

# Active Christians Today



Fall Semester 2008

## ACT is welcoming the new campus minister for UT

**Dan:** Maranatha everyone! It is a humbling experience to be the individual chosen to lead and disciple here at the University of Toledo. I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support for the ministry as we begin afresh. Before I explain our goals and vision for the year, I should formally introduce myself and my wife Anna.

I was raised in a great Christian home by my parents in Norwalk, Ohio and after graduating high school, attended Bowling Green State University before finishing up my Bible Theology degree at Malone University. I am an alumnus of the Bowling Green ACT chapter and it was during my third year of college at Bowling Green Main Campus that I dedicated myself fully into God's service. I grew spiritually by leaps and bounds that year and later at Malone, studying and learning more and more intimately about God's Word and what my mission is while here on Earth. I am indebted to the friends and teachers I had while my faith was shaped and challenged at ACT @ BG. For those who may be wondering about the real me (the one behind the formal article I am writing), I will indulge you a little. My wife and I have decided that I am a social nerd. The definition of a social nerd is someone who is a nerd at heart but hides it behind a normal social life...the best of both worlds! I love Batman and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Cleveland Browns and OSU football, and playing board games like Risk. But, enough about me.



Dan and Anna Wearsch, now leading the UT ministry

I was recently married to my beautiful wife Anna Godden (now Anna Wearsch...she's still getting used to the name change!). We actually met at ACT@BG and developed a relationship while I was at Malone. Here is a little more about her, in her own words:

**Anna:** I too was raised in a loving, Christian home with wonderful parents to guide me along my way. I have a younger sister named Leigh. I grew up in the Akron area, and went to Bowling Green for three years of college, receiving my Bachelor of Arts degree in Special Education. I am now pursuing my clinical doctorate degree in occupational therapy at UT Health Science Campus. It is a very rigorous program that keeps me on my toes! As far as "special interests" go, I love to sing. I also enjoy writing, and the occasional scrapbook session. As Dan stated earlier, he and I met at ACT @ BG. Thus, we are both so excited to currently be able to contribute to this ministry. We know how much ACT meant to both of us while we were in college, and we hope by the grace of God to give back what was so generously given to us.

### Want to meet Dan?

Dan and Dave are both available for church visits!

Please contact the office to schedule at 419-352-6486

# “Lespwa pou Ayiti”

You may all be wondering what “Lespwa” means. Lespwa means hope in Kreyol, the language spoken in Haiti. The above phrase is exactly what 38 people set out to do this summer. “Hope for Haiti.” Of course, when you set out to give hope to others, you always come back inspired. That is exactly what happened to ACT’s two mission teams who traveled into Port de Paix, Haiti with the Lashbrook Family Ministries this summer, once in May and the other in July. We want to share with you a little of the hope we shared and the inspiration we were blessed with in return.

**May Trip...** On the May trip we usually focus on teaching opportunities. This year we taught in the Grace Christian School located on the same compound as the orphanage. We taught a Vacation Bible School on the compound for both children in the orphanage and from the neighborhood. The children loved hearing the Bible stories, making crafts and getting food to eat! One day one of the ACT students taught on Noah’s Ark and all of the children marched around wearing foam animal masks! We started with 30 children the first day and by the end of the session, we had over 100 children that had come to enjoy, laugh and smile with us!



ACT student, Joy Savage, with children from Grace Christian School

The minister of the church on the compound told us of a very “poor” church on the other side of the city that he would like for us to visit and teach a VBS. “Poor” is a relative term, but even for Haiti, it was appropriate. The church’s roof was mostly not existent except for a small section covered by a tarp. We were told that rain and the hot Haitian sun sometimes kept them from worshipping. We held the VBS and on the last day, we were able to provide a meal for all of the children at the closing program. Two of our group members were jugglers and they provided entertainment which everyone, children and adults, loved! ***The church’s situation touched the hearts of the entire group and we gathered enough money to purchase a roof for the church.***

**July Trip...** The July trip’s emphasis is a basketball camp and birthday party for all of the children of the orphanage. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> basketball camp. There are two camps held each day. The morning camp is for the younger boys and the afternoon for the older boys and/or those who have attended a camp in the past. One of the projects associated with the camp is giving away shoes to those who attend camp but have no shoes. We gave away over 60 pairs of shoes this year. We all enjoy watching them strut back out to the court after receiving their pair of shoes.



