or her role on the team. Our team verses for the trip were Philippians 2:1-18. This passage is all about serving others and not ourselves and to use Jesus as our example. Here are the first eight verses and I want you to see how this was such a timely passage.

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! (NIV)

I want to let some of the team members share their thoughts about the trip. Here is an excerpt from Tim Hall's newsletter. He is talking about a pro basketball player that has built a basketball court and skateboard park for his community.

“Wow, that was intense, but great. The Hoops of Hope (HOH) basketball team came and went and left our churches some significant opportunities to develop redemptive relationships that were started during the tour. I met Willie just a few days prior to the start of the tour. He wanted me to bring the team by on Monday so that Brent Fuqua could do his ball show and share his testimony. Willie has a heart for kids who come from dysfunctional homes. His skateboard park is home for a lot of these boys. They hang on Willie like he is their dad. Willie expressed a desire to spend time with me to get to know one another and read the Bible together. I am hoping he finds the Eternal Father.”

Katie Weikel kept a daily log for our trip. This is about our 19 pieces of luggage that didn't show up in Rome when we did!:

Bion Giorno!

Thank you for your prayers- our luggage finally arrived last night! The luggage made it to the team 5 minutes before the game started- just in time to change into uniforms and basketball shoes! The team played a great game- they played really well together for it being the first game. Hoops of Hope won 73-67.

Wednesday was a busy day! We had an early breakfast at 8:00am and then went straight to Ostia for the school assembly. There were about 200 middle school and high school students in attendance. It was a tough crowd. The kids were very loud and rambunctious. But the kids really enjoyed the activities. They



Above: Dan dunking in Italy



Game against Aprillia



Above: Willie and kids

loved Brent's ball show and they all volunteered to help him with his tricks. One high school girl named Monica volunteered to help but ended up taking the ball from Brent and doing her own ball show! She then joined the team for the all-star game. Tim had a chance to share the entire gospel with her, which usually doesn't happen. Usually he is only able to share part of the gospel before the conversation moves on to a different topic. Monica was very receptive. She said she believed in everything Tim shared and wanted to know more. Tim hooked her up with the church in town so she can start Bible Study. We spent three hours at the assembly- a dunk contest, question and answer time with the kids in small groups, games, etc. Brent performed another ball show in the park in the afternoon. The game started at 7:00. It was the toughest opponent yet and an intense game! The referees were very young and inexperienced. The scorekeepers were even younger (middle school age) and kept giving our points to the other team! It was quite a mess for a while but stabilized by half time. Our team dominated the game during the second half and ended up winning again 68-58! The other team was invited to join us for dinner. Three players, the coach and the coach's family joined us for dinner at the church.

Thursday night-

Aprillia is an hour's drive away from Rome. After another ball show in the park, we headed to the gym to play against Aprilia, the team that beat us by 30 on our last tour. Our team seized the moment racing out to a 20 point lead at the half. In the second half, after a huge tongue-lashing by their head coach, Aprilia came out firing. They hit many three pointers in the half. Our team held strong but ran out of energy. Aprillia ended up with a three-point lead with over a minute left. They came down and hit a three point shot and sealed the game and the comeback. Needless to say our team was heartbroken and frustrated by losing their lead. God often reminds us of the true motivation for our trip. In fact our devotion today was on pride. Perhaps this result was best because we were able to have dinner with the team and make great contacts and sow many seeds. Ross did a great job with his testimony at half time and during the dinner with the team. In Italy shame is a big issue, so it would have been very hard for the other team and coach to come to dinner if we had blown them out in the game. We were able to show Christ by smiling and moving on.

I hope this gives you a good taste of what went on during our trip to Roma. It was a life changing experience for many!!



Hoops of Hope with the Apillia team



Show for a Compassion, Int'l school in Peru

Below: Ross dunking in a game



Dina and I at Jeff Krieger's wedding





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Hoops of Hope is a Basketball Ministry that focuses on spreading the gospel through basketball camps, speaking at school assemblies and 'Upward' award banquets, and through running basketball tournaments. Hoops of Hope has visited schools, prisons and churches throughout the Philippines, Malaysia, India, Krygyzstan, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas, Mexico, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa and across the U.S. Literally thousands of people young and old alike learn from Hopes of Hope's expertise each year, while being exposed to the good news and hope that they have in Jesus Christ.

Hoops of Hope Basketball Ministry

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IMPACTING ETERNITY
THROUGH BASKETBALL

Upcoming Schedule



Thank you for continuing to stand behind Hoops of Hope. God has answered many prayers about our support and we are doing much better financially. Please continue to pray for more events to be booked and for the finances to continue to be positive. If you would like to contribute, your checks can be made to Hoops of Hope.

April

8 Hickory NC Christ Church-Upward
23 Green Mt Falls CO ARK
27-29 Woodstock GA FBC-Upward Nat Conv

May

1-3 Colorado Springs, CO RMC Conference
4-6 Colorado Springs, CO CSRMC Conf. 1st Pres Ch
7 Colorado Springs, CO St. Mary's Church
19 Colorado Springs, CO 1st Springs Naz-Upward

June

5-9 Colorado Springs, CO Rocky Mountain Calvary
12-16 Colorado Springs, CO Rocky Mountain Calvary
19-23 Hemet CA 1st Pres & Valley E Free
26-30 Lake Arrowhead CA Lake Arrowhead Chr Sch

July

10-14 Colorado Springs, CO Mountain Spgs Church
25-29 Colorado Springs, CO Village 7 Pres Church
31-Aug 4 Colorado Springs, CO Springs Community Church