

# march 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 -8:45am... Overflow open -9:30am...NFCU in the Forum -6pm... Courageous in the gym	5	6	7 -6:30-7:45pm... The Hub in the Forum (Jr. and Sr. High)	8 -7pm...Night of Desperation in NFC Gym...doors open at 6:15pm	<b>DISTRICT MAIN EVENT</b>	
11 -8:45am... Overflow open -9:30am...NFCU in the Forum -6pm...The Expression in the Forum	12	13 -6pm...LEAD committee meeting in the Forum	14 -6:30-7:45pm... The Hub in the Forum (Jr. and Sr. High)	15	16 -7pm...Jr. High OT ...meet at church -9pm...Sr. High OT ...meet at church	17
18 -8:45am... Overflow open -9:30am...NFCU in the Forum	19	20	21 -6:30-7:45pm... The Hub in the Forum (Jr. and Sr. High)	<b>SENIOR TRIP</b>		
25 -8:45am... Overflow open -9:30am...NFCU in the Forum -Life Groups in various homes	26	27	28 -6:30-7:45pm... The Hub in the Forum (Jr. and Sr. High)	29	30	31

the  
parent  
link

march 2012

We truly are better together...

This year's winter retreat was a blast! Not only were we able to keep the cost down, but we were able to do way more activities than we've ever been able to do for our winter getaway. For that a big 'thank you' goes out to all the cabin owners that allowed us to stay in their homes away from home. They were amazing!!

Being up at retreat this year really brought in to focus how important the community of believers is. Pastor Jim shared his testimony of personal salvation while reading his Bible in his own home, but he also talked about how a church community really helped to shape him and refine his faith. They also showed him incredible grace and love throughout his 'baby Christian' years.

On Saturday evening, Jacquelyn Vanderpool shared with us about how the Nazarene Church has such a global impact and ways that we could be involved. One of the ways we engage global missions most years is our Mexico mission trip. Pastor Nate has written an article on the inside of this month's Parent Link talking about his year's trip!

On Sunday I was got the chance to share my thoughts on living in community, and I was really struck by a couple passages I came across during my study time. Above you'll see Ecclesiastes 4:8-12 which talks about the value of not being alone. Though this passage references workers toiling in field, we can easily see how it parallels our lives. We will get so much more out of life if we choose to live it in community with others. Others can provide support, accountability, guidance, and companionship. Think about watching a

funny movie by yourself, and how much funnier and more enjoyable that same movie is when you watch it with a group of your friends! God has wired us to enjoy others' company!

The other verse that really impacted me was John 13:34-35 where Jesus commands his disciples to love each other and said the world would know we are His followers by how we love each other. Wow! This loving each other and living in community thing is not something to be taken lightly! The way we treat each other may be our most effective witness to the world around us! That also begs the question, can we really be Jesus' disciples if we don't love those around us? In 1 John it is very clear that those who hate a brother/sister still remains in death and that God is not in them. So let's continue to learn how to love as Jesus instructs us to... and our community of faith will be an incredible light in this valley.

-Brian Loeber



*This year's Winter Retreat was a great chance for our teens to practice living life in community together...*

*There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For who am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This is meaningless - a miserable business! Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

Ecclesiastes 4:8-12



by: Nate Roskam

### We're better together: at home...across the street...and around the world...

We're better together! That was the theme of our Winter Retreat this year and is a phrase we believe ought to breathe life and perspective into everything we do.

So much of Western culture, especially the U.S., is wrapped up in the individual. From fast food to fast cars, the mantra seems to be all about "me"! And if you spend much time with Pastor Marcus, you know the five key words (or four words and a conjunction)... "It's not all about me"! If you look at the life of Jesus, you see an example of a life lived to be poured out for others (See Philippians 2), a life that began a movement that had nothing to do with "me" and everything to do with "we". The Church was birthed out of the raising up of a people blessed to be a blessing to the world.

Our mantra is different. You've heard us talk about families. You've probably heard words like "intergenerational" and "sticky faith" and phrases like "resourcing parents" or "equipping parents". In fact, you may feel as though those words and phrases are a little over-used! In some ways, I hope that is the case! Repetition is not a lack of fresh vision, but a continued articulation of a vision to sustain a movement.

This "better together" idea has infected how we envision missions as well. For many years, NFC has seen value in families and people of all ages involved in *missio dei* (the mission of God) together. Countless trips across thousands of miles and numerous continents have impacted generations. We believe in mission trips. But more importantly, we believe mission trips are better when we're together.

