

The O.B. Wave

Church Planting with the Husters

May 1, 2008

From its inception, the vision of Harbor Presbyterian Church has been to **ignite a church-planting movement** that so fills the city of San Diego with the Gospel of Jesus Christ that the people of the city are changed in every dimension-spiritually, socially and culturally.



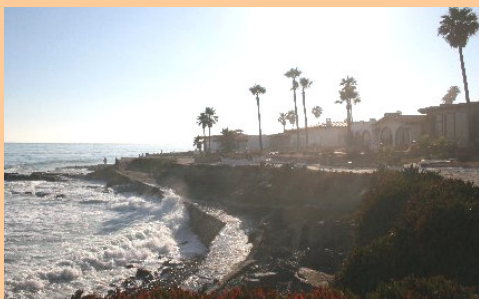
Faith and Isaac Laughing at Splashing Waves



Launch Team in Late May



Faith Loving the OB Waves



The Walk of Death

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Dear Ministry Partners,

I am greeting you from the paradise known as Ocean Beach? When you hear the word paradise all kinds of pictures are conjured up: great weather, palm trees, and crystal clear water. OB meeting all these requirements (except for the crystal clear water) but it is far from paradise. People from around the world come to San Diego on vacation and many never leave. They think they can leave their problems back home and we all know we can't run from our problems even at the beach. I am sure they have the same hurts as you and I do, they just wear it on their sleeves in a more outlandish way. I love OB because it is a daily mirror to my constant need for the gospel.

Back in the beginning of June our launch team moved from a local home into OB Elementary. Over night the dynamics of our group changed. Now being down in the heart of OB, many of our homeless friends have access to our group. Let me be honest, working with the homeless and hurting is hard, but I am convinced it is the heart of our Savior. Their problems seem insurmountable and we are so limited. Harbor is not a social service but a place people come to find shelter in the storm and discover hope. As we extend ourselves relationally, we are discovering that God is changing us as much or more than our homeless friends.

Richard has been homeless over a decade and has one of the most extreme stories of abuse, heart break,, and war (Vietnam War), I have ever heard. Richard is also an alcoholic and has left a trail of pain too. Some in our Harbor community have been building a friendship with Richard since the fall and slowly we have seen the gospel began to melt his heart. He has been able to experience the love of a Christian community. As a result, Richard is now on his 15th day of sobriety! I'm not sure how long it will last but I know that Richard has deeply impacted my life. You see, he is holding on to Jesus right now like a drowning victim holds on to a life preserver in the mid of a stormy sea. He told me, "If I let go of Jesus, I know I am dead". His passion for our Savior is amazing. I get so comfortable in my Christianity and folks like Richard teach me how to have spiritual renewal in my heart.

Ministry Update

Our launch team continues to grow, which is always encouraging, and is averaging around 30 folks. As of June 1st we now have two community groups, both of which are doing better than I could have dreamed. Our groups have a rich and broad appeal. They are more than just Bible studies; they include prayer, worship, fellowship, and sharing of what God is doing in our lives, spiritual nurture, friendships and opportunities for service. While many churches may have small groups on the side, Harbor OB is organizing around our community groups. They are the church. Therefore, belonging to a community group is the key way to be actively a part of Harbor OB. We have also recently begun a partnership with a local ministry called *Second Chances*. *Second Chances* has been reaching the homeless community of OB for 13 years. Instead of creating a new homeless mercy ministry, it made so much more sense to partner with an established ministry that is already making a difference. After one month, it looks to be a great fit for our congregation and their ministry.

Starting July 10th, we are going begin our **60 Days to Launch**. It is a 60 day period of preparation for our entire launch team by doing set daily Bible readings, strategic prayer, and weekly prayer walks, all leading up to our first public worship service on September 7th.

Family

We were able to enjoy a week long vacation back in June down in Mexico. The community was amazing. The kids measured the day by how many times they went to the pool. If they went at least three times, it was a great day. Isaac officially hung up his swimmies and now swims like a fish. Faith has completely overcome her fear of the ocean and charges the waves on her boogie board. I even scored some of the best waves I have ever seen or ridden. Michelle's back kept her sideline but she was able to venture out of the house a few times.

Prayer Requests

- For spiritual renewal for our launch team so that we could begin to experience God's beauty, power, and love in a winsome way that causes astounding Christian community growth.
- For the Lord to draw up and make known leaders for our congregation in the area of worship, children, mercy, community life, and Sunday operations.
- Michelle's back to be strengthened and overall protection of her health.
- My sister Cameron has had a tough road with her chemotherapy (leukemia).

Thank you for faithfulness in your prayers and giving. You partnership is so encouraging.

In the warmth of Jesus,

Jim and Michelle Huster