



STEVE & TAMI BARKE



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# April 2012

## Sabbatical Edition #3

Dear Family & Friends,

Well, I am a little late getting this months letter out to you. I have been a little busy during this part of my Sabbatical & I have been traveling a lot. This months



letter is written by the third and newest letter of my staff, Jeremy Stoa. He has the privilege of marrying Julie in June. I have not had a chance to get to know him well yet, most of his time on staff I have been on my Sabbatical. The following is his take on Chi Alpha-WSU so far:

College students and hunger; fruit flies and produce. After our worship team finishes their sound check they often run off to eat before starting Tuesday Night Fellowship. Discovering cheap and bountiful food is the dream of every college student.

Chris is an excitable red-head freshman who has been playing bass for our worship team this year. He stopped into one

of the campus cafeterias and while getting food he found two Japanese students, having just arrived in the U.S. a week prior, confused about how to order a hamburger

While helping them get their food, somehow the subject of music came up and the bass player invited the drummer to hear him play later that night. Yoshi came to Chi Alpha along with his burger buddy, Yota.

Did you know that most international students studying in the States never set foot in an American home? I love how our students have come to understand how important it is to welcome internationals into the Chi Alpha community and it's



incredibly fun to watch happen. By the time I met Yota and Yoshi at the house, most of our students had introduced themselves and quite a few were spending time with them, letting them know they are welcome in our community and in our house.

Whoever loves first, wins. It was a common refrain my Campus Pastor would say to us while I was a student.

These two students, brand new to the U.S., are looking for friends, for a community. When I started writing this, I was sitting in the house, surrounded by students between classes relaxing or working on homework. And Yoshi was there too, talking and relaxing on the couch. Simply because an excitable red-head did what college students always do while taking time to care for some strangers, we have a chance to care for two more internationals.

Every Tuesday Night Fellowship this semester has had at least one (often several) international students visiting. It's an incredible testament to the faithful work of Weston, who is on staff with me. He's invested years developing our relationship with the Global Bridge Program here which pairs WSU students as english partners with internationals. A large chunk of Chi Alpha participates. The



university is one of the most strategic ministry fields we can serve. Within that group, international students are one of the most important groups we can care for.

Yoshi and Yota will be studying English through the summer and taking classes in the fall. We have ten months to love them before they go back to Japan. Please pray that the time we have would be used well and that they would go home understanding who Jesus really is.

**Prayer Requests:**

**Ministry**

**Family**

◆ **Cores:**

- **Pray** for our Leaders. That God would bless & refresh them over the Summer
- **Pray** for our new leaders, that God would inspire them over the Summer

◆ **Summer Missions Trip to Haiti**

- **PRAY** for Weston & Allison as they lead the team
- **PRAY** for the students, that they would have open & teachable hearts full of love for the Haitians

◆ **Summer Fellowship:**

- **PRAY** for God to draw summer Freshmen to us
- **PRAY** for opportunities for our students to invite their non-Christian friends.
- **PRAY** for those who are being invited to experience the presence of Christ

◆ **Steve & Tami's final month on Sabbatical:**

- **Pray** for Rest & trust
- **Pray** for God's blessing & continued provision
- **Pray** for Growth in our marriage

- ◆ **Pray** for Cayla, she is getting ready to graduate in June
- ◆ **Pray** for Ethan. His heart is soft to God. He & I are doing the 60 days of dreaming together with our Church
- ◆ **Pray** for our Family to continue to have quality time together!

**Praises**

- ◆ I have an amazing staff that is & will continue to do a great job while I am gone!
- ◆ We have a growing # of young Freshman in XA who are catching the vision for reaching our campus.

**Ministry Financial Info**

**XA WSU Fiscal Year July 2011-June 2012**  
**Actual Support Income for: July 2011 - April 2011**  
**Budgeted Income YTD: \$38,334.00**  
**Actual Income: \$33,903.00**  
**Difference: \$4431.00**

*(we are not in debt, but our income has fallen short of what we budgeted & so we have had to cut)*

Ways to give: Checks or Bill Pay can made to:  
Chi Alpha WSU—PO Box 1058—Pullman, WA 99163

**Steve's Sabbatical Report.**

One of the goals of our sabbatical, was to reconnect with my family. It's not like I had checked out of being a husband & father, but all you have to do is look at statistics to know that pastor's families often end up feeling like they don't come first, like the ministry can become, as one very wise person put it, like a mistress. I saw how this could, and even was happening and felt like Tami & I needed to get some marriage enrichment as part of our Sabbatical (yes our Sabbatical, it is just as much hers as mine). So we asked around and made contact with a woman up in Spokane who specializes in marriage enrichment for pastors.

Tami & I have been going up to Spokane about one every two weeks since the Sabbatical started. We usually combine it with a date and even have taken the opportunity to visit XA alum. It has been great! Tami & I are growing so much in our communication & our understanding of each other. I look forward to applying what we have learned so far in the stress of non-sabbatical life. But, I thank God for the opportunity he has given us now to work on loving each other as Christ loves us.



My beautiful daughter Cayla before her Senior Prom. She graduates on June 2!

**Tami, Cayla & Ethan, Your Missionaries to WSU**

Here are some more! ↴



Jonathan (with girlfriend Brooke), one of next years XA-WSU Campus Missionary Internship inaugural class



Commencement 2012



Shane, one of next years XA-WSU Campus Missionary Internship inaugural class

Friends of Chi Alpha, we need your help. As you can see above the finances of Chi Alpha are struggling, and we need those of you who have been blessed by the ministry of Chi Alpha to help out. If you could Go to our Lord Jesus on our behalf and ask Him to provide for the needs of XA, it's staff and our families, I would appreciate it. We have gone through this before & we will probably go through it again, but God has always provided, but that does not mean we don't need you interceding for us. Also, pray for me that God would give me wisdom to know how to manage the resources we do have and the faith to trust God in the midst of it. May God bless you richly as well, and thanks for your love, support and partnership with us, Thanks! - SKB