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- Hereford First United Methodist Church for their generous contribution to our spring break mission trip to Guatemala.
- First Baptist Church of Morse Texas as well for their generous contribution to our spring break mission trip to Guatemala.
- Dumas First United Methodist church : For pulling us out of a huge jam, thank you so much for letting us borrow your vans. What a blessing to be connected to such a giving network of churches!
- Everyone who attended our Valentines dinner dance, it was a big success this year!
- Texas Roadhouse and everyone who ate there the day of our fundraiser. The management said this was the biggest turnout they had seen for one of these fundraisers!
- Thanks to everyone who provided a free lunch on Tuesday, we hope these continue to be as big a blessing to you as they are to us and the students at WTAMU.
- Of course, we are in a perpetual state of thanks to FUMC Canyon, for any number of ways they hook us up.

# GRACE ABOUNDS

BY KENDALL MEEK .: DIRECTOR

Below you see a picture of what has defined my semester. Several of our students have written articles about change in the past issues of our newsletter. That is normal, college students live change more than most of us . . . with the exception of new parents! Change? You? Please!

Emma Faith Meek was brought home from the hospital the day before classes began for the Spring semester. She has had the difficult task of getting her mother and I trained ever since.

Author David Seamands wrote in his book Healing Grace that parental grace is the most effective form of grace. It comes in two flavors: parental grace and parental dysgrace (unfortunately I have already displayed both, especially at 3:00 am) . I realize that as a new parent I am by default either the greatest help or the greatest hindrance to my child's salvation. This is the most scary responsibility I will ever have in this life.

But I take some comfort in Romans 5:20, "where sin increased, grace increased all the more". I hope and believe that as I remain in Jesus, and stay committed to honoring him with my family and professional life, God's grace will somehow fill in the holes where my will, discipline,

knowledge, inexperience, and judgment are lacking.

I think we see the other end of the spectrum reflected in Colossians 1:24, "I (Paul) fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard's to Christ's afflictions". Somehow just as grace fills in the holes where we are lacking, so

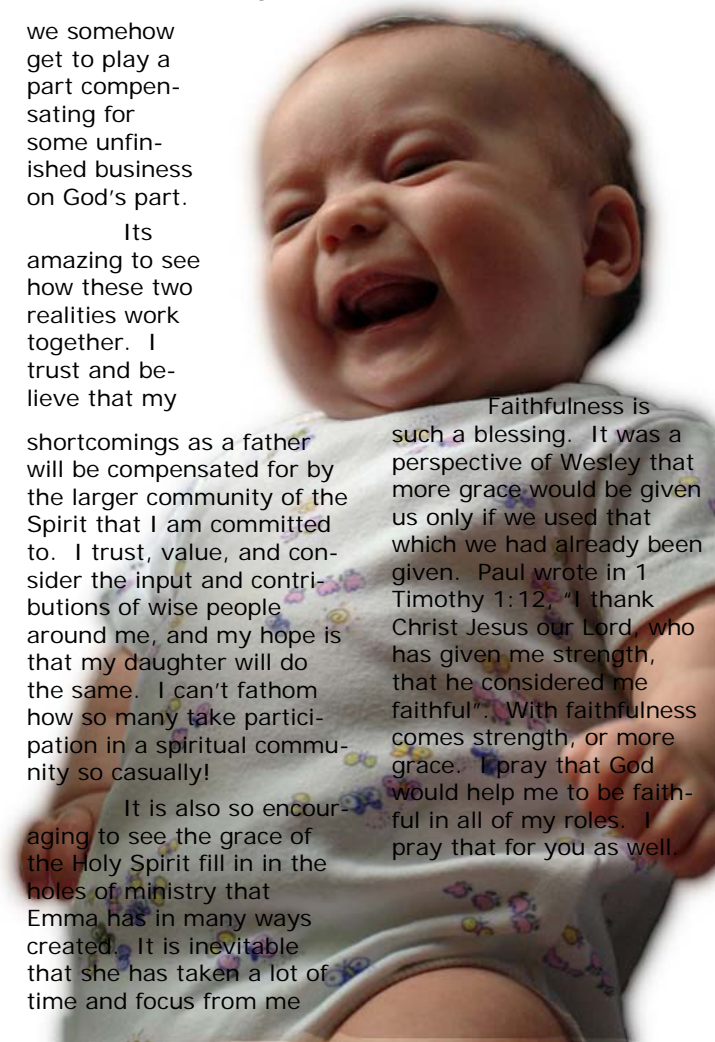
we somehow get to play a part compensating for some unfinished business on God's part.

