



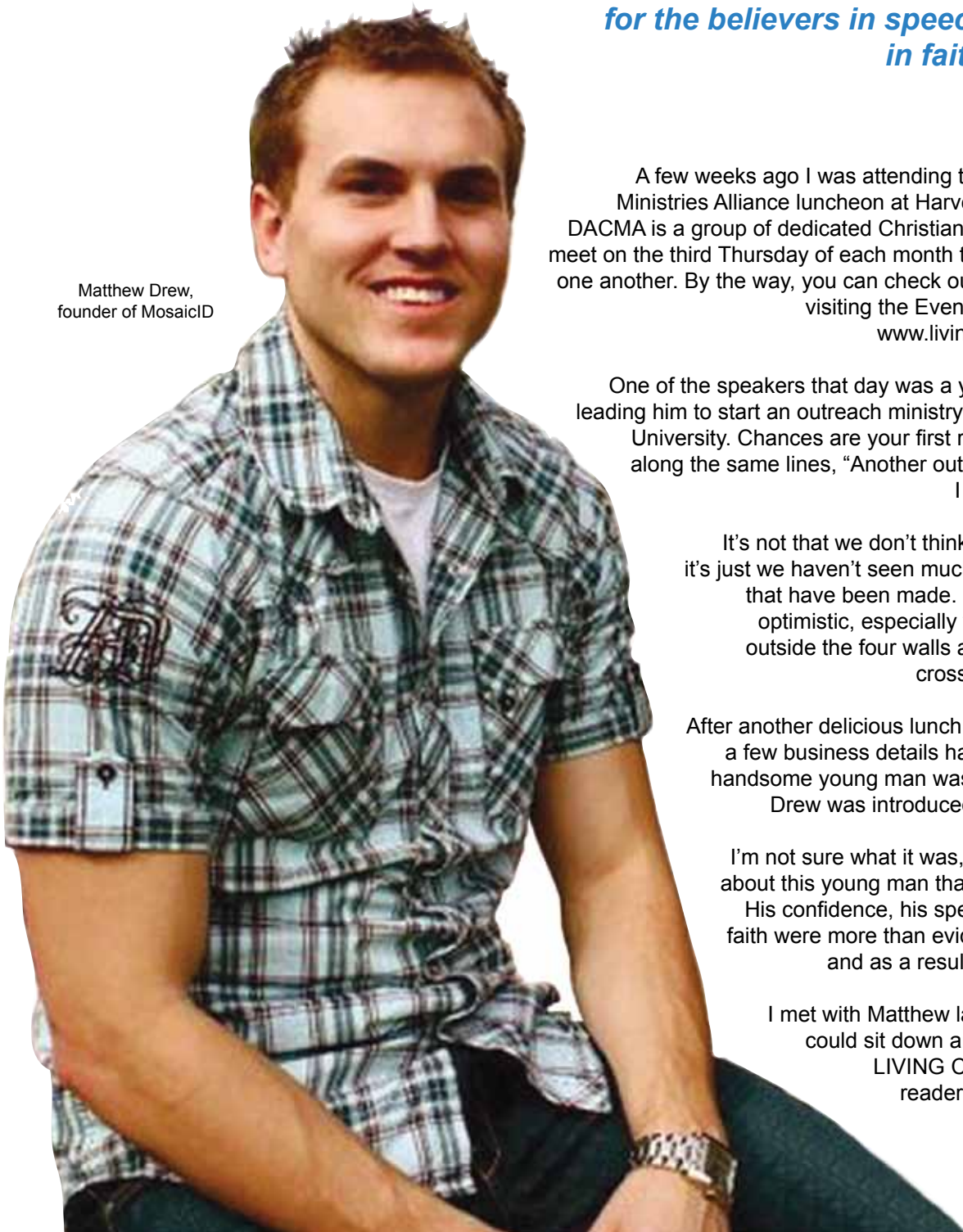
MOSAIC^{ID}

an interdenominational college ministry

“Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

Matthew Drew,
founder of MosaicID



A few weeks ago I was attending the Decatur Area Christian Ministries Alliance luncheon at Harvest Christian Church. The DACMA is a group of dedicated Christian pastors and leaders who meet on the third Thursday of each month to support and encourage one another. By the way, you can check out where we meet next by visiting the Events page of our web site at www.livingchristianmagazine.com.

