



Photo at our staff conference a few years ago.

October 26, 2012

Dear Friends,

Every autumn our staff gather at Camp of the Woods in upstate New York for our regional staff conference. It is an important time for those of us on the regional team to lead and care for our staff. It comes a few days before Thanksgiving when they are exhausted from the fall push on campus so one goal for our time is that they get to rest and meet with the Lord. As this is the only time we have all our staff together all year, we always have some vision, information, and development parts in the program. Of course for most of us, a highlight is time with friends, late night card games, and conversations over meals that someone else prepared.

Our theme for this years conference comes from 2 Samuel 5:17-21. The Philistines come to fight against David once he is named king over all Israel. God gives the victory to David, who then says, "The Lord has broken through my enemies before me like the breakthrough of waters." He goes on to name that place, "Baal-perazim;" which means "master of breakthroughs." Indeed God is the One who breaks through a situation and accomplishes His purposes.

We toil in places where so many have turned their backs on God, indifference or antagonism are the norm. We face administrative obstacles, skepticism, and hard hearts. It is God that must breakthrough their minds and their hearts to be open to the gospel and also to move believers to love God and love others. My hope and desire is that the staff leave cared for, encouraged, and hopeful for the places we are seeking breakthroughs.

Please pray for me and our Leadership Development team, too. We often spend every meal and bit of free time going from conversation to conversation listening, asking questions, caring for our staff and interns. We need God to give us wisdom, discernment, and care in each conversation. The care we give our staff makes a difference to them, as well as helps them have a more effective ministry reaching students and faculty.

Thank you for partnering with me; I couldn't be here without you!

Liz