



Campus Crusade for Christ

Building Spiritual Movements Everywhere



Musings in Ministry

May 31, 2009

“Sabbatical”: a rest from work, a hiatus. As I’ve shared before, it is quite a challenge for me to rest. While on project in Vail in 2007, I took an assessment put out by the Gallup people called *StrengthsFinder* and discovered that among my top five themes are Activator and Achiever. Essentially, I like to get things done, have a to-do list on my mind as soon as I wake and feel discouraged if I don’t make forward progress. (If you’re curious, see www.strengthsfinder.com for more details.) When I learned this information, I actually felt encouraged. No wonder I often experienced dissatisfaction with my days – this, for me, was normal!

Consequently, at times my sabbatical felt like work. Don’t get me wrong; I thoroughly enjoyed my time away from the office, the adventure that my travels provided and time with the Lord, friends and family (even if it wasn’t always pretty). It just took some space for me to uncover what to do with myself – and more so, how to process life without all of the busyness. I am grateful that the Lord understands me better than I do. I think the largest lesson I have walked away with is that God loves me exactly where I’m at regardless of my own expectations and failures. Thank you for your prayers and encouraging notes! I rested.

BIG NEWS! In light of the work God has been doing in my life this year, I have recognized a significant need for a change, and in August I will move to Orlando, Florida, to work at CCC’s World Headquarters (called Lake Hart) for 11 months. I have been accepted into a program called Lake Hart Stint which is focused on developing senior staff members who are in transition by providing a platform for greater fruitfulness in ministry in the future.

The program is truly a blessing to me at this time! I will meet regularly with a staff coach and rub shoulders with our national leadership while meeting a critical need in our Human Resource Connection Department (aka HRX). Focused on recruiting for Campus Crusade for Christ International, I will help connect men and women in the United States with opportunities to serve with one of the many CCCI ministries worldwide. While this is a bit of a departure from my full-time work focused on university students, I will still be able to have an influence in my short-term role as I engage with students regarding where God might lead them to serve with Campus Crusade and utilize my operational skills to leverage the work of this department.

As is often the case, change, even good change, is hard because with it comes loss. I’m reminded of this as I write to you today from my living room, in the apartment that has become home and a place that I love. My intention is to return to Boston and I remain open to whatever God desires. For now, I am both sad to leave and excited for what is ahead – trusting the Lord with it all! **I am so grateful for your prayers and support as I make this leap!**

SUMMER! I am already missing being with our staff and students in Vail this summer, but will still be able to spend almost four weeks in Colorado. Our bi-annual National Staff Conference returns to CSU in Fort Collins in July and I will head there on July 5th to take two seminary classes prior to the conference. I’m looking forward to this time to connect with the Lord and fellow staff members through my studies and our conference. It’ll be a great time to hear what God is doing globally through our ministry and our 27,000+ staff members worldwide! Colorado Friends: I’m hoping to spend at least a day or two in Franktown/Parker area during this trip and will let you know when that will be. If you’re in the N. CO area, I’d love to connect – send me an email.

WEBSITE! Whew, this is a lot of information today... I have recently decided to move my ministry website to a more user friendly site. You can now find ministry information and updates, prayer requests, blog entries and more at: <http://jbottccc.blogspot.com>. Hope to see you there sometime soon! ☺

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

Jessica Bott, Ten Milk Street, Suite 320, Boston, MA 02108 (office)

Office: 617.338.4033, ext. 20; Cell: 781.570.9110

jessica.bott@uscm.org; <http://jbottccc.blogspot.com>