



# THE MCCONICO TIMES

Christmas Greetings

December 2000

## A baby's hands in Bethlehem were small and softly curled, but held within their dimpled grasp the hope of all the world.

*From "No Room For Him" by Leslie Savange*

The following is a copy of a half page add from Halla Nursery in the Saturday Mpls. Paper. Yes, Jesus came to us as a child... a tiny, helpless infant. We celebrate that coming every year at Christmas, a time of warm feeling toward one another, family visits, carol singing and gift giving.

But the child grew up to begin the ministry that was the reason He came to earth. Jesus' message was one of repentance and salvation and acceptance of Him as the only way to eternal life. His life left a

mark on the world. This is how one anonymous writer said it:



***"Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that***

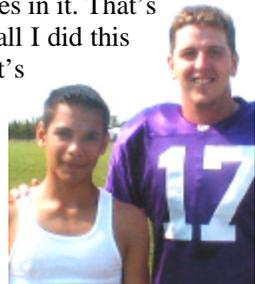
***all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon the earth as powerfully as has this One solitary life."***

Jesus may be the centerpiece of the human race, but is He the centerpiece of your life? He may have affected the life of man, but has He affected your life? This Christmas celebrate the child's coming but let the King into your heart.

### Hello, I'm Jonathan

and I'm 13. I go to Franklin middle school. I'm in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This summer I worked as a caddy at the Minikahda Club. I went to Youth Alive camp and had a good time; I also went to a camp called DuNord up in Ely and it was nice because we got to stay in new cabins. At DuNord I did the polar bear swim, which is when you go swimming in freezing cold water. I did a lot of kayaking up there. I also played football for Franklin, and we were 7-0. I played as defensive end. I'm also on the swim team all year and I'm one of the fastest kids on the team. In the beginning of the year when I was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade I was on the chess team, math team, and also did a Bible study. Also my finger was cut by a scissors across my right pointer finger tip and I got ten stitches in it. That's pretty much all I did this year. But that's ok.

See ya!!



## The McConico's Year - Every life has changed - a little



**Donna** Hey, waz up? This year in whole was a pretty good one. I am 15 years old at this moment and in a few months I'll be 16. This year in school (10<sup>th</sup> grade at North High) I have been involved in several activities. I play my flute in concert and pep band. I played softball for my first year and lettered in it! I helped with the winter play, "The Disappearance of Edgar" at school in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. I just finished with "Sorry, Wrong Number" (in which I played a lunch attendant) and "Wine In The Wilderness" (in which I helped with props and off stage voices). I am also involved with North's

Drama Club. I had the opportunity to take pottery and painting classes this fall, which I greatly enjoyed.

This past summer I was very busy. I babysat Kayla who is now 11 months old. I played softball (1<sup>st</sup> base) for Hospitality



A picture I took at Pine Pointe - a week I will never forget

House. I was also involved in CWCY (City Wide Christian Youth) which now has at least one representative from six of the seven inner-city schools (we're still trying to get someone from Edison). We meet to encourage each other in leading our schools Bible studies/prayer groups (North's is on Tuesday and Thursday mornings).

I went to two camps this summer - Youth Alive and Pine Pointe. Youth Alive camp was in Wisconsin. Pine Pointe is a Y.M.C.A. camp in Ely, Minnesota. That week is one I will never forget. I had an extremely wonderful



time. Sometimes I wish I could stay there. I also went to Wisconsin Dells and had a great time there too.

I hope this coming year will be as good as the last. I hope you all have a Very Merry Christmas and remember the real reason for the season!

Simon



This has been an exciting year for me. I turned 17 in January and finished my junior year at North. During my last term at

North I was able to achieve straight A's for the first time. Our Jazz band at the school, which I was a member of, got to play at Orchestra Hall. I also am a member of our concert and pep bands at school. Saxophone, Guitar, Piano, and Trumpet are just a few of the instruments that I am able to play, some better than the others.

I participated in Urban Leadership Academy this summer. It was three weeks of leadership training for youth all around the metro area.

God was stirring my heart during the school year to do more outreach to the kids at my school and out of the blue I got a call from the leader of the Henry High Bible study and she was talking about getting together people from all of the high schools and forming a group to bind us together. We met and called



ourselves CWCY, which stands for City Wide Christian Youth. Thus far we have had many meetings and one big event that we, as youth, put together and organized. Through the event we saw one person come to the Lord and I learned about an opportunity to volunteer at the New Union. The New Union is kind of like a Christian nightclub in which they have bands that perform the latest Christian music. I also caddied during the course of the summer to raise funds to go to Ireland. During the summer, some of you know, I went to Ireland to do some missions work. We stayed over there for three weeks and ministered to churches all over Ireland. I would like to thank everyone who donated to my mission trip to Ireland. We were able to see many people come to the Lord and

many peoples hearts changed including mine.

I came back from Ireland and started to play football for North High. I was named

Captain of the Varsity squad and starting center. A few weeks into practice I went up to Duluth and sprained my ankle really bad and had to be on crutches for two weeks. I was able to recuperate to play in the first game against Roosevelt High School. Our team was doing pretty good with only 2 losses but during our Home Coming game I broke my wrist and had to sit out for about four games. Our



**BWCA**  
**Was a Blast**  
*Photo taken by Jon*

team went to the playoffs and beat Richfield, St. Louis Park, and Columbia Heights to get to the state Quarterfinals. I was able to come back for the game in state. I wrapped up my cast and got to start. We lost the game to Cambridge Isanti, who later went on to take the title, and ended our season with a record of 9 wins and 3 losses. We were the first football team in North's history to go to state. Because of the break in my wrist, it made me not able to play the saxophone so I picked up trumpet and am doing pretty well on it as of now. I am now looking at colleges and am planning on going to one of these three: North Central, Bethel, or Northwestern.

