

But my servant Caleb,

because he has a different spirit and has followed me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land into which he went, and his descendants will inherit it. Numbers 14:24 (NRSV)

Caleb

SUMMER 2007 REPORT

The Caleb Report is the quarterly newsletter of the SEND Ministries
Department of Rosedale Mennonite Missions.

LORD, I'VE HEARD OF YOUR FAME!

by paul kurtz

Pull up a chair, pour a good cup of coffee (no cream or sugar please) and let's talk a bit. I want to tell you a little story.

REACH was a simple idea but not particularly well thought through. It was 1991 and I was asked by Richard Showalter, president of Rosedale Bible College, to give leadership to starting a discipleship training program like YWAM or YES here at RBC and RMM. RMM's Personnel Service Department knew there were young people who wanted to experience mission opportunities yet somehow

these youth were not excited about the day cares and home improvement ministries that comprised the VS program. Overseas VS, a very successful venture, was terminated years before. But in the late 1980's VS was limited to 6 or 7 state-side locations.

As we looked at the existing VS program it appeared weak on spiritual formation but strong on service. Mim Musser and I worked together to create an environment within REACH that encouraged youth to grow in their relationship to God

REACH TIMELINE



1992

1993



1994



in the context of vital service. Our motto was, "relationship with God, first then comes ministry."

The beginning years were difficult as we struggled to write policy and procedures to keep up with the creativity of what we were doing. RMM and RBC's board were not sure how committed they were to this venture and after the first year I would wait until a board meeting was over to know if REACH would continue. Of course, I had moved my family from Goshen to Rosedale, following what I thought was God. I was fervently praying that they would hear God too. There were distracters within CMC saying that REACH killed VS; that REACH appealed to the adventure-spirit in youth and that is why youth wanted to sign up.

But we kept at it. The first year we had 11 participants and God met us in so many ways. The second year saw 18 and then twenty young people, taking 3 months to work at their relationship to God, their relationship to others, and their relationship to the world. After the discipleship training school (DTS), teams went out for their 3-9 month outreach. The stories we

heard and the change we saw in the participants convinced us that God was raising up an army and it was their day to discover God afresh and anew.

A scripture that I often read and meditated on was Habakkuk's prayer in Habakkuk 3:2 where he prays: Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known. This became my prayer as well. I cried out for God to show himself afresh to this generation. To meet them in worship times, to fight their spiritual battles, to use them in outreach times to lead others to the Savor and bring cups of cold water to the dying and thirsty. I also prayed that I could live long enough to see it.

So why am I saying this to you? Am I just a 47 year old dreamer telling you my story? Yea, that too, but I am telling you the history to say this: I'm not dead yet and I don't see the fulfillment of that prayer. I still pray it and I see it sometimes but not totally.

1997 (F)



1996



1997 (S)



1995



1998 (S)



1998 (F)



1999



2000



Here is why I believe we have not seen the complete fulfillment.

1. Youth today have so many options. You can be anywhere on the globe in several weeks should you choose to (and that is a lot of places). There are a host of mission agencies ready to send you. Of course you could work several years and pay off the car, build up some savings, get married (in that order) or maybe you could finish your degree or just get some practical experience in a job that you enjoy. Overwhelmed with options and decisions you are fatigued and perhaps cynical of God's ability to call, your ability to hear and have questions as to if He even cares about it/you at all?

2. Youth today want to be significant. You have been raised in a loving caring environment, all for you. You are the center of the universe. Now...be somebody! Don't settle for mediocrity or second best. Be all that you can be! Have you felt this or heard this? Have you believed it? What about Jesus' words to "come and follow me"? or "he who loses his life for my sake will find it"? These words fly in the face of self-actualization and personal significance.

