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FALL 2005 REPORT



SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.

by Carmal Miller,
SEND Training Center Director

We are preparing the patient in room 5221 for emergency surgery. I am positioned at the head of the bed with a suction tube like those used in the dentist's office. When the patient was admitted, she was burping up dark brown bile, but suddenly, this has escalated into intense projectile vomiting. First of all, it is hard to catch projectile vomit when the patient is with it cognitively. It is like trying to catch the forceful expulsion of water from a fire truck's hose with a five gallon bucket—you catch some, but a lot sprays and splashes outside the bucket. This patient is overcome by pain and is sure she is dying. She is nearly out of her mind, thrashing about as if that could save her life.

Two nurses, the surgeon, the patient's husband and I are in the room. The surgeon furiously scribbles orders in the chart. Nurse One furtively works to insert a second IV catheter while Nurse Two fights to keep the patient's arm in position. The husband is in shock. He should not be in the room, seeing his wife in this condition, but everyone is too occupied to escort him out.

I man the little pink wash basin, using it as if it was a softball glove and I was trying to catch a fly ball. None of us have taken any safety precautions except for latex gloves. No gowns or face shields. When this all began there was no reason to think we would need them. Now it is like we are in a paint ball war zone, dodging and ducking in order to avoid getting plastered with vomit. This little lady's adrenaline has taken over. Though she weighs not much over 100 pounds, we can hardly hold her down. Somehow the first IV line gets pulled out and blood squirts everywhere as the woman flails her arm. Now we've added blood to the paint ball war.

All the while, there I am in my white scrubs playing catch with a little pink wash basin. Around this same time, we had a patient diagnosed with tuberculosis or some other very infectious disease in room 5214. Before entering that room, we don our gowns, masks, and gloves. This particular room's ventilation system has no air return so that the contaminated air does not spread. We know the risk. We take safety precautions—gowns, gloves, masks, the whole works. Then we enter the room confidently and administer care. We can take our time, because we know we are protected against the deadly virus.

As Christians, we are called to live pure and holy lives while at the same time ministering to a sin-infested world. Our lives are to be clean like white scrubs. Those who do not know Christ have a deadly, infectious disease. When ministering to them, we need to need to adhere to all the safety precautions. We need full protective gear. We must not let our lives become contaminated or spread germs to others. Does that mean we completely avoid those with the infectious disease called sin—those without Christ? No! We are specialists with the cure for their disease. We must put on the spiritual armor and the mind of Christ and then jump in and get dirty. That is what it means to be in the world but not of it.

By taking protective measures, you can interact with a disease-ridden person with a confidence not based on your body's resistance but based on your "armor." For example, here at the SEND House in Columbus, Ohio, we are surrounded by the infectious disease of sin. Prostitution is way, way too close for comfort and the house was robbed recently. Our gay neighbors are outraged, but theirs is a personal rights issue—not a desire to see God's kingdom come to our neighborhood. Now, in our response to prostitution and thievery on 17th Street, friendships and a sense of community are being built. Our responses to violations show Christ to our neighbors, however imperfectly. It must seem absurd to pray for a thief, to minister to prostitutes. To some it may seem crazy to love our gay neighbors—but we need them and they need us. Mostly we all need Christ.

Perhaps you are ministering to someone who already knows Christ but is still struggling. They have come to you as the specialist for advice and medication. Do you need protection? Yes! You must always wear gloves when dealing with someone else's dirt. And afterwards, wash your hands. Otherwise you risk contamination. This summer we have had many youth come through our doors as part of our City Challenge and SWIM programs. Normally, we spend an evening with each group in an extended time of worship and ministry. God shows up every time. Youth confess sins and receive healing. As ministers, we staff members must have on protective gear - the armor of God and mind of Christ. With this security, we can embrace the brokenness of youth and administer healing; knowing the blood of Christ is guarding our hearts and minds.

ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

Chad Showalter (R '96) & **Deborah Shenk** were married on May 28, 2005

Marie Blaker (S '02) and **Steven Barth** were married on June 11, 2005

Randall Weaver (R '02) and **April Byler** were married on June 11, 2005

Drew Maust (S '02) and **Emily Hayes** were married on June 4, 2005

Jessica DiGennaro (R '98, '00) and **Robert Satterfield** (R '02) were married on June 11, 2005

2005 City Challenge



PRAYER AND PRAISE...

Visit www.send-me.org for more pictures and updates from the 2005 SWIM Team.

Praises

- Praise God that Denia Mora (from Costa Rica) was able to get a US visa! She will be participating in this fall's REACH training.
- Praise God for the safe return of four REACH teams in June.
- Praise God for the work that He did in many lives this summer through the City Challenge program!
- Praise God for the SWIM team we sent to Ecuador and for the many things God has done in and through them.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the Middle East REACH team as they come back to the States at the beginning of August
- Pray for the participants who will be coming into REACH this fall, that God would give them a deeper passion for Him!
- Pray for the new SEND House staff who will be coming at the end of August (Chris Hershberger, Roxie Nisly, Meredith Campbell and Karen Yoder).

2005 SWIM Commissioning



2005 SWIM Team



BETWEEN YOU AND ME...

by Davy Slabaugh, Director of the SEND Ministries Department

Escaping the Ordinary

"Is short-term missions really worth it?" It is a question I encounter regularly. I have read numerous arguments from proponents and detractors, spent hours discussing the pros and cons, and have even written articles on the value of short-term missions. So, when the question is posed, I am normally able to give my standard answer (which I really believe) of the value of investing in the missionaries and the senders of tomorrow.

Yet at the start of another summer filled with City Challenge groups and a SWIM training, I found myself wondering again if it was really worth the time, effort, and money to send young people on short-term mission trips. Does it really make a difference in their lives? Does it really make a difference in the lives of the people they connect with on their outreaches?

Many of you reading this know the answer to these questions is yes! You have seen first-hand how God used you to bless various people you interacted with on outreach. You experienced God using your short-term mission experience to alter the course of your life - to forever ruin you for the ordinary. Your life is different because those around you believed it was worthwhile to invest in your life.

Yet you may find yourself several years beyond outreach and firmly entrenched in what seems to be a rather ordinary life. What happened to the clear sense that God was calling you to the mission field long-term? What happened to the resolve you had in re-entry that life would be different from now on?

Sometimes the circumstances of life take us down roads that we never expected to walk. Yet we can know with absolute certainty that the God we serve here and now is the same one we saw at work in that time of our lives when we dared to take a step of faith and go where He called us to go. The same God that called us to leave the path destined for the ordinary can give us the grace to live counter-cultural, extraordinary lives that impact the lives of those around us. He calls us to be radical kingdom builders wherever we happen to find ourselves living. If you have learned that lesson and are applying it, your short-term missions experience was worth it.



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