

# Big Hit in HOUSTON

BY BRIAN HOMMEL

ON MAY 9th, 2009, UPI teamed up with Second Baptist Church in Houston, Texas for a free baseball clinic with the San Diego Padres and the Houston Astros. **Nearly 800 kids participated in the clinic that day!** Mickey Weston and I rounded up the players and they did a wonderful job sharing about their lives and their insight into the game of baseball. Ted Barrett, a Major League Umpire, kicked-off the clinic by sharing his story and gave advice to the kids and parents on how to deal with umpires. He said two important things, respect the umpires and know the rulebook. Too often in life we show a lack of respect to others. After Ted shared, we broke into 5 stations. Lance Berkman (Astros 1B) and Adrian Gonzalez (Padres 1B) taught hitting. **These guys are 2 of the best hitters in all of baseball so kids and parents were locked into what they had to share.** Chris Burke (Padres infielder) and Edgar Gonzalez (Padres infielder and brother of Adrian) taught fielding and shared their lives after the instruction time was over. Both did a great job! Chase Headly (Padres outfielder) shared about how God has put him in a unique position and how he desires to honor God with each opportunity he is given. Nick Hundly (Padres catcher) also shared about his life and how he tries to honor Jesus in everything he does. Russ Ortiz (Astros pitcher) taught along side Mickey on pitching. Russ opened up about his life growing up without a dad and how Jesus has become his Father! Finally, Lance Berkman shared the gospel and really connected with the kids. After Lance laid it out so clearly, I followed up with an invitation and **over 70 kids responded to the message that day.**



Left to right: Adrian Gonzalez, Nick Hundley, Chase Headly, Edgar Gonzalez, Chris Burke (all Padres), Russ Ortiz (Astro), and Brian Hommel.



Lance Berkman (Astros 1B) teaches hitting while Adrian Gonzalez (Padres 1B) watches.

A lot of hard work went into putting on an event like this. Second Baptist did a first rate job of getting the word out as well as setting up the clinic itself and the players donated over 3 hours of their morning to spend time with the kids in the sun sharing with them their knowledge of the game and their love for Jesus. A special thank you to everyone who participated!

I am so excited to be a part of such a neat ministry as the Lord continues to open doors for us to proclaim His Greatness! We won't really know of the impact May 9th, 2009 had until Heaven, but whatever the Lord did that day I was thankful to have a small role in it. **Thanks again for your prayers and for being a part of what we do.**

## Thanks for your prayers and support.

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## CAUGHT BY CHRIST

**P**ADRES CATCHER, NICK HUNDLEY, received this message from an individual who attended the clinic last month in Houston:

"My name is Preston and I have a friend who is a catcher and listened to talk at the clinic about catching. He saw that that night in the game, you did exactly what you told him to do. **He became a Christian the next day because he believed that you acted out what you told him about Jesus."**

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## SCRIPTURE

*"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace."*

–Acts 20:24 NIV

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## July 2009



## Schedule

- July 10-25 .....*Mickey* – Camp of the Woods, NY
- July 12.....*Tom* – Speaking at Sturgeon Bay Community Church
- July 12.....*Hommel* – Chapel – Marlins/D’Backs
- July 17-19 .....*Hommel* – visiting players in Mobile, AL
- July 19 .....*Tim* – Chapel – Mets/Braves
- July 19 .....*Mickey* – Chapel – Orioles/WhiteSox
- July 19-22 .....*Hommel* – visiting players in LA
- July 24.....*Hommel* – Faith Day event in Phoenix with D’Backs and Pirates
- July 26.....*Hommel* – Chapel – Pirates/D’Backs

**A**s you pray for our scheduled events (see above), please remember that each of our staff is involved in discipleship, Bible studies, leading chapels, visiting, writing, etc., throughout the entire year. Please pray for each of them.

## Prayer... Praises

- PRAYER**
- That God would touch the hearts of His people to invest in UPI
  - For an upcoming Father/Son Alumni event in Arizona
  - Wisdom as we (Weston’s) minister to teens and adults at Camp of the Woods
  - Balance between ministry and family time
- PRAISE**
- Great trip to Japan meeting with players and setting up August clinics
  - Bible studies with White Sox wives and players going well
  - First Alumni event in Dallas, TX
  - Safety for staff
  - Another year of opportunity this past June at Hilton Head Week of Champions

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