One of the speakers that day was a young fellow who felt God leading him to start an outreach ministry to the students at Millikin University. Chances are your first reaction and mine may be along the same lines, “Another outreach to Millikin students. I give it about six months.”

It’s not that we don’t think it’s important or needed, it’s just we haven’t seen much success in the attempts that have been made. But I always try to remain optimistic, especially when it comes to ministry outside the four walls and one that isn’t afraid to cross denominational barriers.

After another delicious lunch had been consumed and a few business details had been addressed, a tall, handsome young man was called forward. Matthew Drew was introduced and he began to speak.

I’m not sure what it was, but there was something about this young man that told me, “God is in this.”

His confidence, his speech, his passion, and his faith were more than evident. This guy was on fire and as a result, I wanted to know more.

I met with Matthew later that next week so we could sit down and see if there was a way LIVING Christian magazine and its readers could help this new and much needed ministry.



While still in the construction stage, the coffee lounge of MosaicID creates an inviting and relaxed atmosphere.

It didn't take much prodding to get the interview with Matthew started. All I needed to say was, "So tell me a little bit about yourself and how your new ministry started to take shape."

"Well, I was born and raised right here in Decatur. I've been here pretty much all my life. I did live in a couple of other cities for a while but this has always been my home.

Most recently, I lived in Dallas for about two years. I moved back to Decatur in August, then did a bit of traveling for a few weeks. I really settled here again in the first part of November (2010). The idea for MosaicID probably got its start when I attended the Catalyst Conference in Atlanta."

Catalyst was conceived as a Next Generation Leaders Conference in 1999 by Andy Stanley, Reggie Joiner, John Maxwell, Lanny Donoho and several young leaders. Catalyst was created to meet the felt need that existed within the church leader space for a leadership event that was focused on a new generation of church leaders. Just so you'll know, Matthew paid his own way to the conference. Tickets to conference range from \$259.00 each to \$319.00 each depending upon early registration discounts.

"I was trying to figure out what my next step in life was; whether I should try to get on staff at a church somewhere, or if I was supposed to be in Decatur, or what I should do. As I was praying and fasting about it, I asked God to tell me one word, 'stay' or 'go'. I just need one word. If You say, 'Stay' I'll know what that means and if you say, 'Go' I'll try to figure out what that means. I knew that if He said 'Stay' I was supposed to start some kind of college ministry. I didn't really know how, I didn't really know what.

After I got done with my fasting He told me 'stay'. Then I couldn't stop dreaming about the Millikin Campus. That's where my heart is and all these dreams and ideas were way more creative than I could ever have thought of and so I said, 'Okay God, this has to be You behind this.' So I knew it was God nudging me to stay in Decatur and start this college para church.

After that I started writing down all my ideas and I had about ten names in mind. After prayer and a lot research into the meaning and symbolism in the names, we decided to go with MosaicID to really state that we are interdenominational.

When I meet with some of the pastors I'm like, 'We can split hairs on denominational issues all day, I just want to reach the lost for Jesus and I'll do whatever it takes to reach them.' In one of our letters we state to reach the people no one is reaching, we're going to have to do some things no one else is doing, so we might be a bit controversial for some."

I can certainly relate with Matthew's perception of an interdenominational effort. After all, that's the whole basis for LIVING Christian magazine; focusing on those things we as Christians have in common. It's a tough concept for some to grasp.

Matthew's vision of MosaicID has quickly taken shape in the form of a coffee lounge located in the retail plaza area on the northwest corner of South Oakland and West Wood Street across from the Millikin campus. Matthew's 501(c)3 has signed a one year lease on a 3,500 square foot space in the corner of the plaza, located next to Entler's Flower Shoppe. The main floor holds the coffee lounge with lots of comfortable couches and areas ideal for studying, relaxing, and meeting with friends. The lower floor is big enough for larger gatherings and will be where most of the music and messages will be shared.

"It was actually kind of a miracle when we got the space. When I first called about it they said they would only do a three year contract. I was praying about the building and I was thinking, 'Is this one of those things that is so perfect I don't have to pray about it? God, this is obviously You! Or is this one of those times where You are going to really stretch my faith because I'm going to have to totally, rely on You 100%, because we really didn't have that kind of money?' So after praying about it for some time, I just felt this is the building we needed.

