

Dear Partner,

Sleeping on a floor with a bunch of students is no longer very appealing. But each year, I [Scott] gladly seize the opportunity on various occasions because I love the opportunity to prepare student and staff want-to-be leaders for ministry.

This last weekend I did it again with about 80 leaders from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and UW-Whitewater for our annual Leadership Advance. I wish you could have been there to rub shoulders with these enthusiastic university students. They're willing to work so hard to be used in other people's lives. In a little over a week, they will be interacting with students in dorm rooms and all over campus to welcome new students, talk about a relationship with Jesus, and invite them to the Bible studies, socials, and large group meetings they're planning. I'm honored to have the ability to help coach them in ministry and their own walks with God.

We know that the first week of school, new students will be meeting their life-long friends and forming habits that will mark their life-styles. For those who don't know Christ, this is the last great window to steer them to Christ. And we want to stand with the Christian parents who are scared because they've heard that upward of 80% of students from Christian youth groups don't walk with Christ as they enter college.

More than ever before, we are convinced of the need and strategic nature of our ministry. That's why we are intentional. That's why we strategize. That's why we call out for God's strength and understanding. So, too, that's why we are ever grateful for your generosity. We need to be freed up to work hard and be present in these students' lives. Without you, we couldn't do it. If you could see what God is doing in the lives of our students firsthand, I'm convinced you'd be even more exhilarated and encouraged.

Along with this letter we have included some of our prayer requests. As we walk in celebration and optimism, we realize there is a fierce battle on campus. We step out knowing that "unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1).

Always grateful for you,





### We're expecting again!

Surprised. Scared. Amazed. Sick. Blessed.

That's how we've felt as we've welcomed the thought of adding to our family. For weeks Bonnie has felt the fluttering of this active child, which has helped give her hope during the difficult morning sickness. We've both been amazed by the awesome ultrasound pictures and gratefully anticipate the February due date.

Please pray for us. This summer has proved more difficult in life and ministry as Bonnie has struggled at times to stay hydrated and get the sleep and food she needs. I don't know how single parents manage. As we head into the busiest couple months of the year, we're hoping the morning sickness subsides for health's sake and so we are both undistracted and able to focus on the staff and students under our care.

We welcome your prayers for us as parents. It is often the most challenging and fulfilling job we have.

### **Grace for Burundi Sorcerer**

Some time ago I (Bonnie) wrote about my involve- grace and mercy and His power to transform us from the

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ment with internet outreach through Campus Crusade for Christ's Global Media Outreach. You may recall that I have been assigned to respond to French speakers who submit questions from various parts of the world.

A highlight has been corresponding with a sorcerer in the Burundi army (who knew?). He had seen the presentation of the gospel online, but had many questions. The most striking was, "How can God forgive me when I have killed so many people?"

That was the first time I've had to answer *that* question, though not a difficult one. We all need God's

mercy and His power to transform us from the inside out! After corresponding here and there for several months, he has placed his faith in Christ! I'm not sure how this will affect his career choice, but there is now a sorcerer in the Burundi army in the Kingdom of God, growing and learning how to share his faith with others.

The Lord is really helping me with my French, and through this ministry I've been able to share Christ and help disciple over 600 people around the world from the comfort of my own home and on a flexible timeframe that fits my

schedule! Many of them live in countries that are "closed" to the Gospel. It's exciting each day to log in to the site and wonder who I can help point to Jesus today!

### **Students In Their Own Words:**

#### Brenna:

Moving to Madison from California was a huge change for me and my first priority was finding friends. I quickly felt overwhelmed. Every connection I made felt hollow, and I found myself thinking, "Is this it? Is this what college is going to be like for me?" I was simply worn out and desperate, wondering if I would ever form authentic relationships. In the midst of this tension, a girl named Lauren asked me to do a survey in front of my cafeteria. Lauren invited me to a CCC softball game and cookout. I remember feeling comfortable, and in turn, relieved. The next week, I went to Primetime and I heard for the first time that I could have a personal relationship with God. I knew what sin was, but I didn't know that my sin separate me from God. I learned that accepting Christ as my personal savior bridged that gap

between a sinful life and a life filled with God's love. I made the choice to accept Jesus Christ at Primetime that night, and prayed to invite him into my life to take control. Since then, I have truly felt like a kid in the candy store. I love sharing my faith, and I love learning about the Lord. Through Crusade, I have built relationships that I didn't have to seek out on an artificial basis, but relationships that formed naturally based on similar interests and common ground. God has transformed my life according to his will and I have never experienced anything so fulfilling.

#### <u>Sam:</u>

I had never thought about the world before my freshman year of college. I had read some of the Bible but I viewed it as a means of personal holiness rather than as an incredible, reckless, universal message of love. Freshman year, I met a group of senior men who seriously challenged the way I viewed ministry and the way I viewed my walk with God, expanding my vision beyond my own immediate future and opening my eyes to a world of lost and desperate people. That summer, I decided to go to the Middle East with CCC, and that trip changed my life. Overseas, I met men and women just like myself—people searching for meaning and purpose. I realized that without Jesus, my

friends there and millions like them would never experience true freedom and fulfillment in their lives. There, on the other side of the world, I finally understood what Jesus meant when he said that "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." When I returned to the U.S., I returned with a greatly expanded view of the world, and for the first time, I began to care more about them than myself. Today, I am planning on STINTing in the country I visited, and though the thought of leaving my family and my life here for a year scares me, I can honestly say that Jesus Christ and His calling are worth it.

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A couple weeks ago at our Madison area staff planning retreat, Jacquie, one of our most experienced staff members, likened the start of a school year to a moving train we reach out to grab with one hand, trying just to hang on! Tempowise, August enters like a lamb and exits like a lion. So please pray!

- Pray for Bonnie's and the baby's health. Pray that Bonnie will be in good enough health to lead her Bible study women well.
- Pray for us that we seek after and rely on the Lord.
- Pray for the incoming students to have soft hearts to respond to the Lord and for us to faithfully and clearly explain the gospel to students.
- Pray for our recent graduates who are embarking on year-long "STINT"s and have or will be flying overseas soon to work with college students abroad.
- Pray for our student leaders of the various movements targeting international students, ethnic students, athletes, and various pockets on campus in Madison, Whitewater, and Platteville.
- Pray that we lead the staff and student leaders to run these movements well.

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## Please pray for some of these important events:

Aug 28: Pray for newly-arriving international students to connect to Christians during the multi-ministry outreach *Tour of Madison* as community people drive them around town.

Aug 29: Big (non-alcoholic) house party

**Aug 31:** Our Primetime band performs outside on UW Library Mall as we try to connect with new students.

**Sept 1-2:** Pray for good weather and for 3500+ freshmen to fill out a spiritual interest survey at UW Convocation, at cafeterias, and at tables around campus. The majority of our spiritual conversations in the fall come from students who express spiritual interest on one of these contact cards.

Sept 2: First Primetime weekly meeting

**Sept 18:** International student hayride and farm picnic

**Sept 27:** Student Venture Outreach at Verona High featuring some of our UW athletes and VHS teacher

Oct 22-24: UW-Madison Fall Retreat

**Nov 2, 3, 4:** "Jesus without Religion" outreaches at UW- Whitewater, Platteville, Madison.

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