



We have had a very busy summer so far, as anticipated. July started with a week of training seminars for new appointees, called phasetwo or phasefour, depending on where they are in their preparation to leave for their ministry areas. I worked mainly with those in phasetwo, who have just been appointed to ministry with TEAM. We welcome them into the TEAM family, and acquaint them with the details of the ministry area and the initiatives they will be joining, their vision and goals, and where they fit into TEAM's overall purpose of helping churches send missionaries to start churches who will in turn send missionaries to start churches among the nations for the glory of God. We also provide them with tools to help them communicate that vision to churches and individuals that the Lord leads to partner with them in this global enterprise. We bring them back for phasefour when they are ready to leave for their ministry area, and again provide them with the tools they will need to begin language and culture acquisition in another cultural setting, in order to grow in effectiveness in that stage of ministry. (I will tell you about phaseone, phasethree and phasefive some other time. This paragraph is already too long.)

Anyhow, as soon as that week was over, we moved into final preparation for REAP (Re-entry, Evaluation, And Preparation), a week of seminars for missionaries on Home Assignment, again designed to provide learning and tools that they need for effective ministry during their time in North America, which usually lasts a year. By the time August rolls around we (the Centre for Lifelong Learning, who are responsible for planning and running both events) are ready for a breather. I will be taking a week of vacation time this month, hoping to catch up on some of the things at home that I have neglected, organizing my office, some handyman projects that I want to do, and maybe even some reading.

Two important events are looming on my horizon as we speak (well, as I write and you read). First is a day long personal retreat that I call a Day of Prayer and Vision, to spend alone with the Lord to hear His voice and sense His direction particularly in regards to my walk with Him, my personal growth, and the ministry I will be doing over this next year. I do this at least once a year, and have found it to be invaluable in keeping my life oriented to Him and His work. It is so easy to get off track when I try to navigate on my own, particularly when I get very busy with the dailyness of life.

The other big event coming for me is our newest Lifelong Learning focus that will begin in September. Dave Broucek, Les Hirst and I will be in Singapore for a week to launch a leadership development initiative that will run for a year as a pilot program, and then be refined into a leadership development approach throughout TEAM. It will begin and end with two and a half days of face to face (F2F) interaction among a cohort of 18 individuals who are leaders in their ministry initiatives. Then, during the year, they will participate in three online learning groups: cross cultural leadership, coaching, and spiritual dimensions of leadership. The end of the year will have another F2F interaction to wrap it up and to evaluate the effectiveness of this approach. I am on the team of those designing and leading this pilot. Please pray for us as we prepare and implement this, both during the F2F in Singapore September 21 - 23, but also throughout the year as I work with the online learning groups. I will be helping the participants as a learning facilitator, and in keeping the technology operating smoothly.

Lois, meantime, has the challenge facing her of preparing for a national certification exam for wound specialists. She is studying diligently, and will be taking two preparation seminars in September for the October exam. She is also working full time as a wound care educator for 17 healthcare facilities in the area, keeping her plate very full. Please pray for her in her work, in her very challenging studies, and as she travels, both by car and by air (WAY outside her comfort zone) during these next three months.

Thanks for praying,
Roger



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