3. We worship worship. The very avenue that God uses to break our hearts, show us His heart and change us, we have camped out at and will not leave. We just want to stay in wor-

ship and live in that feeling of closeness to God. Of course it needs to be music that we enjoy and to our liking and so we worship that place rather than the God who meets us there and then sends us out! "When the music fades and all is stripped away" will you get up off your knees and get going to where He has called you or do you need another worship time, and another?

4. Missions is a project and not a lifestyle. Many of you did your mission outreach and are back home. You have been changed from the ordinary but it is time to get on with your life. This is what your parents and good friends have told you and you believe it. I tremble at going against the advice of those close to you, but please do not compromise the one thing you heard God clearly say on your outreach. God will bless your obedience.

God will use you to change the world but on His terms and His way. If you do not do it He will raise up others who will. But the lost and hurting will wait until someone comes. They will wait until someone takes God seriously and gives themselves wholeheartedly to be the messenger. I want to see this army, in my day, moving out around the world and in our hometowns, doing the works and stuff of the Kingdom of God. I will keep looking and watching and... I'm going to be in there doing it too!



ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

BIRTHS

David (R 00, 02) & Christina (Adams, R 02) Diller had a baby girl, Maeve Toviah on March 16, 2007.

Matt (R 94, 95) & Colleen (Miller, R 94) Showalter had a baby boy, Isaac Trey on February 20, 2007.

Kerwin & Maria (Stoltzfus, R 99, Cook 02) King had a baby girl Chloe Rachele on April 13, 2007.

Brian & Brooke (Burdette, R 99) Miller had a baby girl, Mabri Quin on February 11, 2007.

Dale (R 94) and Jolene Keller had a baby boy, Chad Ethan on January 10, 2007.

Please inform us of any births, weddings, missionary appointments, or change of address. (angela@rmmoffice.org)

Chad (R 96, Maintenance 00, 01) & Deborah Showalter had a baby girl, Rachel Sophia on March 31, 2007.

MISSIONARY APPOINTMENTS

Dion (R 96, 97) & Naty (Briceno, R 99) Peachey have been appointed as missionaries to Venezuela for 2 years.

Joanna Plett (R 03, 04) has been appointed a missionary intern to Turkey for 1 year.

MARRIAGES

Stephanie Nisly (R 98, S 05) married Jonathon Compton on March 3, 2007.



2001



2002



2003



2004



2005



2006

BETWEEN YOU AND ME

by Carmal Miller
Assistant Director of the SEND Department



Bigger Than Your Box

After reading numerous end-of-REACH evaluations and talking to REACHERs during reentry, I'd say one of the largest areas of growth for the average REACH participant is development of intimacy with God. During training, the daily schedule includes one hour of quiet time, and on outreach, many teams designate thirty minutes to an hour a day for personal time with Jesus. All this is great; however, the larger question is how does quiet time translate into ordinary life back at home?

disciplined enough to set aside an hour a day to spend with God, He continued to show up and draw me closer without me recognizing it. Looking back, I realize that I continued to grow in intimacy with God—it just looked different. And that was and is okay—it's even good!

Sure, quiet times will definitely help you grow spiritually, but keep in mind that not one Bible verse exists that says, "Early shalt thou rise and spend one hour of thy day reading thy Bible and praying."

"Looking back, I realize that I continued to grow in intimacy with God - IT JUST LOOKED DIFFERENT."

I struggled with this for a long time after I returned from outreach. After a year or so, I realized I'd come to believe that if my quiet times didn't look like they did during REACH I wasn't measuring up. REACH had become the pinnacle of life with God and ordinary life felt like a downhill slope. Amazingly, while I was beating myself up for not being

Scripture does, however, command us to *hide God's word in our hearts, to meditate on it day and night, and to pray without ceasing*. If your quiet times have become stale and crusty, take a break and ask the Father to create more God-consciousness within you. He permeates your ordinary life—perhaps all you need is to realize that you are the only one not contained in the box you have created.



The SEND Ministries Department exists to equip and motivate youth to be Christ-centered, world Christians who make disciples.

www.send-me.org