One of the basketball teams on tournament day wearing their medals

The highlight of the camp is the last day. We have a big tournament with uniforms and medals. It is so exciting to see the boys as they wear their medals. We also provided a meal for all of those who attended the basketball camp. ***It is so gratifying to see some of the boys be able to eat a complete meal.*** Our hearts were broken as we saw some boys who were not a part of the camp “sneak in” and scrape the pans and plates in order to find food to eat.

The group also put on a birthday party for all of the children in the orphanage. We brought in enough supplies to make 31 pizzas and gifts for each of the children.

The rest of our time on both trips was used to begin painting the outside of all of the children’s home buildings, make “home visits” (gallon zip lock bags filled with lotions, tooth paste and toothbrushes, shampoo, soaps, etc.), and spend time with the children of both the children’s home and the adoption home (the crèche).

***We are already planning next year’s trips to take the hope of Christ into Haiti!***

# What's Happening at BG ACT? By: Dave Warner

On August 25, classes began at BGSU. Our summer was incredibly busy. Our summer cookout and Bible study were very successful. We also spent a great deal of time preparing the campus house for the upcoming school year. The two main rooms have a new contemporary look (paint, pictures, posters, track lighting, new carpet, etc). We also have been able to update the computers in the computer lab and student leader's office. We are so thankful to those who donated the funds to do all of this. Returning students were amazed at the new look with all of its changes.

Preparation for the beginning of a new school year is demanding. It is a fact that within the first two weeks of a new school year most students will have decided what their "extra curricular activities" will be (including spiritual activities). It is really important to get the word out there about ACT in those first two weeks. We are posterizing the campus and sending out a mass mailing. We put an advertisement into a magazine that went out to all incoming freshmen. We also had a welcome/ reunion cookout on the Sunday night before classes started. We had lots of visitors and it was good to see returning students.

There is much anticipation and excitement as the year unfolds. We again have Campus Worship at Prout Chapel and several small groups at the campus house for students to attend. There are four food giveaways planned for the year. Our "Jesus Burgers" and "God Dogs" were selected as one of the five best places to eat off campus. Not bad for a restaurant opened only four times a year.

One of the main emphases for this year will be leadership training. The MOD class (Master of Discipleship) will be focusing on the book of Acts and what the early church, leadership, and discipleship looked like in the New Testament. We will also be teaching "The Truth Project", a top of the line video series from Focus on the Family. It focuses on developing a Christian world view.

One of my favorite quotes about the value, importance, and potential of campus ministry is by Rice Brooks, ***"The campus has more influence on the direction of morality and overall fabric of society than any other institution on earth. Will the campuses be a starting point in a spiritual awakening that will shake the earth?"*** History confirms that every great spiritual awakening was initiated by students. Pray for us as we prepare ACT students to be a part of the coming "spiritual awakening".

## *A Life Remembered*

On August 13th, 2008 we got word that Matthew Dugan was fatally shot while working at the BP station on the corner of Dorr and Secor in Toledo, Ohio. Someone found him bleeding behind the counter at 7:45 a.m. that morning (he worked third shift there). He was already dead by the time the police arrived on the scene.

Matt Dugan was highly involved with ACT at the University of Toledo. He was a friend to many and was looked upon by many of the students as an older brother. We ask for prayer for Matt's family and friends as they look back upon the life he lived and the joy he had in Christ.

"I know that Matt loved his job at that BP because of the witnessing opportunities it gave him, and most importantly, that he loved Jesus and had a passion for God. He is now free from pain and sorrow, rejoicing in the presence of Jesus." ~ACT UT student and friend of Matt's

**Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. ~Isaiah 41:10**



Above: Matthew Dugan

# Help Us Meet Our Goal Of \$50,000!

The ACT Board of Directors has hired a new minister for the University of Toledo ACT! With this great blessing comes the reality that we must continue to strive towards raising the funds in order to continue the ministry. The ACT Board had set the goal at \$50,000.00 to help cover salary, health insurance, business expenses; get him on the field; and pay for the expenses of the ministry (utilities, programming, etc). Thus far \$32,544.00 has been given to support the ministry. The new minister and his wife, Dan and Anna Wearsch, have agreed to use the upstairs of the campus house as a parsonage for a year to help defer the costs of funding needed. *Our goal is to continue to raise the money needed to keep the ministry going year after year and to be able to provide for the minister and his family to live outside of the campus house.*

If you would like to help with this need, you can send your gift to: Active Christians Today; 612 E. Wooster; Bowling Green, Ohio 43402. Online giving is also available by going to [www.actoday.org](http://www.actoday.org) and clicking "Supporters and Friends".

**Thank you for your continued prayers and support for Active Christians Today**

Check us out online:  
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