



Dear Friend,

Amidst the hard work, excitement and chaos of preparing hundreds of students for the new school year, we were hit with the news two weeks ago that one of the student directors from our North Myrtle Beach summer project was killed in a car accident.



Sean Schoonmaker

June 2, 1992 - Aug 24, 2012

Sean was one of four students entrusted to direct the other 90 students this summer for the five weeks after all the staff left. During this time, I enjoyed our phone and video coaching calls, talking through leadership challenges, his devotional life, and celebrating what the Lord was doing. Sean was full of life and laughter, while so serious about connecting others to Jesus. His passion was to share the gospel with the lost, whether with a stranger on the beach or with a relative at home. During the summer, he taught of his indescribable God and the sacrificial love of his Savior. Sean was bursting with conviction and potential and we were excited to see how God was going to use his speaking and teaching gifts in the years to come. Already this year he was set to be the men's ministry leader at UW-Lacrosse.

Yet, twenty days after project ended, his life here came to an end.

I regularly point out to students that life is a mist, and will depart fast, whether they die this year or squeeze out another seventy. Almost always, though, they have a lot more time. But in this case, Sean didn't.

Last weekend, scores of students and staff were reunited to grieve and celebrate at Sean's memorial. After the visitation, we were able to pull away for a special gathering of our summer project to share the moment and process together. We shared stories testifying to Sean's convictions and impact while sharing our loss and our love for one another. Even in the midst of a room full of tears and song, we were able to stand fast on the hope of Heaven and everlasting life in Christ.

The memorial service the following day was incredible as people stood before a packed sanctuary and shared about Sean's faith and a life well lived. Sean's father described a life transformed during the last three years since he came to faith. Sean's unbelieving uncle fondly talked about how Sean respectfully, yet boldly, talked to him about his faith. Sean's discipler on campus followed this up by affirming his sincere love for this uncle and others who didn't yet know Christ, explaining how Sean would pray for them. The stories of Sean's impact was only stopped because of time constraints.

Despite questions of why Sean's life ended so soon, having a knowledge that Sean's final years were well lived, and the assurance of his salvation in Christ has been of great comfort to those who knew him. Even though Sean's life was cut short, his impact continues to ripple outward.

Already I have heard of one story of a friend who played hockey with Sean coming to Christ as the

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following the memorial. This week Sean's life and faith were featured at a Cru meeting in La-Crosse, where 80 people from a crowd of 500 expressed decisions to follow Christ. Who knows what other fruit is being produce.

These events surrounding Sean's life have been some of the most powerful reminders to "fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal... (2 Corinthians 4:18)"

Thank you for praying for us and supporting us as we shepherd students through trials and teach them to live their lives for what is eternal.

Scott & Bonnie Roe

P.S. To the right you can read a revealing entry from Sean's personal journal that he wrote this summer while on project.

5/31/12
Luke 18:17, "Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." Receive the kingdom with child-like faith. Not foolish faith, but a faith that trusts fully even if we don't fully understand God and His ways and character and existence. Receive the kingdom with child-like trust. As a child completely and fully trusts their parents with their life, we must do so with God. We may not fully understand His plans and His will, but we can and must trust that the Lord has promised He will work all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. Praise Him!

Please pray for Sean's family and his girlfriend. While they have demonstrated tremendous strength, I can't imagine the pain and loss they must be experiencing.

Please pray as we our kicking off first meetings, new Bible studies, and sharing our faith with as many people as we can on campuses in Whitewater, Platteville, and Madison, Wisconsin. Ask God to be bear lasting fruit through the staff, students, and volunteers as they spend themselves for the Gospel.

Pray for wisdom in coaching staff to lead movements amongst ethnic students, high school students, and other groups with which we are not naturally connected. Pray that God raises up capable godly leaders within these groups to expand our outreach.



We're off to a good start. Last night, 701 people attended our meeting at University of Wisconsin-Madison.