



Campus Crusade for Christ

Building Spiritual Movements Everywhere



Musings in Ministry

August 8, 2008

Today I sit looking out into the beautifully green Rockies. Just hours ago, the 41 Vail Summer Project students departed and headed to their next assignment – back home, campus, the “real” world. It’s hard to believe that 10 weeks have passed. So much has changed for them and for the Vail Valley.

In fact, I picked up the Vail Daily this morning, flipped to page two, found pictures of our students and an article entitled *Spiritual Summer* by Ruth Moon where she writes: “Putting 41 college students in Vail Condominiums for the summer could sound like a recipe for disaster. With Vail’s reputation as a party destination for college students and recent graduates, you might expect no different from a group of Campus Crusade for Christ students. But for these students, scattering to their homes across the country this week, the summer seemed to produce different results.”

Two days ago, Joe, Christian and I returned to Vail to close the project and discovered firsthand the reality of what this article described. Meeting with our student leaders, we learned of the amazing ways God has moved during these past “staff-less” weeks. Lauren shared, “I really see people now. Before, I’d walk into a room and see a group, now I see the individuals.” Her heart of compassion has grown as her perspective has changed. Jeremy shared, “I just feel free!” Brittany added that one of her favorite aspects of the project was that it was like “real” life – there were ups and downs, yet the choice to walk with Jesus in the midst of it remained.

Samba, a Muslim man from Senegal, worked at Home Depot with several of our students. Recently, his son passed away from heart failure. The students learned of this tragedy and wanted to do something to help him get home to handle his family affairs. They brought the need to the project, to other co-workers at Home Depot and were able to raise \$2,200 for him. Home Depot matched this gift! He was absolutely astonished and continued to share his appreciation for the students that showed such love for him in his time of need.

Ferrell (KU) and Kim (UCONN) were able to bless Simba Run (where we lived in Vail) by designing a mural for the Ski Bus Stop in the parking garage. This venture has been long desired by the management and the girls put their creative heads together and designed a beautiful picture of the four seasons in the Vail Valley. Each student contributed by writing out areas in

their lives where they are broken and in need of Christ on ceramic plates; they then broke them and the plates were used in the Mosaic. The result was an amazing picture of how God turns our brokenness into something beautiful.



Elsewhere, students showed up at Vail Church to help with office tasks, built relationships playing soccer and climbing 14er’s with co-workers and newfound acquaintances in the Valley and even gave money to help a fellow project student report back to campus after seeing necessary financial aide disappear.

The summer has been one of great blessing and growth. These students now carry the lessons they’ve learned, the way they’ve engaged with the Lord and the people they loved with them as they move on. God met these students in significant ways and I really believe our world will be different as a result.

For me, the summer was tremendous. I have loved the time to reconnect with students in this way. I now look fully ahead to those lingering projects in our regional headquarters in Boston. I appreciate your prayers as I don’t see much room for slowing down any time soon. I desperately need rest and to engage with the Lord in the coming weeks. My return trip to Vail has reminded me that I need to listen to the Lord and walk in light of what He would desire for me to do that moment, that day. I wonder what the next few weeks hold for you. I do pray that the Lord meets you, challenges and grows you as the grace and truth of the Gospel infiltrate your daily life.

Thank you for partnering with me so that **every student** can know someone who truly follows **Jesus!**

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