This Summer we will again be heading to Tecate', Mexico for an NFC Work and Witness Trip. Anchored by our NFC Student Ministries Sr. High Mission Trip, this experience is one available to students, families, young adults and adults from our faith community. This summer marks our third "intergenerational" mission trip, our fourth year of partnership with our brothers and sisters in Tecate', and a continuation of a 17 year relationship I have had with the local and district leadership in Tecate'! In this context, "we're better together" encompasses our partnership with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Mexico!!

We believe we're better together. This summer, our hope is you, your son/daughter, or your whole family will join us as we seek to uncover the mission of God in Tecate', Mexico! Seriously, we're better together, and without you there is no "we"!!!

Nazarene missions even operates under the idea that "we're better together! We are blessed to be a part of a world-wide church that is established in places like Mexico with leadership that is aware of needs and mindful of safety. From the General Church to Nazarene Missions International to The Nazarene Border Initiative to local leadership, we are surrounded with voices of wisdom, global perspective and sound planning. We believe that the location of the compound we stay at, the climate of the area we will be serving, the support structure of the Church of the Nazarene and the many years of "on the field" experience represented by staff, key leaders and our partners are all indicators that risk is minimized and opportunity for a successful trip is optimized.

#### MISSIO DEI

**Who:** High School students, families, young adults

**What:** Work & Witness Trip...meaning a mission trip with opportunities for people of all skills and abilities from building to teaching/training local pastors to working with kids to compassionate ministries like food distribution, evangelism, VBS, etc.

**When:** July 5-14, 2012

**Where:** Tecate', Mexico

**Why:** Participating in God's mission is always better when we're together!

**More info:** Details and registration will be available online at [nfcnaz.org](http://nfcnaz.org) soon...



ARTIST: The Fray  
ALBUM: *Scars & Stories*  
GENRE: Rock/Alternative  
RELEASED: Feb. 7, 2012  
ACCOLADES: Debuted at No. 4  
ADVICE: A few questionable lyrics, but overall positive

## MUSIC REVIEW

Is the glass half full or half empty? If you're Isaac Slade, lead singer for The Fray, the answer is yes. And most of the 12 tracks on the band's third album leave you feeling either depressed or optimistic or both, depending on which thoughts you zero in on. Slade and Co. slog through all manner of moody, melancholy and heartbroken moments in songs that teeter on the brink of existential despair. But just when you think they're about to plunge off the precipice into that dark pit, they frequently scramble back from the edge and declare that all is not lost. Probably.

Like U2 and Coldplay, The Fray sets its lyrical sights high. It's clear that the band strives to transcend mere pop music, as Slade and his mates wade into life's profound paradoxes and testify to the tension that inevitably exists there.

It's an earnest, honest approach that connects on quite a few levels.

My complaints? A handful of sensual/sexual references. And this: I found myself sometimes wishing the watermark would inch up to three-quarters full instead of always lingering at the half-way mark.

My praise? The Fray says things that are oftentimes missing from furrowed-brow alt-rock. While plumbing the depths of melancholy introspection, these guys (mostly) conclude that even though life is hard, it's still good. Even though love can be complicated, it's worth the effort. Rarely does the band emphasize one of these truths—negative or positive—without soon nodding to the other.

It's Thomas' birthday, and his parents will be out of town. His best friend, Costa, wants to throw him a party—a "game changer" of a shindig that'll feature booze, drugs, sex (he hopes), two DJs and (somehow) all the popular kids that, up to this point, think Thomas isn't so much a classmate as a tank engine they saw in kindergarten. After a crazy series of events, Costa has thrown the craziest party in the town's history.

Thomas stands on the roof of his house, watching the crazed crowd—consisting of hundreds now, perhaps a thousand—turn his neighborhood into something between Woodstock and a war zone. The music pounds. Bodies bounce. Girls giggle. And we see in Thomas' face—gray, sweaty, wasted—a look that borders on despair. The house is trashed and his parents know something's up.

No one in this story dies from alcohol poisoning or a drunk driving accident, as tens of thousands of people do each year. No one dies or is hospitalized due to the ingestion of Ecstasy, as also happens. Sure, the party spawned several unexpected high school pregnancies and caused millions of dollars worth of property damage ...

but what party worth its salt (the film tells us) doesn't?

There's a lot to try to forget about a movie like this—images I'd like to scrub from my mind. But there's one picture I don't think I should: It's Thomas on the rooftop, screaming at the sky—looking for all the world like a lost little boy who knows this isn't a happy ending ... and has simply stopped caring.



MOVIE: *Project X*  
GENRE: Comedy  
RELEASED: March 2, 2012  
RATED: R  
ADVICE: Stay away!!  
Nothing even worth redeeming here

