



Retreat...To Advance

Campus Outreach Minneapolis
Spring 2010 Quarterly Newsletter

From Our Director, Ken Currie



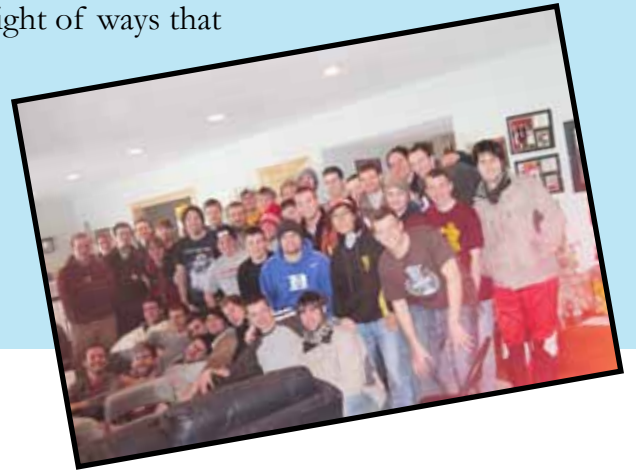
Jesus gave his church marching orders in Matt. 28:18–20. The church is to be about the business of making disciples. All resources; people, time, money, plans, etc. must be given to this end. One of the temptations that established churches and ministries face is to maintain the status quo. The stark realities of suffering, death, heaven and hell do not leave room for coasting. The apostle Paul gives us the template when he says, “For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe” (1 Tim. 4:10). Christians know that they are already forgiven and righteous in God’s sight. Through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the work of gaining God’s acceptance is finished. Now the church moves out with God’s favor to accomplish God’s mission by God’s grace. Most churches and Christian ministries have retreats. In this update, you will read reports of several Campus Outreach Minneapolis retreats. There is an opportunity and a danger in “retreating.” The danger is that retreats can become routine. The goal of the retreat can become obscured in the planning and executing of details, the focus of recruiting, and ideas like, “we always have a retreat in the spring.” Like any other program, sometimes retreats can become an end and not a means to an end. The opportunity in taking retreats is the chance to focus on God, strengthen relationships within the body of Christ, and give unbelievers an “inside look” at the gospel.

Our leadership continues to evaluate every program in light of our vision of “building laborers on the campus for the lost world.” So, our aim in having retreats is ultimately to advance. We aim to advance worship for the name above every name in the hearts and minds of our staff and students, to advance vision for students on our campuses, to advance vision for the lost peoples of the world, to advance understanding of God’s Word and its relevance for all areas of life, and to advance relationships built around love, truth and accountability. We have found that taking a group of students to a place that is out of the regular mainstream of the campus with time for worship, teaching, sharing, prayer and free time yields fruit as students step back and consider the most important themes of life. We hope that our students experience what the apostle Paul said of his disciple Titus, namely, that he had been refreshed by his fellowship with the Corinthians.

As always, our staff team and I are deeply grateful for the investment of our supporters through prayer and financial giving to this ministry. May you be refreshed in the presence of the Lord this spring!

U of M Men's Retreat

Around 50 guys from the U of M piled into a basement and it was a Man Retreat! Our goal was to help connect our students relationally and also teach them that Jesus is the only perfect man to ever live. We watched a video clip that illustrated the two extremes that exist in men: chauvinism and cowardice. We looked at the ways men fail to look to Christ as our example and dialogued over the night of ways that we fall into both extremes. We also went snowmobiling, played snow football, and enjoyed the large spread of food. After the retreat, many guys asked if we could have another retreat and wished it would have been longer!



U of M Women's Retreat

We spent the weekend talking about the idea "More." Many of the women who came were investigating Christianity for the first time, and a lot of new relationships were built! Our talks and discussions included the reality that even as young girls, we've had endless cravings and longings. Yet, no matter how much we have going for us, nothing seems to hit the spot. Many women were vulnerable in sharing things that they often believe they have to have: a better looking body, a relationship, more money, a car, etc. to be happy in life, but these things will never ultimately satisfy us. We encouraged our students that Christ alone offers real inner joy, real purpose, and real satisfaction. Jesus delights to satisfy our deep desires and does not want us to settle for less.

Bethel Northwestern Retreat

This winter 100 students from Bethel and Northwestern attended the Winter Retreat at Camp Shamineau. We had fun snow tubing, playing broomball and dodgeball, and hung out around a bonfire. Besides good, old-fashioned fun, students delved into the Word of God and strengthened their understanding of the Word. The teaching honed in on common misconceptions about the Gospel, discovering a purpose-driven focus in college,



what spiritual growth looks like, and what it means to be a man or woman of God. Retreats are priceless times for students to recharge and refocus on God's Truth instead of cultural lies that so easily deceive us all. Praise God for a powerful weekend!

Pray with us...

1. That God would continue to work in the lives of all of the students that came to our retreats this past semester.
2. For the 120 students coming to our Summer Training Project (STP), that their lives would be radically transformed by the gospel this summer.
3. That God would provide 120 jobs for the students coming to STP.
4. That all of the students involved in our ministry would walk with God and give their lives away to others for the rest of their lives.

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