

Reporting in



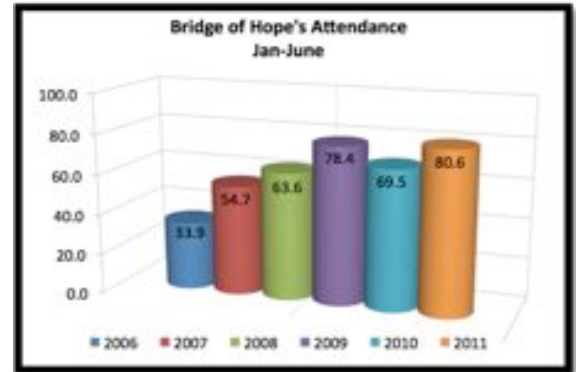
Fall 2011 Classis Report by Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

BRIDGE
of **HOPE**
CONNECTING THE NEXT GENERATION

Dear Pastors & Elders,

There is good reason to be optimistic about the impact Bridge of Hope is making in Waterloo:

1. We recently baptized 4 people. (Two young men fleeing drug addiction, a single mom, and her 7 year-old son.) Their stories are in our June 2011 Prayer Update.
2. Our attendance is increasing. See chart to the right.
3. After holding our service in the park and then helping Ascension Lutheran serve a meal to the homeless in downtown Waterloo, one of our new attendees had this to say... "Sunday was an awesome experience! BOH doesn't just 'talk the talk'."



Vision & Prayer:

Community Enrichment Center... We aren't looking for a "church". However, We do believe a God is nudging us to pursue a space to serve the community. Please pray for wisdom as we pursue this vision and for the resources to make it happen.

Thanks for all your support!!!

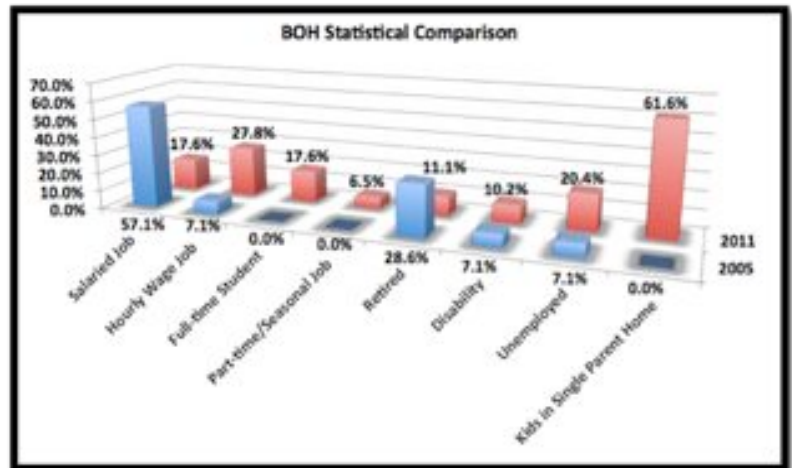
God has given us a great gift in allowing us to reach across cultural barriers and establish a multi-ethnic, multi-generational, and multi-socioeconomic church. Of our attendees...
 32.7% are non-white
 11.1% are over 65

48.3% of kids are non-white
 35.7% are under 18

When we first started, our core team was made of 28.6% retired and 57.1% working in professional salaried jobs. We had one person unemployed on disability and one person working a full-time hourly wage job. This team remains a financial foundation for the church.

Note in the graph to the right the huge shifts we have experienced:

1. From being mostly salaried jobs and retired to more hourly wage jobs and unemployed.
2. From no adult full-time students to 19 (17.6%).
3. From no kids in single parent homes to 37 of our 60 kids (61.6%).
4. It's worth noting, too, the increase in those on disability went from 1 to 11 and those on unemployment went from 1 to 22. We have over 3 times the state unemployment rate at BOH.



All of this simply points to the reality that we are reaching many under-resourced households, and thus on a slower pace to be self-supporting.

Our congregation has given sacrificially for years, carrying the bulk of our budget. Our Prayer Team continues to be a key part as well, giving over \$22,000 last year. Armond, also, raises support above our annual budget, about \$15,000 each year. We also received in-kind gifts of over \$15,000 from many local organizations over the past 2 years, which we have invested back into the community.

CPC Recommendation: To grant Bridge of Hope \$2000 towards Board of Benefits matching grant (year 2 of 3) and \$10,000 toward the mission of Bridge of Hope.

Helping people connect with God and experience hope and meaning in life...