



## Bueltmann's Newest Passion Is North Boone Co. Mission

When Pastor Kurtis Bueltmann isn't making music with Sibling Harmony he's wearing his full-time hat as assistant pastor at Immanuel, Belvidere. One of his duties there includes working with the outreach planning team for Crown Point North, in nearby Poplar Grove.

Crown Point is Immanuel's center for caring ministry in Belvidere. The church plans to establish Crown Point North as a ministry presence in neighboring Poplar Grove as the first step in becoming a multi-site congregation in this growing part of North Boone County. Multi-site means one church, one mission, one staff, but in two locations.

A \$150,000 NID *Ablaze!* Grant will help spearhead the first three years of this effort. "Our goal is to reach new people with the Gospel of Christ," Bueltmann says. "We are extremely excited for the opportunities this grant provides and praise God for it."



Rev. Kurtis Bueltmann (inset) with Poplar Grove planning team.

# Sibling Harmony

## NID Pastor and Siblings Write, Sing their Christian Faith

By Laurie O'Connor Stephans

Anyone who has more than one child probably thinks the phrase "sibling harmony" is an oxymoron. Perhaps, but not when it's the name of a band comprised of three full-time LCMS church workers who also happen to be siblings—Kevin, Kim and Kurtis Bueltmann.

All three initially trained in youth and family ministry. Kim is now a deaconess at St. John Lutheran Church in Champaign, Ill. Kevin, a former DCE and Lutheran Camp director, is attending Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. And Kurtis is an assistant pastor in the NID, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Belvidere. In fact, the group's debut in the Northern Illinois District was at his installation there last year.

The group's web site quotes 1 Peter 3:8, "Live in harmony with one another. Love as brothers and sisters." But the group says its name and accompanying philosophy "reaches beyond biological family and encompasses the entire Church, as we are all brothers and sisters in Christ."

Although sister Kim often sings lead, all three members sing and play a variety of instruments, often switching instruments in concert. One of many things that makes the group unique is the drum set designed by Kurtis, which allows him to play standing up, offering better eye contact and interaction with both the audience and his siblings.

Sibling Harmony released its

first CD, "Chosen," in July 2007, and will be releasing a second, "Can't Get It Right," late this year. Each contains a varying selection of songs within the Christian music genre, making it hard to cate-

gorize the group's musical style.

"I always have a hard time articulating our musical style verbally," Kurtis explains. "We wrote almost all the songs on our CDs. Some are designed

for worship. Some have a rock beat. Some have more of an acoustic sound. Some are action songs. Some are for children. The title song on our new CD has more of a blues feel. We've only done Christian music, because it's who we are."

The group's performances have so far led them to five LCMS districts and are varied in settings—concerts, chapels, worship services at churches, camps, elementary schools, district youth events, conventions, as well as national events for church organizations.

When asked whether the group has a "leader," Kurtis illustrates why he is the

acknowledged comedian of the group.

"Leadership could have been assigned to any of us," he explains. "Kevin, since he's the oldest of the three; Kim, since she's the only girl; or me, since I'm the smartest, most talented, and best looking."

"Actually," he continues, "we share the leadership, and any time our opinions differ, we can always come to a two-thirds majority pretty easily."

In this age of American Idol and similar "make you a star" reality shows, one can't help wonder whether these talented siblings ever had dreams of a musical career.

"All of us enjoy serving the Lord in ministry wherever he can best use us," Kurtis says. "We are content for Sibling Harmony to be a secondary thing and enjoy the freedom of being an independent artist."

And despite the heavy schedule, Kurtis also appreciates what his musical side means to ministry.

"I believe they mutually enhance each other," he says. "I have opportunities to preach and help lead worship services with Sibling Harmony, and I have opportunities to get involved with music ministry at Immanuel. Both are a blessing to each other."

Anyone interested in learning more about Sibling Harmony may send an e-mail (which goes to all three members) to [info@siblingharmony.com](mailto:info@siblingharmony.com). Samples of their music can be found at [www.siblingharmony.com](http://www.siblingharmony.com)



Sibling Harmony includes Kurtis, Kim and Kevin Bueltmann, scattered in their church work locations, united in their mission to share the Gospel and their Christian faith through music.

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