



August 2010

Faithful Friends,

I cannot believe that summer is almost over. We are preparing for yet another year of school and ministry (even though ministry doesn't stop for the summer). Where has the time gone? One thing is for sure; we are continuing to Evangelize and Equip our brothers and sisters!

This past year as well as the summer has been mind blowing. I would be remiss if I didn't tell you how much your prayers and support mean not only to me but to the mission as a whole. Your contributions, cards, emails, phone calls, and letters have been such an encouragement to the progress of the mission. God has truly blessed us with an outstanding support base. Thank you so much for believing in what we are doing and for your continued support.

Ministry is rough at times out here. I could sit and tell you story after story about different people, but let me share two in particular. The Blue Bus was traveling to the rez and was stopped by a gentleman named Fred. I got off the bus and approached him with caution. As I approached him he stated to me that he was ready at that point to kill himself and that he was done with life. He stood there looking at me with despair and hopelessness in his eyes. As we talked some more I began to see that Fred was not ready to kill himself. Fred simply needed encouragement, and most importantly he needed to know that he has value in the eyes of the LORD. This is common with us and the work that we do. This is why it is so important that we continue the work with which you entrust us. Without your prayers, stories like Fred's might have had a different ending. Now about the helping of a teen that has been in rehab for the past three years. He has been going with us to do ministry and we have had the opportunity to mentor him and share with him the love of Christ. So many things have had him chained, and now to be able to be free from those chains has made him a better young man and one that can share what deliverance really means.

Throughout the summer we have been able to minister to and have contact with over 1,000 individuals through our Summer Enrichment, Blue Bus, Camp Meetings and VBS. That is amazing to us even though monies are tight. This new fiscal year we have cut the budget by \$400,000.00. We are being forced to cut due to the financial climate in which we all seem to be. Our staff has been reduced from 32 to 21 individuals. It has been incredibly difficult to say the least, but we still feel that the LORD is moving and stirring within us to do some great and marvelous things... only through Him though! If things do not improve, we will be forced to cut programs and that is where things have the potential to get really scary. Opportunities like rez ministry could cease. People like Fred might never be ministered to. The potential to reach more than 1,000 young people might not exist if we are forced to make these cuts. This is reality, but we also are trusting God to do great things. As a mission that is dedicated to serving His children, young and old, we are counting on you to continue to lift us up in prayer as well as financial support.

So where are we now, and where do we go from here? We are going to keep putting God first in ALL THINGS! Scripture tells us to *seek first the kingdom... Matt. 6:33*. That is precisely what we are going to do. You have so much for which to be thankful. Our Father has been working in each of the students lives and real life transformation is happening. We will continue to put Christ first in all things and watch as He moves and orchestrates this fabulous ministry that we call the "mission."

And Fred, he's doing better. Keep praying for people like him. "*The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few*" Matt. 9:37.

Serving Him and you,

Patrick Lester
Executive Director