Its amazing to see how these two realities work together. I trust and believe that my

shortcomings as a father will be compensated for by the larger community of the Spirit that I am committed to. I trust, value, and consider the input and contributions of wise people around me, and my hope is that my daughter will do the same. I can't fathom how so many take participation in a spiritual community so casually!

It is also so encouraging to see the grace of the Holy Spirit fill in the holes of ministry that Emma has in many ways created. It is inevitable that she has taken a lot of time and focus from me

that otherwise would have went into the ministry here. But thanks to the responsiveness to grace of some of our core leaders, any misunderstandings, breakdown of communication, or other neglect of mine towards the ministry has been cleared up, resolved, and taken care of.



Faithfulness is such a blessing. It was a perspective of Wesley that more grace would be given us only if we used that which we had already been given. Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 1:12, "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful". With faithfulness comes strength, or more grace. I pray that God would help me to be faithful in all of my roles. I pray that for you as well.

# New Skins for New Wine

by *Eric Simdorn*

*New Leadership Team Member  
From Borger, TX*

It's that time of the year again. With the inevitable approach of summer, its time to get out of the boat, fire up the grill, make the yard flawless, and put new wine into new wineskins? Jesus tells us in Luke 6 that if we were to put new wine into old wineskins, they would rip apart, causing the wine to spill out on the ground. So what are we to do with the new wine or new vision? The answer is simple; we put it into new wineskins. Here at the Wesley, we are doing just that. We are putting the new wine (focus on small groups and building intimate relationships through the Holy Spirit) into new wineskins (new leadership team).

Let us focus on the thing that quenches spiritual thirst, the wine. There are two things that come to mind when I think about small groups, their necessity, both relationally and Biblically, and their effectiveness. The society in which we live, has taught us to be, as Kendall might say, very detached from other people, which clearly presents problems for those trying to build Christian relationships. This simple truth pro-

vides the necessity for meaningful relationships that go beyond Sunday mornings, Boundless, and the like. Without these groups growing more intimate with the Lord and with each other, the church will fall apart.

The early church realized the need for smaller groups of believers to gather together to, intercede, encourage, and fellowship with one another. They embraced this need, and used it to further the Kingdom. In the last part of Acts 2, the Bible tells us that all the believers gathered together everyday and sold the things they had but did not need, and gave the money to those who needed it. They shared everything they had; everything. They also took the Lord's Supper and shared their meals "with great joy and generosity". These are all things that are so foreign to us here in the United States. "You have yours and I have mine, and that's just the way it is", is our mind set in this society. This is clearly not right according to the Bible. Once believers started to gather together and live through the love and grace of God, the Bible tells us that people were added

