

But my servant Caleb,

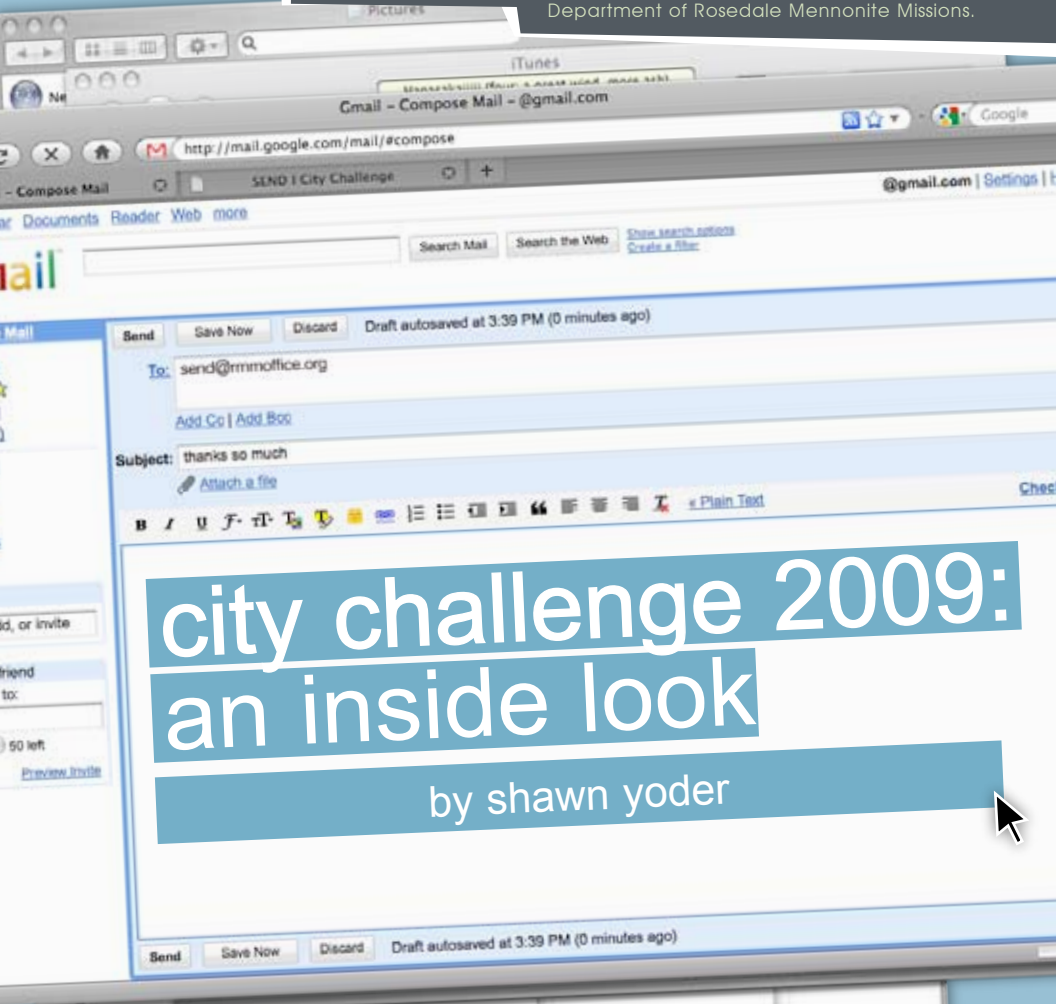
because he has a different spirit and has followed me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land into which he went, and his descendants will inherit it. Numbers 14:24 (NRSV)

Caleb

REPORT

Fall 2009

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



city challenge 2009:
an inside look

by shawn yoder

Subject: thanks so much

city challenge 2009: an inside look

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by shawn yoder

"I was one of the leaders of last week's City Challenge group from Cannon Mennonite Church, and I just wanted to send a 'thank you' and encouragement to keep up the great work you guys are doing. Also, I wanted to let you know that your staff is doing an incredible job. They connected so well with our youth and made it feel like it wasn't simply a program that they were running, but that they were there for us and going through everything with us. We really felt as if we were the only ones they had been preparing for. Our youth, as well as us leaders, connected so well with them. Our group is absolutely on fire right now, and it's not simply a spark that's going to die in the next week. This is for real. They are hungry to go deeper with Jesus. Chains were broken, not simply loosened but broken. Deep relationships were formed that will keep encouraging them to go on. And I sincerely believe that it wasn't simply something for our youth, but a start of something that God wants to do within our entire church. It's just starting with the youth. This Sunday we have the entire service, and I am anticipating great things to come from these young peoples' testimonies and passion.

Just wanted to say thanks so much. And that's not simply from a leader who is enjoying watching the youth grow, but from someone who experienced God move in his own life through City Challenge."

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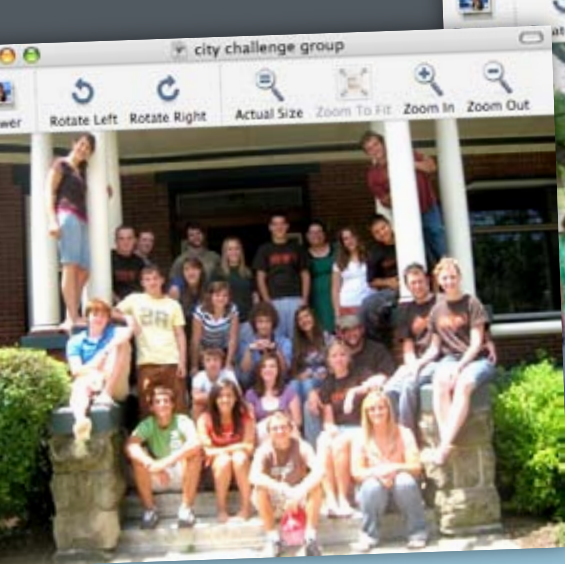
Discard

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My wife and I had the privilege of accompanying our church's youth group in the City Challenge program this past summer. After returning home, I sent the above email to RMM's SEND Ministries. I wanted to encourage them and their staff that what they are doing and how they are doing it is effective.

