



Campus Crusade for Christ

Building Spiritual Movements Everywhere



Musings in Ministry

July 14, 2008

Get Out. When 41 college students from around the United States arrived in Vail, Colorado, on May 31st, this is exactly what we told them to do. Get Out: of your comfort zone, into the community, into the lives of people, and then more literally, get outside! If you have ever visited Vail, you understand the beauty and majesty of the place. This summer, we asked God to meet these students and our staff team in significant ways. Our desire was for him to transform our hearts (not simply modify our behavior) as the Gospel penetrated deeply into every aspect of our lives.

The staff recently left Vail while the students remained. They are now trusting God together to see him move in the Vail Valley, in the hearts of their co-workers and in their own spiritual lives. Each student has found a summer job and seeks to share the love of God through Christ with those that they meet. Plus, they are continuing to meet together to study the Bible (the Book of John), share prayer requests and ask God to surface and show them tangible ways to provide for the needs of those they come in contact with at work or in the community. They are also well connected at our partnership church: The Vail Church in Avon.

In addition to my directing responsibilities this summer, I had the opportunity to invest in a group of students weekly. While this change in our structure added some complexity to my schedule, I was blessed to connect more deeply with these students. A highlight every week was our "Family Group." On Mondays, a staff couple (Matt & Liz) and I pulled dinner together and spent time caring for the students in our family. We'd ask them to share Fresh Bread for the week – i.e. How is God showing up? What is He doing in and through you this week?

There were sweet moments over the weeks as students in our group shared. Lauren was able to connect with her co-worker, Carolyn. Jared and Seth were excited about the interest shown by Tommy – he was attracted to our community and even attended part of the Men's Weekend, bringing his roommate along. Kristine struggled with the reality that many people at her workplace spoke another language and wondered how God might surface opportunities for her to care for them in a unique way.

Grace sought to trust God to enable her to forgive. Leah had a wonderful chance to share more about her love for Christ with her family.



Liz and I are pictured here at Piney Lake with the women in our Family Group.

These snippets encourage me tremendously as I remember how loving and faithful God is to accomplish his work in the lives of people. We must simply listen and obey. Our hope for these students is that they would do just that. We want them to be tuned in to HIS voice so that they might faithfully walk with him in Vail, back on campus in the fall, after graduation and beyond. My prayer is that they will be Kingdom builders as they mature, experiencing God's love for them in Christ. After all, it's from the foundation of his love for us that frees us from sin, our insecurities, and fear and enables us to move forward in faith.

Would you, even now, take a moment and pray with me for these 41 students and for the Vail Valley? It is exciting to see God's work in and through their lives, and these final four weeks in Vail will be significant. I will return there in early August with my co-directors, Joe and Christian, to wrap things up with the students. I can't wait to see how God will answer our prayers and exceeds our expectations!

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

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