VIEWPOINT

Culture Shock: a challenge to examine our presumptions

By Kasey Carty-Campbell

Where were you last Wednesday at 3 a.m.? I was dripping with sweat after spending two hours dancing at a club in Daytona Beach, talking to a guy with a beer in his hand.

Here come the letters to the editor, I can see them now. But before you start writing fanatically, hear me out.

Three of my friends and I spent Spring Break on a private mission trip to Florida.

A dance club is a community activity to label as a mission field; I will admit that. Before anyone argues that I am simply trying to justify my actions, I want to let the Word speak for itself.

1 Thessalonians 5:17: Pray without ceasing.

We know that the only way that we were able to speak is because of the twenty minutes that we spent in my stuffy car pleading that God would use us to influence lives before we walked into the club.

We prayed that God would protect us and he did. We never left each other’s sight, and we would never have gone in there without the less of four us. The prayer that we engaged in not only protected us physically, but mentally and spiritually, by allowing us to continually check our hearts.

Romans 14:14 - I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean in itself, but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

Only God gave Jen and Mel the boldness to speak of the power of God to Ally from England. God empowered Em to tell Ivan from Denmark that God created the moral order of the world and God gave me words of truth to speak with Jen from England about why I believed in an invisible God only through his spirit.

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Just for the Record

By Scott Bryant

Reality television made a significant jump last season. First, there was “Survivor,” “Temple Island” and “The Mole.” Somewhere in the hype, along came “Making the Band.”

“Making the Band” debuted last summer on ABC and I admit, I had to give it a try.

I watched as Jacob, Trevor, Dan, Erik and Ashley were finally narrowed down into O-Town. (By the way, I got their names from Entertainment Weekly. Under NO circumstances would I know them off-hand.)

Anyway, the nonfabulous five then underwent a series of auditions. We all know how untalented they really were. I believe that birthing cows make a better noise than their so-called harmonies.

During this whole time, I thought to myself, do these guys really think they’ll make it? After that, the group had dance rehearsals. Didn’t do very well with coordination either.

The show went from the auditions to their first performance. Man, how lucky they were to show themselves for the first time... to a middle school. Their publicist did wonders booking that show! Ironically, the uncoordinated, unentertaining O-Town has the song “Liquid Dreams” on the countdown that seems to mock the sounds of LFO. It baffles me that young teenage boys would fanaticize about old broads such as Janet Jackson or Madonna.

O-Town

Earlier this year, WB began airing “Popstars,” a female mimic of “Making the Band.” Open auditions were held in five cities across the country. Blah, blah, blah, now we have Eden’s Crush.

I really believe that “popstars” was the better of the two, although anything’s better than O-Town. (Where did the name O-Town even come from anyway?)

First, there is more talent in these five girls. Nichole’s gospel/pop voice reminds me of Jessica Simpson’s.

Second, the ages of Eden’s Crush are a little older showing more maturity in their work and their attitudes.

In “Making the Band,” we saw five immature boys trying to make millions. Has their kindergarten teacher even taught them how much one million is yet?

Strangely, the WB had more money or a better publicist for Eden’s Crush. Their first performance was in an amphitheater with eager fans lining the streets around.

The group performed many songs from their upcoming CD. They did a good job with their current single “Get Over It.”

I definitely know that O-Town will not last. Their silliness and immaturity will not bring them success. I would advise them to graduate high school first.

Eden’s Crush doesn’t have potential to last for a moment. Although they are opening for N'SYNC this year, I predict them to be a one hit wonder.

I’m not really sure how well they’ll stay together being created from an audition. The Spice Girls were created from an audition and we all saw how well they bonded. How many are left from O-Town?

This challenge the way that they think about the many deceived people around me who didn’t know the Lord Jesus to be Savor and only knew the condemnation of Christians in the world.

I don’t tell you this story to encourage Christians to live lives that are filled with sin. I also realize that we must be careful so that we don’t cause our brothers and sisters to stumble. I do want to encourage students and all Christians to challenge the way that they perceive their mission field in this world.

We are free, only through Christ, to make every door that we walk through an opening for sharing Christ’s love, no matter what our original perceptions of that door may be. Christ came not for the healthy, but for the sick, and many of the sick are found in places that Christians shun to enter. Maybe your field is not a dance club, but look around you to find that place that Christ has designated for you to be a solitary light.

May we be fully convinced in our convictions as Paul says, but may we also be willing to face our fears of being in the world and have the courage to be different in every corner of God’s creation.

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