I would recommend City Challenge to any youth group and will be doing my best to get our group there as often as I can. The City Challenge program is such a healthy mix of discipleship, outreach, and strengthening of group relationships. There will be a trip focused all on outreach, or a retreat that's nothing but teaching and discipleship, or a trip simply for fun. In City Challenge you get them all.

There were many different aspects I could highlight, but I'll just name a few. The theme this year was IDENTITY—who we are in Christ. This really struck home with many of our youth, and I still hear them encouraging each other from the things that they learned in the discipleship sessions.



There were many different outreaches that we got to be a part of, from going to homeless shelters, to painting fingernails and toenails at a women's drug rehab shelter, to playing with a group of Somali kids at one of their communities. Perhaps the most stretching outreach was the prayer challenge. We divided into groups and were given a list of things to find and pray for: churches, hospitals, shelters, etc. We also had to pray with three people. As we walked the city to look for these things, we began to see the city with new eyes. We noticed people and places we would normally overlook.

The week ended with a night of pouring our hearts out to each other and praying for each other. This is where the real freedom happened. I saw people change right before my eyes. As they were prayed for, chains that had been there for years were broken. Addictions, fears, and failures were all named and prayed over. Our group came home from City Challenge different in so many ways.

One of the most lasting effects that City Challenge has had on our group has been the unity that it brought. The youth were often put with other youth who they may not have normally hung out with before the trip. They shared and discussed their hearts and their experiences with each other during our nightly debriefing pods. They probably wouldn't have shared with those people otherwise. They encouraged each other to be bold when going to pray for a stranger. And they worked side by side with others in the food line who they may not have known very well before the trip.

We saw one another change. We saw one another step out in boldness. We saw Christ in each other. Because of that, the group has become even more unified. When we came home from City Challenge I expected a collapse of sorts. It was a mountaintop experience, and that kind of experience is hard to bring back into our everyday lives. And while we have felt that effect to some degree, we're different and God isn't finished yet!

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



SPAIN: teaching assistants

The Ministry of Education in Spain is offering grants to college graduates from the USA and Canada to work as teaching assistants in K-12 public schools in Spain. The Spanish government wants to beef up their English language instruction in the public schools and at the same time foster greater understanding between North America and Spain. The Spanish government calls these language and culture assistants "Cultural Ambassadors."

RMM would like to seize this opportunity to send two individuals to Spain for two years as part of the program. Our vision is to send ambassadors of the King of Kings who will not only teach English but disciple Spaniards at the same time. Our goal is to incorporate these two teaching assistants into the RMM team of workers in Granada. The applicants need to apply early in 2010 to get an assignment in a province like Granada. Applicants are assigned a school in the month of May. The program begins in late September and runs through the end of May 2011.



THAILAND: missionary interns

This is a two-year program combining language and cultural studies with work and study in Bangkok, Thailand. The intern will participate with a multicultural team, building friendships with Thais and others living in Bangkok. The intern will learn what it means to be a catalyst for people coming to know Jesus while engaged in a study environment (university) and/or in the workplace. There will be six months of formal language and cultural study and eighteen months of learning through mentored practice.



INDIA: missionary interns

Interns are also needed for relationship building and discovering seekers among a people group in India. The internship will be through a family working in this pioneer setting and is not to begin before August 2010.

For more details, contact: Mim Musser, Director of HR, mim@rmmoffice.org

alumni happenings

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

MARRIAGES

Christa Keim (R 98) married Andrew Wolf on September 26.

BIRTHS

Shawn (R 98, 99) & Nadia (Romanov R 99) Eicher had a baby boy named Joel David on June 29.

MISSIONARY APPOINTMENTS

Kendra B (R 02) is going to Central Asia for her second year in a support role to full-time "workers." She will be teaching MK's part time and writing children's literature for the local body of believers part time.

REACH! DTS '09 IS IN FULL SWING!



The training includes seven ladies and twelve men split into four teams headed for Zambia, the Middle East, Thailand, and Spain. When asked to share about their experience in DTS, here is what several of the REACHers had to say:

"We have been spending our 12 weekly hours of community outreach at The Zone, an after school program for K – 8th grade children. I work with the 4th and 5th grade boys and girls. Most of them are unchurched and those that do attend church are Muslim. I have been working closely with a little Muslim girl named Doua. She is so bubbly and excited to help in any way she can. I hope that I can continue to get to know her over the next two months and that God will use me in her life." -Jackie, REACH Thailand

"We had teaching sessions entitled 'The Gospel of Wholeness' which largely dealt with empty wells in our lives and the process of receiving and granting forgiveness. An empty well is an attempt to find things only God can provide. I was impacted because I never realized all the empty wells I've dug in an attempt to find purpose, identity, and worth instead of bringing my problems to God." -Jake, REACH Spain

"In preparation for outreach, the Middle East team is completing an online TESOL course. The goal is to become certified to teach English to speakers of other languages. TESOL study usually takes about seven hours a week. Thus far it has gone exceptionally well. The team is overwhelmingly excited about the opportunity to serve God by teaching English in the Middle East." -Micah, REACH Middle East

Please pray for the REACH teams as they complete the last four weeks of training. Teams will fly to their outreach locations during the first week of December.



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

www.send-me.org