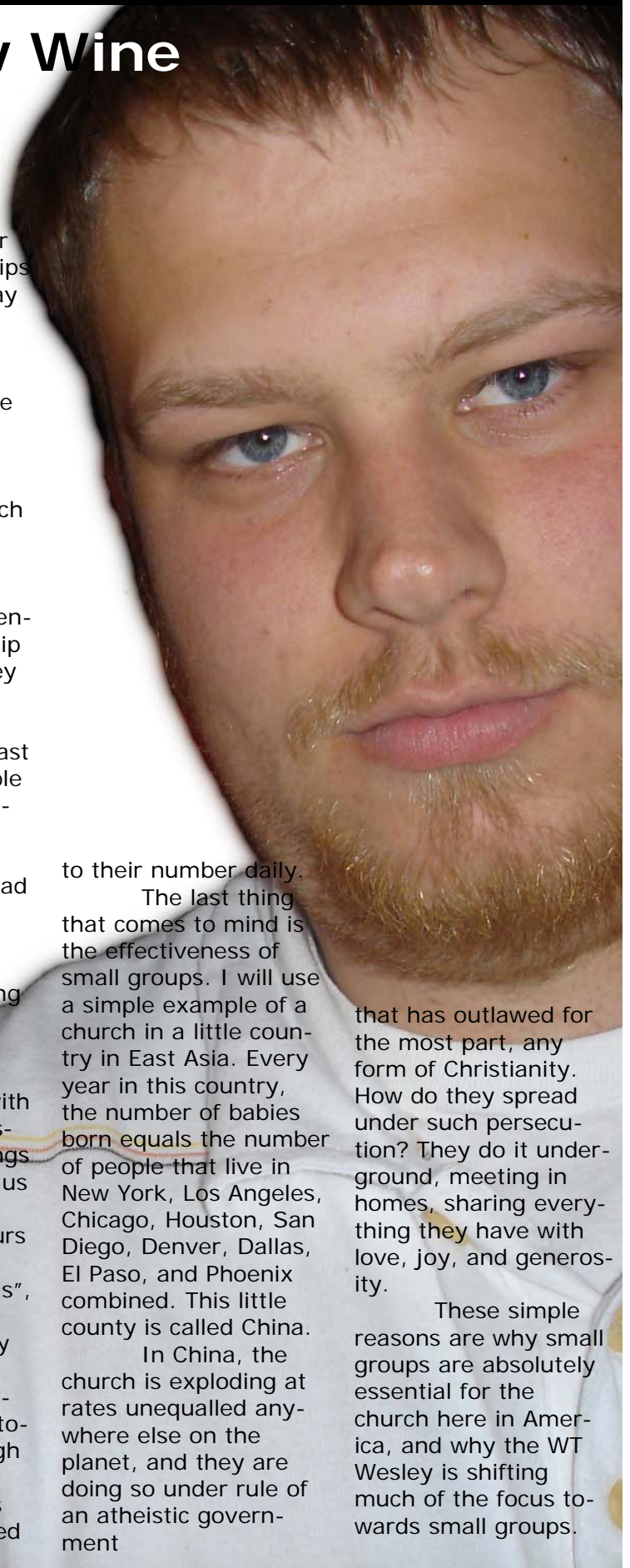
to their number daily.

The last thing that comes to mind is the effectiveness of small groups. I will use a simple example of a church in a little country in East Asia. Every year in this country, the number of babies born equals the number of people that live in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, San Diego, Denver, Dallas, El Paso, and Phoenix combined. This little county is called China.

In China, the church is exploding at rates unequalled anywhere else on the planet, and they are doing so under rule of an atheistic government

that has outlawed for the most part, any form of Christianity. How do they spread under such persecution? They do it underground, meeting in homes, sharing everything they have with love, joy, and generosity.

These simple reasons are why small groups are absolutely essential for the church here in America, and why the WT Wesley is shifting much of the focus towards small groups.



# MITPIT'S FAREWELL

by *Mital Patel*

*Graduating Leadership Team Member and Intern*

This spring at the Wesley Foundation, we have focused very much on change. Every semester at college is different, and it's been one of the most enjoyable and one of the hardest things about it. Every semester, people leave and people come in. This creates a new dynamic every time. Though it is very difficult to get used to, it's also very exciting!

The leadership team at the Wesley was beginning to feel this transition since the fall semester. When Kendall and Staci told us this spring that we were "graduating" from the team, it left us all in a confusing place. Kendall explained that all this meant was that we had come to ma-

turity as a team, and now we were to come alongside of them in the ministry taking place at the Wesley. We were given the opportunity to build up more disciples and new leaders from among our new group. As wonderful and easy as it sounded, we did not feel like we knew how to embrace our new roles in the midst of this change.

