

TANGLEDBLUENEWS

October 10, 2007

Utah desert
east of Great
Basin National
Park - partly
cloudy and
119 degrees -
July 2007



Lots of Miles - One Summer our journey to and from the coasts

By Joel Pakan

This newsletter begins and ends with the Good Samaritan Society. This past June we had the opportunity to share our music at Good Sam's yearly convention of their care center directors. Many of the directors brought their families along and we had a great time getting to know these folks and the work they do around the country. Last weekend we performed at the Good Samaritan Center in Waukon, IA for their 55th anniversary. Good Sam made two good book ends for our past five months of travel. You can read about the work of the Good Samaritan Society at www.good-sam.org.

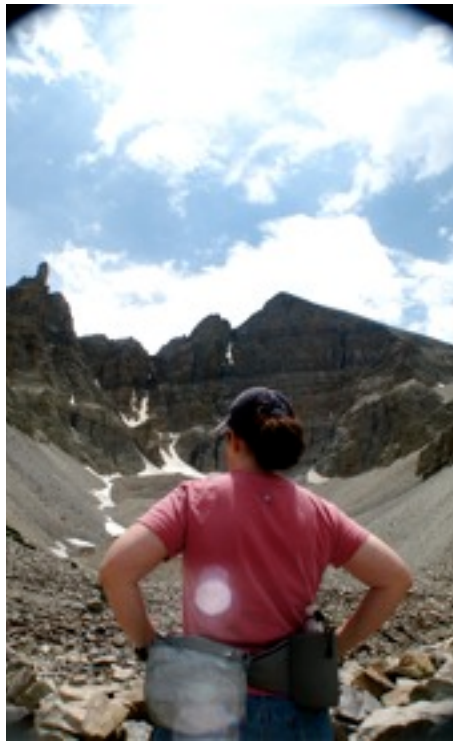
After our week in Kansas City with the folks from Good Sam, we drove down to Texas for performances in San Antonio (Good News Lutheran Church) and at the Disciple Project. While in Texas we had the opportunity to share the stage with Aaron Strumpel and Jonathan Rundman. I know I've shamelessly promoted these guys before, but I can't say enough about how much we enjoy their company AND music. Their web sites are www.aaronstrumpel.com and www.jonathanrundman.com. Our time in central Texas was over too quickly and we started our return north five days after we

arrived. We had little more than a day to get from Texas to Jamestown College (North Dakota)... we drove fast! The Lutheran Youth Fellowship of North Dakota once again hosted us in Jamestown. Our summer trip to Jamestown was accentuated by our discovery of Babb's Coffee House (seriously, good coffee) and an opportunity to work with Lyle Griner from the Youth and Family Institute. We met Lyle a couple years ago while working at a youth event in Texas, and he is a true kindred spirit. We ended our time in Jamestown by leading worship services at Trinity Lutheran Church.

July 2007 The heat is on!

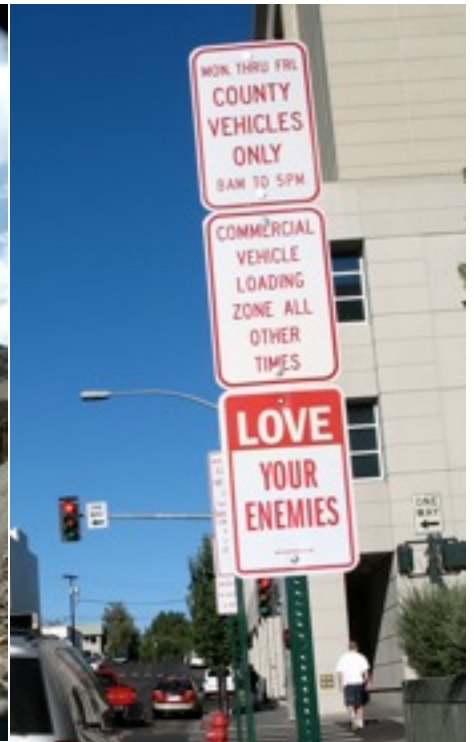
For the first time in many years we had the week of July 4th. open! This brought about a return to a family reunion that always happens on July 4th. in northern Wisconsin. I hadn't been to the family farm since I was in high school and this was Aimée's first time. Next year the Dinga Farm will be 100 years old!

Our next stop was in the Chicago area for an outdoor performance at Christ Lutheran Church in Clarendon Hills. After a visit with Aimée's family in the Chicago area we pointed the van west toward California. The trip west had a number of highlights including the organic Russian beet salad from the Open Harvest Coop in Lincoln, NE. Another stop between Illinois and California was at Great Basin National Park on the Utah and Nevada border. The trip through central Utah was one of the hottest days I've ever experienced (119 degrees and it was partly cloudy outside). When we stopped for gas in Nephi our van's battery started malfunctioning in the heat. The local Napa store didn't have an exact match, but we picked up the closest fit to insure that we wouldn't get stranded in the desert that evening. Our trusty VW pushed through the heat and we claimed one of the last campsites at Great Basin around 9,000 feet above the desert. This National Park is well worth the trek. The high altitude keeps the air cool and it is home to a rare high elevation Bristlecone Pine forest. The next day we hiked up to



the Bristlecones and beyond to Nevada's only year round snow pac at around 12,000 feet! It was a great day! That evening we drove to a town just east of Reno on State Highway 50. Officially, it's "the loneliest road in America." Pictured above is Aimée surveying the snow in July and a street sign in Reno behind the courthouse.

