



We will soon be transitioning to a new ministry!

# serve burlington

know the city. love the city. serve the city.

November 2011

Dear Friends and Family,

We hope the Fall has been a wonderful season for you to embrace the changes of the season. Our family will be going through a time of transition we are excited to tell you about—a change in ministry that brings together many of the things we have been passionate about in our years together in ministry. **Learn more about our switch to Serve Burlington, a local church-related ministry to the at-risk in our area, on page two!** But first, here's a glimpse into our Fall semester at UVM...



Serve Burlington—a new ministry!

## Our Fall Semester...

**Climbing Rocks & Riding Rivers.** We are blessed to live in a place rich with opportunities for experiential learning. This semester, we facilitated experiences with dozens of students who learned about themselves, each other, and their Creator while clinging to boulders, gripping paddles, and tackling trails. A favorite was a rock climbing trip where we challenged students to consider the pressure they put on themselves as it relates to their 'real' and 'ideal' selves. We had each student gather 3 rocks from the woods and tell us what 'ideal' each rock represented. Some said, "I want to get better grades" or "Feel better about my physical appearance" or "Keep up with my sister" or "Please my parents." It was fascinating to see them exchange smaller rocks for bigger ones trying to outdo the other students on the trip—little did they know that these rocks would go into a backpack that they would carry with them as they climbed. One student literally had about 40 pounds of rocks on her back! She was trying to keep up with and surpass the achievements of her sister. She left realizing that this weight of comparison she carries around hinders her in life...keeping her from really knowing who God has created her to be and to thrive as that person.



A rock trip teaches about real vs. ideal

**Cleaning up after Irene.** We led a group of students to Rochester, one of the harder hit cities in VT, to help the local people recover from the hurricane devastation. As we made our way through the city, washed out bridges & roads were only a small clue to the way Irene had turned the lives of each resident inside out. Our work was primarily on one man's home and barn, where we spent hours and hours shoveling mud and loading a dumpster with ruined personal belongings, tore out dry wall & insulation, pulled nails out of trim to be reused, and pressure washed the dirt from salvageable items. The work was back-breaking. It was an honor to serve the community & be Christ's hands and feet to them while, at the same time, a good reminder that Heaven is always the best place to store up our treasures (Luke 12:33).

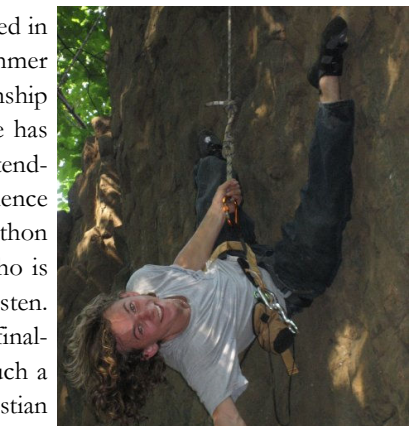


Serving our neighbors after Irene

**Building Relationships for the Kingdom.** One of the things we are always talking with students about is how God wants to bless others through us & show Himself to those around us through our lives. One great example of how relationships are affecting one life is Brian. An Agnostic, he was involved in our ministry last year & decided to come on the Men's Expedition last summer where he started to build closer relationships with guys who had a relationship with Christ. Not yet a believer, but drawn to the Christian community, he has continued to come on trips & attend Lifelines meetings, one of which he attended because one of his former philosophy profs was speaking on his experience with the Christian faith. Throughout the semester he has been having marathon conversations about God and spiritual things with Zach, a new believer who is involved with Lifelines and loves to share his faith with anyone who will listen. In their last conversation, Brian (until then a firm believer in relativism) was finally convinced of the existence of absolute truth (the concept that there is such a thing as an unalterable or permanent fact—a foundational belief to the Christian worldview). When he realized this, he exclaimed, "This changes everything." Indeed it does. Pray that God would continue to open Brian's eyes to the beautiful truth of the Gospel.



Hurricane Irene clean-up team



Brian is convinced of Absolute Truth— & is one step closer to believing the Truth of God.