Andrew

Hey it's me Andrew. First of all I would like to say thank you to all of my sponsors for the year. This year has been one of the craziest years yet with me working all summer and not playing baseball almost at all, then buying a car and moving out to Denver for Denver's Masters Commission (DMC). It has been pretty good so far. It

**Our Christmas Tree**

Every year we find our tree in a unique way. We go to a tree farm and walk around until we find the perfect tree for our family. The way we know which tree is ours is by looking for the tree that has the presents on it for our family. Yes



that's right – the one with the gifts with our name on it. We are still trying to figure out how they get there. This is a tradition we have followed for over 12 years. We always look forward to a sleigh ride and hot apple cider after we are done. And no tree journey is complete without wrestling in the snow. The Power of traditions. Don't over look them. What traditions does your family practice? E-mail us and let us know at traditions@mconico.com



*On my way to Denver Masters Commission*



has also been the first time I broke bricks. We have been doing power feats and I have been breaking about 18 – 20 bricks. It's scary at first but you get used to it. We also go into schools and talk about believing in themselves and being able to succeed, get off drugs and alcohol, and be able to try and help as much as we can with an abusive household. We then ask them to come out to the local church where we do more brick breaking and perform different human videos (dramas to songs) and then have a short message with an alter call.

I also might be going to another country in Asia coming up with DMC. Pray for me to raise the money. This year has been a challenge but I feel like I have grown in God and maturity and am anxious to see what 2001 has to hold for me.

*I miss all of you. Hope your year went well*

**The Year In Review - Becky**



It seems every year is a year of change when you have children in the house! I used to think having four children five and under was hectic and busy... but this year

we have four teenagers and it still is hectic and busy! They are great teens and Ron and I left them home alone for four days this spring while we attended a conference in Batavia, New York.

In May we added Kayla McGowan to our family part time. She was four months old then and needed a day care provider. Her Dad, Ahmad, used to be one of Ron's kids from Hospitality House a long time ago. We all loved and cared for her – Donna did most of the caring this summer as her summer job. It was a good experience for the teens. In November her family moved to Arizona and we miss her!

Because of Ron's job at Hospitality House we had to change insurance companies, which meant a new Dentist, new Eye Doctor and new Medical Clinic. We're grateful for the insurance but it's been really hard to change caregivers, since we had the same ones forever!

This summer Ron's youngest brother, Rick, married a young lady named Andréa. We took a mini-vacation to Wisconsin Dells with Donna and Jon. The older boys couldn't go, but took care of the house and pets for us. I spent a lot of time at church this summer planting perennials, weeding and mulching. In between trips, games and childcare, our own garden didn't do the best.

Our family was blessed to go to a weeklong family camp at Pine Pointe Camp Du Nord in Ely, MN. We had a great time, except Andy and Simon had to return early for work and football practice.

Ron and I drove out to Colorado with Andrew in September (left the other three home alone!) and spent a few days seeing the beautiful country. We met his host family and stayed with our Pastor's parents, Grandma and Grandpa Picone, listening to Pavaratti and eating real Italian spaghetti. We flew home and everything on the home front was fine. It seems like Andy is just on a long trip and he'll be coming home for the holidays.

Everyone is on a different schedule here. I used to enjoy set times for meals when the kids were younger...but now we usually only eat breakfast together. After school sports, drama

and jobs keep us from having dinner together most nights. I still have to eat on schedule, so whenever people show up they get to use the microwave!

This spring will be very busy. Simon is a senior at North High and will graduate in June; Jonathan will graduate from 8<sup>th</sup> grade (Franklin Middle); Andrew from Masters Commission. It will be challenging to fit it all in and move Andrew back to Minnesota too. When will I work in the garden?

Some things remain the same: Becky and Simon still play on the worship team at our church, now named Urban Life Christian Center; Ron is still an Elder at church; we still have three rental houses to work on; one dog, two cats and one parakeet and we are still praying for an addition to our house! God is faithful and we are grateful to Him for bringing us to the eve of another year! He has blessed us immeasurably!

**Ron**

Last year you read about some of the changes that God was bringing to my life - a call to serve youth workers. In December I started "Youth Resources". In February I started as Program Director at Hospitality House Boys & Girls Clubs (that, by the way, is the position that supports their youth workers). They were at the end of their strategic planning process that



Posing with a Wolf in the BWCA



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happened to line up exactly with the things that God had put in my heart two months earlier.

With this job I was able to work on some committees that made a difference in the lives of many youth.

Here is a brief description of some.

- Urban Leadership Academy - encourages, trains, and develops 50 youth/year to be youth workers.
- Week long youth workers retreat at YMCA Camp (Camp DuNord) in the boundary waters. (see [www.mcconico.com/newsletter.htm](http://www.mcconico.com/newsletter.htm) for some fun pictures)
- Start developing a mentorship program with North Central College and High School youth to be a training ground for future youth workers and to help High School youth raise their grades, dreams and expectations.
- Bring technology to Hospitality House by using handspring PDA's, notebook computers, and an organizational wide network to deliver e-mail, web, and central storage.
- Developed a relationship with Microsoft, MindSharp, and NCS to install a computer center to train young people in a good career. God is bringing favor and resources to us.
- Simon will be teaching other youth his age about computers. These youth will help us and other nonprofits in the community with their computer needs, bringing technology to HH and the community.
- Staff have been spending more time in prayer together.
- Mid-night basketball has been started by one of my staff, with people being challenged every week to follow Christ.



Photo taken in Sept, 2000 at the MN state Fair  
Top row from left Donna, Ron, Simon Bottom row Jonathan, Becky & Andrew