It has been a learning experience ever since. The graduated team is learning how to actively step into their new roles. The new team is experiencing the same sort of magic that we (the old team) used to feel when we came together as a group.

A lot of times we experience something very special and

then wonder where it's gone or why it has changed over time. The most important lesson I have learned is that the "magic" is only gonna happen when we are guided by the Holy Spirit and ask Him to move in our lives. That "special something" is only going to happen when we ask God to show us his vision for this ministry and where we fit into it, and then we take that place with the gifts He's given us to fulfill that role.

I graduated this spring from West Texas A & M University. And I don't know exactly what is next in my life. But I look forward to the opportunity for growth that change brings. I can't wait to see the new

opportunities for the Wesley, and my prayer is that those opportunities are grasped for God's glory.

*Maria, from Hogars De Ninos childrens home (Guatemala) and Mital Patel.*



## Photos from the WTAMU Wesley Foundation Spring Break Mission trip to Guatemala



*Charlie Keys from Borger speaks to Guatemala children*



*Lauren Hudgins from Denver City and Kelsie Trotman from Uyllesses, KS*



*From Left: Staci Leonhard, Lauren Hudgins, Kelsie Trotman, Mital Patel, Kristine Anderson, Randall Leonhard, Charlie Keys, Lee Jarvis*

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"It all started with Jesus calling a few men to follow him. . . His concern was not with programs to reach the multitudes, but with men whom the multitudes would follow. . Men were to be his method of winning the world to God."

~ Robert E. Coleman

This past spring break we took another trip to Guatemala. For the most part this trip was like the trip we took in August 2004. We spent our days working on different projects, and our evenings were spent playing and reading with the kids. We had the opportunity to go to a large church in Guatemala City on Sunday morning, and then it was followed with a trip to Antigua, a small tourist town.

I could write paragraphs about the experiences we had, but there is one moment that happened after we arrived back home that I would like to share with you. On a late night run to Wal-Mart, while waiting in line to check out I was explaining to Danielle how in Guatemala clothes are washed with bar soap that smelled much like the soap we were buying.

## POST GUATEMALA ENCOUNTER

BY STACI LEONHARD .: ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

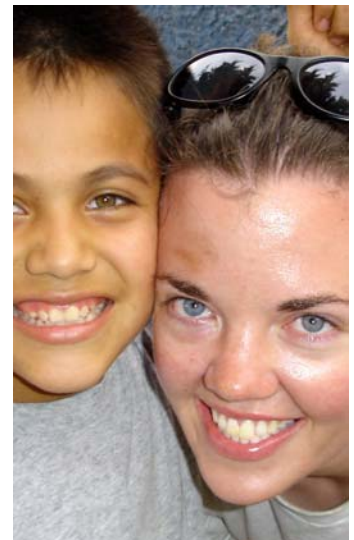
The cashier overheard us and asked if I had been to Guatemala. I told her that I had been, and she responded by saying, "I bet people are happier there."

I would say for the most part we found that statement is true. We spent a week with 41 kids who had so many reasons to be bitter and unhappy. Most of them were physically and emotionally abused before going to the Children's Home, and few have family members that keep in contact with them. The difference? Things that we find necessary like television, video games, and movies are things that those kids do not have readily available to them. What they do have is each other.

In Robert S. McGee's book *The Search For Significance* he talks about a survey that was given at a Bible conference. The analysis showed that 92% of the Christians surveyed admitted "feelings of loneliness are a major problem in their lives." What an alarming statistic about the people Christ said, "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

I don't know anything about the cashier at Wal-Mart. If I had to guess, I would guess she's never been out of the country to experience something like ours in Guatemala. The truth of the matter is that you don't have to go to

another country to experience that kind of love and happiness. What could happen if we were to turn off the television and share our life with someone from our job, church or in our



*Rony, from Hogars De Ninos childrens home and Staci Leonhard*