The next day brought California and our excellent hosts, the Herlockers. We enjoyed a warm week in Roseville, CA that included some singing, dancing, ice cream and a closing worship service that included a tuba! We have a ton of photos from our week at the Family Arts



Celebration Extravaganza (F.A.C.E.) at tangledblue.com and on our new photo journal at www.web.mac.com/tangledblue. Our final California performance of the summer was hosted by the fine folks at Davis Lutheran Church on the evening of July 22. After packing up we drove, bleary eyed, to Reno. We made a lot of new friends in central California this summer. Thanks to all of the folks who helped us pack up our stuff and put little notes of encouragement in our gear bags for us to find later.



North Dakota Lutheran Youth Fellowship
These folks have asked us to come to every one of their summer gatherings... this is the group that gets to hear our experimental / new songs first and they still keep asking us to come back!

Back to Dakota... bike week 2007

From Reno we drove east to the Black Hills of South Dakota for the Disciple Project - SD, but first we stopped in Piedmont, SD to lead the music for worship at Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church.

The Disciple Project - South Dakota included youth groups from SD, IA, MN, NE and WY, and let us cross paths with Lyle Griner for the second time this summer. Lyle leads a Peer Ministry program that was great to be around for a full week... it's an excellent program.

You can read more at www.peerministry.org.

After our week at Lee Valley Ranch for the Disciple Project we drove over to Spearfish to lead worship at Our Savior's Lutheran Church and do an outdoor concert on Main Street. It was motorcycle rally week and our sound system was able to cut through most of the rumble until the 20 Harley riders across the street decided to leave at the same time! From Spearfish we drove to Outlaw Ranch for our fourth summer as Artists in Residence. The community at Outlaw has become a home away from home for us. One of the families at



Outlaw that week came all the way from Houston, Texas. They had seen us at the Advent Retreat sponsored by LutherHill. It was a huge honor to have folks travel across the country to spend a week at Outlaw Ranch with us! After our week at Outlaw we finished our time in the Black Hills with a great performance at the Songbird Cafe in Custer. This is a great listening room that was packed the evening we performed. We shared the stage that evening for the second time in three months with Jonathan Rundman (pictured above). Also pictured above are three “coneheads” in California, and Aimée and Annie in Parma, OH.

We left Custer for Dickinson, ND where we had a community concert sponsored by Arts on the Prairie. The venue was the only operating band shell in North Dakota. After the concert we were treated to tacos and a conversation about Methodists and solar ovens at the home of Scott & Colleen. Five days after our evening in Dickinson we arrived in Parma, Ohio for a performance at Parma Lutheran Church. The folks in Parma did a great job promoting the concert, so we had a great audience that included our new friend Annie (and Hondray and Justin) from India. Annie is a special ed. teacher

in the area and introduced us to the Indian community in Cleveland. On Sunday after church, Annie, Hondray and Justin took us to one of their favorite Indian restaurants and invited us back to their place for tea. Of all the amazing experiences we had this summer, this afternoon of conversation was my favorite by far... to Annie, Hondray, and Justin - thank you for sharing your day with us. I can't wait until the next time.

From Cleveland we drove through the rain with our nephew Matt to enjoy a week of hiking on the Appalachian Trail and Manhattan city streets. We returned from the east coast to spend a week working our the Advent CD.

One week in one place seemed entirely too normal so by mid-September we were back on the road with performances in northern Ohio (Cedar Point Amusement Park for LYO day), Glen Burnie, MD and Alexandria, VA. Our return to the east coast also gave us a couple days in Boston with my sister and a couple day with our new God-daughter, Alaina in Fairfax, VA. Aimée and I have enjoyed being back in the midwest these last couple weeks for the fall colors and performances in Barron (WI), Waterville (IA), Decorah (IA), and Waukon (IA).

What's to come in 2007

Our tried and true VW just passed the 281,000 mile mark on it's odometer. We had a scare last week when it started leaking oil like a Texas Tycoon. It was shooting oil out the top of the dip stick tube like a geyser! Thankfully the fine mechanics at The Foreign Service in Roseville, MN were able to diagnose the issue and fix everything for under \$300... no small feat considering it is a VW! The coming weeks will be full of recording and performing. We are still working on the Advent CD; really, we are. You will be the first to know once it's finished. Thanks for all of your words of encouragement this summer and fall. We hope to see you soon.

Under the Mercy,
Joel
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P.S. - I am now part of that wonderful time-suck community called Facebook. My page is www.profile.to/JoelPakan

2007 Tour Schedule and Open Dates

full details on these performances are at tangledblue.com, or email us at info@tangledblue.com for more information.

- Wed. Oct. 17 - concert in Pierre, SD
- Oct. 18-20 - youth gathering in Bismarck, ND
- Sun. Oct. 21 - worship in Bismarck, ND

- Oct. 25-30 - **OPEN** in the upper midwest
- Wed. Oct. 31 - concert in Aberdeen, SD
- Nov. 1-8 - **OPEN** in the midwest and Rocky Mts.
- Nov. 9-11 - youth gathering in Post Falls, ID
- Nov. 12-15 - **OPEN** in the midwest and Rocky Mts.
- Nov. 16-18 - performances in Omaha, NE
- Sun. Nov. 25 - worship in St. Peter, MN
- Nov. 28 - Dec. 12 - **OPEN** in southern CA
***we've been asked to be part of a community in southern California on either the weekend of Dec. 1 or Dec. 8. We are looking for communities to host us on one of these weekends and the days between.



Performing outside at Lee Valley Ranch

Old East Paint Creek Lutheran Church - we performed there this past Saturday

A morning glory blooming in Central Park, NY in August.