I told the gentleman that if this ministry fails, which I don't think it will, I can't afford to maintain a three year lease. But if it explodes, like I think it will, I can't afford to be stuck in that small of a space. He agreed to let us sign a one year contract and he has been a real blessing ever since. Our research showed students won't walk more than two blocks away from campus and God gave us a building one block away!

We are targeting Millikin because we believe (the students there) are the most spiritually lost young adults in the area. We are homing in on the spiritually lost and un-Christian. Our goal is to have half our assembly to be completely unchurched. My goal is to attract people to this ministry, this coffee lounge, that would never step foot into a church service. We also want to reach out to the students at Richland. Really, anyone who is between 18 and 30.

To be honest, my age group, the Mosaics and the Generation Y, are very biased and prejudice against the

church. We are representing that our ministry is a family and so many of them don't see the importance of that right now in their life.

And so our goal is to get them plugged into a ministry where they feel very comfortable, in an atmosphere that's very welcoming, so that after being at Millikin for four years we can disciple that mentality out of them and show them the importance of the local church.

Hopefully, they will see the need to get plugged into a community like that when they return to their own homes or if they decide to join a local church here in Decatur. We have already partnered with churches and ministries in the area, including New Life Pregnancy Center."

As of this writing, Life Foursquare, Harvest Community Church, Heartland Community Church, Rock Springs Church of God, New Life Church of God, and even Arrowsmith Christian Church in Bloomington, have all pledged their support to Matthew's ministry in one form or another.

On the business side of things, Matthew has hooked up with a beverage supplier called Project 7. Project 7 donates up to 50% of their income at the end of the year back to one of seven different areas of need – Feed the Hungry, Heal the Sick, Hope for Peace, House the Homeless, Quench the Thirsty, Teach them Well and Save the Earth.

Matthew pledges that for every case of coffee they go through MosaicID will feed, cloth, and shelter an orphan for a day. He knows they make a much smaller percentage of profit on their coffee but believes the good each cup provides for others is really what it's all about.

The ministry will remain open all year long. While many students from Millikin will leave during the summer months, Matthew also knows that's when many other students who attend college elsewhere return to Decatur.



Matthew and his crew continue to paint, decorate, and furnish the main floor of their location while students are on break.



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“My prayer is that MosaicID will become a cultural part of the community. I’ve produced a promotional video that is available for churches to play to their respective college age ministries which encourages the students to stay connected to their church and to their fellow believers.

Every single young adult that I’ve spoke to, whether they are Christian, non-Christian, in church, out of church, every single one in some way said they were looking for a community of people around their age that believed in God. Even the non-Christian said they wanted somebody like that. They are finding that in parties right now and I believe we’ll be able to provide that kind of support in a very healthy and fun way. We are definitely not going to be boring. You can’t be a boring college ministry!”

Matthew has managed to furnish MosaicID on their limited budget by searching internet auctions such as Craig’s List. They have about half of the furniture they need. Recently, gtChurch graciously donated 100 chairs. Their biggest needs right now include a sound system for the worship team, comfortable chairs for the basement, and speakers for the café.

Matthew is keeping all their records with QuickBooks, but would like to be somewhat removed from the financial record keeping for obvious reasons. So he’s also looking for an accountant and to make sure they are in compliance with all that goes with a 501(c)3.



First time visitors are invited to sign their name on the blue wall in the worship center, reinforcing they are welcome and accepted.

To help generate income, Matthew does a few speaking engagements whenever and wherever he can. He also was offered a position at New Life Pregnancy Center where he works on Mondays and Fridays.

“We’re just doing everything we can to provide that third atmosphere. The reason I saw this need is because I talk to all my friends after they left high school, and if they had any faith at all, they totally walked away from it. They almost think they can come back in five years and there will be no consequences whatsoever, nothing will be changed because God’s grace is going to cover them.

God does extend a lot of grace, even to me, but the five most important years of deciding what you’re going to do with your life, and having absolutely no guidance at all? That’s a scary thought. I’m so excited about what God has in store for MosaicID and the people who will be touched by it. God is opening doors all around us.”

If you would like more information about MosaicID, its mission, or make a donation, you can visit www.mosaicid.com, or send an e-mail to matthew@mosaicid.com.





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