## Mike & Caryn Bazemore

(NOTE NEW INFO IN RED)

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learn

<http://www.ministryupdates.org/bazemore>  
<http://serveburlington.com/>  
[www.globalservicenet.org/giving/Mike-Bazemore](http://www.globalservicenet.org/giving/Mike-Bazemore)



Hudson's 1st day of school

**CHANGES.** We are excited to announce that as of the new year, we will begin transitioning to a new ministry. *Serve Burlington is a local church-based non-profit committed to promoting the welfare of the city of Burlington by mobilizing volunteers to serve the at risk populations of our community*, including the impoverished, homeless, hungry, and refugee populations. God's heart to serve and reach out to these people has been on our heart throughout our ministry, and we are delighted to play a role in communicating His love and care for them through the voice and serving hands of the Gospel. With our background in international ministry, we were interested to hear that over 5000 refugees have resettled to the area since 1987. Refugees from countries such as Afghanistan, Vietnam, Nepal, Burundi, Somalia, Burma, Congo and Iraq have fled unimaginable situations and persecution of all kinds to start a new life in Burlington... often with only the clothes on their backs. It is an opportunity for overseas missions in our own backyard. **Mike will be serving as the Director of Serve Burlington**, giving leadership to the ministry, helping to build community relations, mobilizing volunteers from churches, campus ministries, and the community at large to serve through programs such as English classes, boys' & girls' groups, move-in crews helping newly-arrived refugees, and other hands-on service to meet the everyday practical and spiritual needs of those in Burlington. We have already had the opportunity to take part in some of the ministry's service projects & hope to continue getting our "hands dirty" alongside volunteers. Learn more at <http://serveburlington.com/>.

We have loved our ministry with Campus Crusade for Christ (through the *JESUS* film and Lifelines) and have so appreciated your faithful support and prayers in it... **we hope you will continue to support our family in this new ministry direction.** We can continue to receive donations through Campus Crusade for the next few months as we make our transition. Beginning in January, you will be able to support us in our new ministry through donations to Global Service Network at [www.globalservicenet.org/giving/Mike-Bazemore](http://www.globalservicenet.org/giving/Mike-Bazemore). All of your donations will continue to be tax-deductible. We hope to talk with you about this transition soon—please let us know if you have any questions.

May you and those you love have many blessings to be thankful for this holiday season.

Serving Jesus with you,  
*the Vermont Bazemores*  
 Mike, Caryn, & Hudson



**Please pray with us...**

- For our students to continue in their journeys to know Christ better and make Him known among their classmates, families, and professors.
- For our student leaders to take to heart our challenges to making the Spiritual Disciplines a regular part of their lives, and to consider whether God is calling them into full time ministry after college.
- For Brian to consider the claims on Christ in light of the existence of absolute Truth.
- *For our ministry transition to Serve Burlington in 2012—that God would continue to provide for us as we seek to serve Him among the needy in our community.*

**Give thanks with us...**

- We've had a busy Fall season of trips (with no injuries!) and lots of student interest in our learning programs and Bible studies.
- Our community of friends is growing deeper, and we both have mentors who have been a blessing to us.
- God has continued to provide for us through supporters like you, who enable us to focus on ministry.
- Hudson is doing well in preschool, & comes home bringing lots of art projects, singing new songs, and saying his Bible verses (often reminding us, "Be kind, one to another" and "A cheerful look brings joy to the heart").

**At a glance... OUR NEW MINISTRY WITH**



**What will NOT change:**

- We'll be helping to build God's Kingdom by reaching out to part of society often unreached by churches & traditional ministries.
- **We need your support**, financially and in prayer, to see lives in Burlington and beyond changed by the Gospel of Christ.

**What WILL change:**

- We will be working with Serve Burlington, a church based non-profit seeking to serve the at-risk populations of Burlington, including an international community of refugees.
- **Beginning 1/1/2012, your tax-deductible giving can be directed to:**  
 Global Service Network (919)249-0146  
 1775 W. Williams St #162, Apex, NC 27523  
[www.globalservicenet.org/giving/Mike-Bazemore](http://www.globalservicenet.org/giving/Mike-Bazemore)  
 Mike & Caryn Bazemore, GSN# 51211001
- For more info: <http://serveburlington.com/>