



Campus Crusade for
Christ

Lifelines

*Using the outdoors to build
Christ-centered laborers*



June-July 2011

The Harvester



Prayer

I tell our kids that prayer is just talking to God. But, really, what nerve we have - and what a privilege it is to do so!

August 15 is our campus start-up date. Freshmen arrive on the 26th and we have a host of activities already scheduled (see www.lifelinesvt.com.) Please pray for our team to depend on Christ and be filled with his Spirit in planning and pursuing students. Pray for incoming and returning students to draw near to Him and to seek Truth.

Step Right Up, Gentlemen

Their chests rattled as thunder crashed around them and the trail became a river within minutes. "Spread out!" Dan yelled through the downpour. The 8 students and 3 staff men waited and prayed their way through God's display of power. They were on a 24-hour hike and a decision had to be made. Should they press on or hit the valley and hike 6 hours out? It was a men's 10-day expedition focused on building leadership and Christ-like character. These types of decisions and experiences helped turn the men toward God and learn responsibility for themselves and others. Reject passivity, accept responsibility, lead courageously, and look forward to the heavenly reward... this definition of manhood was at the top of the list when we asked the guys what they learned. "I have been way too passive," John admitted, "I want to step up." John graduated the week before the trip and will have plenty of opportunities to use his wilderness lessons in the real world. We pray that God will use these Christian men, and others they influence, as spiritual leaders on and beyond the universities they attend.

Some of the UVM Lifelines team...



Cru?!

This summer at our national conference, Campus Crusade for Christ's leadership announced that, after tremendous prayer and deliberation, the ministry will be changing its name to Cru.

Although it will take us a long time to get used to the name change, we believe it is a good move, especially for those of us ministering in the northeast where the average non-believer hears "Crusade" and "Christ" as a double threat. If we are to win the hearts of the lost to Christ then we must be heard; when our title drives people away before they hear the message then it hinders the gospel.

We know that our leaders are as committed as ever to Christ, His Word, and the Great Commission, as are we! If you have any questions about the name change, please call us!

Dangling from the Clutches of Christ

To sum up the summer, it has been about trusting God. I, Heather, took four accelerated seminary classes through Crusade's leadership school, great exercise for my long rested brain. I discovered that a lot of what I have been teaching students has become routine and I do it in my own power. Classes taught me to rely on Christ again and just totally rejuvenated my passion for Him and for His Word, refreshment I really needed.

At the same time, we had a number of meetings with Crusade's national directors about how Lifelines fit into the campus ministry structure. The meetings were discouraging; we felt misunderstood, and it seemed that our Lifelines team was the only one with any vision for outdoor ministry. Yet in His sovereignty, God was at the same time creating amazing opportunities for Lifelines. We were highlighted within CCC during the national conference, via a live interview before 6,000 staff. Next, two of our staff guys repelled into the audience and we lowered the emcees to the stage on a repel line while they wore Lifelines T-shirts and lauded Lifelines to the crowd! Miraculous! Valor, (CCC's military ministry,) Nations (Native American ministry) and Bridges (Crusades ministry to internationals) each asked us to run an expedition for their students next summer. And Ashley Denton, author of "Outdoor Christian Leadership," addressed our Lifelines staff concerning the theology of outdoor ministry and how Jesus used experiential learning as his primary teaching tool - a message we were thirsty for.

In the end, God changed the hearts of our national leaders, and we came to some accord with plans for future brainstorming together. Although we experienced much fruit this summer, God graciously humbled us in the process, reminding us that all good things are from His hand. We learned this lesson again on the long trip home when our transmission died in Indianapolis, forcing us to sell the van... and when we walked into our house in Vermont with a flooded basement. As a result we have a new (used) truck, which we used to haul our drowned belongings to the dump, helping us to minimize! ☺ Thanks be to God.