

Winning Our World International

2008 Annual Review

Bringing Hope to Children, Youth, and Families in the Urban Centers of America



Dear Friend,

It was an incredible year! We look back in gratitude for your support and all that God did, and as you read this review, we're certain you'll rejoice, too.

At each JAM, the Lord prepared hearts to receive the message of Jesus' love and many came to know Him as their Savior. Hundreds of churches and thousands of supporters volunteered, prayed or gave financially to make 2008 our best ministry year yet.

Thank you for your commitment!

Stephen and Linda Tavani
President and Founder



2008 WOW JAM Summary

For over 18 years, the WOW International ministry team has conducted WOW JAMS around the country, leading hundreds of thousands to Christ. Each WOW JAM takes months of planning and relies on hundreds of people working and ministering together.

WOW only goes to the poorest, most dangerous neighborhoods of America's cities. The WOW JAM becomes a neighborhood event drawing people out of their daily routines for a refreshing, enjoyable and challenging experience.

In 2008, the WOW team coordinated 36 WOW JAMS in 29 locations.

At the typical 2008 WOW JAM:

- 20-35 churches prayed, trained and worked together for months toward the common goal of leading their neighbors to Christ.
- 200-400 volunteers came to each WOW JAM to provide hands-on ministry and a welcoming face.
- 1,500-5,000 children, youth and adults came

from the neighborhood to enjoy the day.

- The WOW team and volunteers presented the person of Christ through kind words, gracious encounters (games, food, etc.) and a focused presentation, asking each person to receive Christ as Savior.
- Hundreds accepted Christ, received counseling, follow-up, and materials.



WOW JAMS transform our urban communities. Through the WOW JAM strategy, churches can go on the offensive in their neighborhoods; working together to create an energy and testimony that even the most hardened and hopeless people find compelling.

Most importantly lives are changed. Thousands of children and youth can now identify the moment they chose faith in Christ and were baptized. Single moms find faith and a local congregation where they are understood, valued and encouraged. Men see solid examples of other Christian men.

2008 Statistics

11,372 Salvations

1,316 Baptized

36 WOW JAMS

88,615 attended

4,000 volunteers

57,985 meals served

3,235 family photos

330 babies rocked

6,876 plants given

1,435 bikes fixed

3,895 kids corner

2,269 manicures

1,306 makeovers



WOW SPECIALIZES IN: Evangelism, Training, and Mobilizing

Evangelism: In 2008, WOW reached over 88,000 people with the message of Christ.

God has a special burden for the poor and marginalized of the world. Because He is grieved when people have no hope, God directs believers to communicate the message of salvation and hope to all those who do not know Him. The burning motivation for Stephen and Linda Tavani, and the WOW team, is to help marginalized people come to know Christ.

Evangelism is the reason WOW exists and urban communities are where we serve. In few other locations are so many people without Christ, absent from church, involved in destructive behaviors and without hope. That is why WOW only goes into the most difficult and problematic neighborhoods and why every element of a WOW JAM is designed to communicate hope.

In the activity tents, not only do volunteers do things such as play games, serve food, repair bikes, and take photos, they also testify of Christ. The music and games, from the stage, are designed to help people “lower their defenses” and transition from fun to opening their hearts to Christ.

The strategy works. At each WOW JAM, hundreds of people begin a journey of hope and new life in Christ.



“She came out to thank me ...”

“She looked older than her years, her face was lined with grief that only the hell of the inner-city could engrave. And there we stood, in the heart of New Orleans at a WOW JAM, on the very spot where, a year earlier, her 23-year-old son (a gang banger and drug dealer) accepted Jesus and was baptized. She told me that after the WOW JAM her son quit dealing, left the gang and went to Bible study with her. Then, she pointed to a staircase, 30 feet away, and told me her son was shot there 16 times by his ex-gang, just 2 weeks after his salvation; and he died in her arms! But, she came out to thank me for leading her son to Jesus before he died. She hugged me and when she did my tears fell.”
-Stephen Tavani



“For once I really felt loved ...”

“WOW JAM changed my life today. I never had so much fun in my life. I was saved today 10-18-08 and it was amazing. God is an awesome God and I found this out today. Every time I turned around, someone from WOW JAM was hugging me – something I haven’t felt in a long time. It was so amazing. For once I really felt loved and happy.”

-Testimony from WOW JAM
Houma, Louisiana 2008



2008 Decisions for Christ (by area)

New Orleans, LA	4,113
Oakland, CA	556
Central Valley, CA	1,474
Pomona, CA	663
Long Beach, CA	749
Los Angeles, CA	934
Upstate New York	725
New York City, NY	627
Charlotte, NC	1,531

Training Urban Ministers

Just as Paul instructed and mentored Timothy, the WOW team recruits and trains interns in urban ministry (2 Tim. 2:2). During the 2008 Mission Weeks, we trained 92 interns from 7 communities.

Even at full capacity, WOW could not possibly reach every urban center in the country; and hundreds of communities will never have a WOW JAM. But, thousands of local believers want to reach their own neighborhoods, they just need to know how. Mission Week is a solution!

