

July 31, 2014

Dear friends and partners,



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"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." <u>Ephesians 2:10</u>

Earlier this week, Michelle and I had the opportunity to converse with a few college co-eds who were visiting Lydia. It is exciting to know that the Lord has given her meaningful relationships with other young women of like heart. On the modern campus, there is no substitute for having good friends who are choosing to walk the "path of Jesus" for their lives!

During our discussion, one of the young ladies, a Senior, shared her concerns and questions about God's vocational calling on her life and what she should do (pursue) upon graduation. It seemed that she was conflicted between pursuing her long term goal of being a high school teacher or perhaps working with the campus ministry she is involved in. I believe the Lord used our brief, but meaningful conversation to encourage her from our personal experiences, study and years of discussions with other students on this important aspect of life. We affirmed that she is a **"minister" [servant of Christ and others]** now and that she is "on the right track" by <u>wanting to do God's will</u>. Moreover, that He would make His plans clearly known to her as she continues to pray, seek His counsel and better understands her gifting and desires. Later, I was able to email her and the others some teaching documents (Biblical principles) I've developed to assist young people in making wise choices in various areas of their lives. It's always exciting to be able to do "campus ministry" at home without having to commute 70 miles to and from the campus!

This recent encounter illustrates a simple, but clear reality. Young people (Christian and non Christian), <u>desire and</u> <u>need input from "older</u>" people (parents, mentors, teachers, coaches) to help <u>them make better and wiser choices</u> concerning life issues. Moreover, <u>if we will take time to listen to their needs and build the "bridge" of a caring relationship</u>, they will respond to Jesus and His truths over time. <u>Dr. Barry St. Clair</u>, a veteran teen and student ministry leader states, **"Students yearn for someone to love and accept them. If they sense you do, they will allow you to share the message of Christ. You will have created an atmosphere of openness...Only when they know that you care about their needs will they listen to your solutions." (***Penetrating the Campus***, p. 120-121) So, <u>be open to opportunities</u> that arise in your sphere of influence to invest some time and wisdom in young people. You won't regret it and will be making an eternal impact in their life!**

In closing, I want to share an encouraging note I received from a recent GT graduate and friend. The Lord is raising up this young brother to be a leader for Christ in the marketplace. <u>Please pray for him</u> as he now lives and works in another state.

"Thank you for your encouragement while at GT. It was truly a huge blessing. As you know, there aren't many at GT who seek the Lord, let alone called to some of the more mysterious things of God...The enemy often came at me with feelings of loneliness. But, because of your knowledge in those things, being grounded in wisdom and fear of the Lord, you ministered to me just by taking the time to speak with me. If I have one request from you, which I believe you already do and will continue to do whether I ask it or not, is that you keep an eye out for those Christians who God has called to something (especially of the more mysterious things) and are being obedient even though it is hard...The grace God has given you in what He's taught and revealed to you is unique and a great help." Billy B., B.S. Chemical Engineering '14

Have a great month and know that we greatly appreciate and need your <u>prayer</u> and <u>financial support</u>. Our **partnership** in the campus mission is <u>changing the world one life at a time</u>! **THANKS**!

Your campus missionaries, Bart, Michelle & the Jones kids

+++ Transforming the world by reaching students with the Gospel of Jesus Christ +++



Its that time of the year...





Jacob "football" happy with Buddy

The Summer school break is drawing to an end and football practice has begun, so "life" is changing in our household. Lydia will be heading back to NC State in about 10 days. We will greatly miss her but know the Lord has her at NC State for His purposes!

This past weekend, Jacob and I attended a great youth football clinic, *Kids and Pros* (www.kidsandpros.com) lead by former Atlanta Falcons player, Buddy Curry. Buddy is a strong Christian and uses his passion for football to teach fun and safe football techniques to kids as well as character and life principles that will help them off the field. Praise God for using athletes like him to impact young people!