

December 16, 2008

Dear «Greeting»,

It's mid-December; Bob (my co-director in Leadership Development) and I are thinking about summer. Not because of the ice storm that left many of us in New Hampshire without power for days, but because this week we are working on summer assignments for staff in our region.

In my summers on staff I have been on 15 US Summer Projects, been overseas five summers, have taken Bible classes, worked on writing small group materials and more. Summer assignments are important for multiple reasons.

An obvious reason they are so important is because of the ministry that is done on summer projects in the US and around the world. People come to know Jesus. Just 3 weeks ago, I received a call from one my friends in Wildwood. He has been one of our landlords for nearly ten years and called to touch base since we hadn't talked since my return from France.

One of the things he wanted to tell me about was about one of the women he knows from work. She had come to Wildwood eight or nine years ago when he first bought the boarding house. One of us talked to her about knowing God and gave her the Four Spiritual Laws. Four or five years later, she was going through a rough time and came across the booklet. She read it and became a Christian. Now a few years later, she ran into my friend again at work and told him all about it. She said to him, "That booklet changed my life." He wanted to make sure I knew that. She is just one example of the millions of people around the world who have come to Christ because of one of our summer projects. **Not only do people come to Christ, but God uses summer projects to pioneer ministries all over the world. They are a key part in opening ministries where we then send short term and long term teams till eventually national staff are raised up to take over.**

Projects and the Institute of Biblical Studies provide great opportunities for our staff to grow. Being developed in the summers is an important part of them being equipped for their work on campus.

Another benefit to summer assignments is being able to take students with us. God uses this to deepen their faith, give them more experience in ministry, develop leadership skills and it increases the number of people hearing about Christ every summer through them. **In the next month, please pray for students to decide to join our staff in going on US and overseas summer projects.**

Please pray for me and Bob as we continue to place our staff on their summer assignments. The opportunities are great – we just need to choose the right ones for people at the right time in their development.

Grateful for electricity,



I heard the branches fall in the middle of the night. Workers have been out since Thursday night dealing with tree limbs and downed power lines.

My neighbor Tim's idea for a way to get water not used for drinking.



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