The WOW JAM outreach provides an excellent environment for instruction and training in urban ministry. We invite both local and out of state youth, college students, adults, pastors and families to the 6-9 day training conferences.

Mission Week is filled with powerful speakers, practical workshops, hands-on training and involvement in the local WOW JAM outreach. Nowhere else do people get such a comprehensive and effective experience in effective urban ministry.

What is a Mission Week?

- Action-packed mission trips. This year in New Orleans, Los Angeles, and New York.
- Intensive evangelism training from qualified and experienced speakers.
- Hands-on ministry experience in some of the most desperate neighborhoods of America.
- A day off to explore the city and local sites.
- A week of sharing the love of Jesus with broken and hurting people.

Mobilizing the Church

Many churches care about the urban poor, but relatively few actually get involved in direct urban ministry. WOW works with both urban and suburban churches mobilizing them for long term ministry and community impact.

Each WOW JAM city has anywhere from 1-7 WOW JAM locations. This broader area, and increased number of JAMS, creates a city-wide effort by penetrating into more of the roughest neighborhoods and involving more churches.

Planning, fundraising, training, prayer, WOW JAM ministry and follow-up assignments all bring local churches together into a mighty force for evangelism and on-going ministry.

Imagine what it means to the pastor of an urban church to see all of his youth and adults involved in an upcoming WOW JAM. It means his or her people will be transformed as they engage with the community; those previously unchurched that come to the WOW JAM will have an outreach-minded church to attend.

The relationships that grow between the urban and suburban churches during the WOW JAM extend well into the future. Relationships build as both pastors and congregation members get to know each other and serve together through the demanding schedule of a WOW JAM.

Lighthouse Church

Pastors Paul and Bonnie Thiemens

“God has used WOW JAMS to bring churches in our community together. Since our church is medium-sized, we knew that for us the key to hosting a WOW JAM was involving other churches. Our goal is to involve as many churches as possible, and so far over 50 churches have joined us – churches of every size, ethnicity, and denomination. This inter-denominational force brought 699 volunteers to work at the WOW JAMS. God is using WOW to build a practical relationship between our churches, which we believe will bring more of His presence into the city and create transformation that will be felt for years to come. Beyond seeing hundreds saved and meeting the practical needs of the city, God is using WOW JAMS in Long Beach to build the bigger Kingdom of God by bringing churches together!”

2008 Financial Review

Income

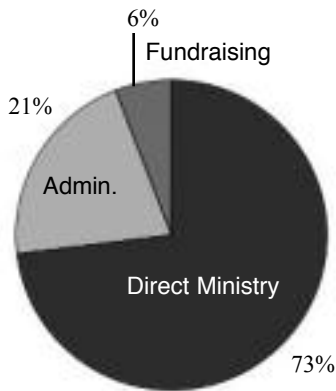
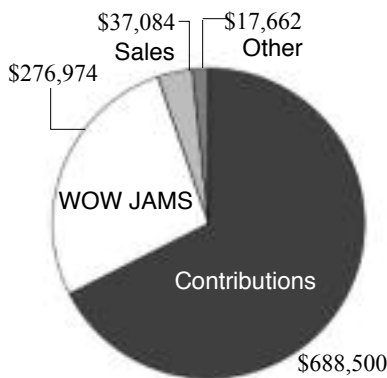
Contributions	\$668,500
WOW JAMS	\$276,974
Sales	\$37,084
Other	\$17,662
Total Income	\$1,020,220

Expenses

Direct Ministry	\$735,375
Administration	\$212,861
Fundraising	\$57,437
Total Expenses	\$1,005,673

2008 Income by Source

Expense by Percentage of Total



WOW International conducts a calendar business year and is currently applying for membership in the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. Financial reports are available upon request.

A Look Ahead

2009 WOW JAM Schedule

March 23-29	New Orleans East, LA
April 28 - May 3	Central Valley, CA
May 14-17	Pomona, CA
June 20-29	Los Angeles/Long Beach, CA
July 22-25	Upstate New York
July 25 - August 3	New York City, NY
Fall 2009	New Orleans, LA

Mission Week 2009

New Orleans: March 23-29

Los Angeles: June 20-29

New York: July 25-August 3

Come join us for Mission Week 2009 and learn the fundamentals of urban evangelism, cutting edge outreach strategies, how to overcome cultural barriers, follow-up principles, and dynamic ways for churches to partner in ministry!

Go to www.wowjam.com to learn more.

WOW International National Corporate Partners

(Partial list)

<i>Frito-Lay</i>	<i>Regency Lighting</i>
<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Help the Children</i>
<i>Hornets</i>	<i>Digitech Professional Lab</i>
<i>Wal-Mart</i>	<i>Execuprint</i>
<i>American Bible Society</i>	<i>Youth For Christ</i>
<i>Cerenzia Foods</i>	<i>Brown Foundation</i>
<i>Coke</i>	<i>Foursquare Foundation</i>
<i>Todd Construction Services</i>	<i>Children's Hunger Fund</i>
<i>Disney</i>	<i>Foundation for Christian Stewardship</i>
<i>Salvation Army</i>	<i>ESA Love Inc.</i>

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