



STEVE & TAMI BARKE



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# May/June 2011

Dear XA Family,

WELL, IT HAS HAPPENED. It happens every year, and no matter what we do to prepare I never quite feel ready for it. It changes the whole atmosphere of Pullman. It is exciting & a bit intimidating, but ultimately it is what I live for...



OH, RIGHT WHAT is 'it'? Well, last week 18,000 students descended upon us. In 2 days Pullman went from being a town of 10,000 plus, to being a town of almost 30,000...

AND I LOVE IT!!! So, what is the vision that God has given us to start off the year? To

explain, I want to look back a bit first. Our most significant (and emphasized) of our 6 Core Values is that we want to be a family. For many students, family is an ideal that needs to be redeemed. For others, it is something that they are missing intensely. We believe that God sets the lonely in families that are healing, encouraging, hopeful & full of opportunity. We want Chi Alpha to be a place where people



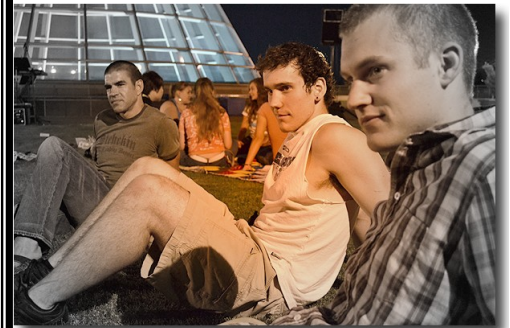
feel they belong, where they can know others & be known by others & more importantly by God.

ONE OF THE DANGERS THOUGH is that we can become too inwardly focused. God has called us to reach the nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Over the past two years we have worked very hard to build a family



centered around Jesus. But, I have sensed that this year we need to be a family that is welcoming to outsiders & that is actively seeking out those who don't know Christ & inviting them to be apart of our family & hopefully apart of God's family as well.

I HAVE TO SAY that our student leaders have taken this vision & run with it. Thanks to the foundation built by preceding



generations of Chi Alpha students this years group is equipped to reach out more than ever before.

EVIDENCE OF THIS was demonstrated at our 1st Tuesday Night of the year, watching our students come around the corner with groups of 5 to 10 new people following them.

I AM SO PROUD of Jonathan & Shane who have spent tons of time building connections in Stephenson (a Freshman dorm). The result: in a dorm where we have traditionally had a difficult time getting into, we now have a large healthy men's Core. God is on the move & I can't wait to see what is next!

WHAT I DO KNOW is that not only have our students heard the vision, not only have they acknowledged that it is good, ... But, they have allowed it to be written on their hearts & are running with it.

PLEASE PRAY THAT GOD would help them to run in His direction, being empowered by His Spirit to be the gospel to their friends, classmates & the people they meet throughout the year.

## Prayer Requests:

## Ministry

- ◆ **Cores:**
  - **Pray** for our Core leaders. They are working very hard. Pray for stamina & wisdom to use their time wisely.
  - **Pray** that God would fill them with His love for the people in their Cores.
  - **Pray** for outreach opportunities
- ◆ **Tuesday Night Fellowship:**
  - **PRAY** for our worship team, that they would be used by God to bring us into his presence
  - **PRAY** for the staff as they prepare for preaching on the Kingdom of God
  - **PRAY** for our ability to draw people to Christ & maintain our family centeredness.
- ◆ **Staff:**
  - **PRAY** Julie, Weston & Jeremy all have some more fund-raising to do. Pray that they are able to raise it all quickly
  - **PRAY** for Jeremy as he transitions onto our staff
- ◆ **XA Finances:**
  - **Pray** for Wisdom & patience
  - **Pray** for God's blessing & provision

## Family

- ◆ **Pray** for Cayla as she starts her senior year in H.S. This will be the first time she is a full time HS students since her Freshman year.
- ◆ **Pray** for Ethan. He is now a Freshman at Pullman HS. He is playing football as well.

## Praises

- ◆ Great Start to the year!! I am so proud of our leaders!!!!
- ◆ God is providing for the ministry & for us.
- ◆ Next year we are going to grow in every category in our ministry

## Ministry Financial Info

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

**RUSSIA!**

On Sept. 5th I leave for a 10 day trip to Russia. I am going with two other campus pastors with the expressed purpose of casting vision on a national level for Campus Ministry in the Russian Federation. We will be presenting at the Russian Federations General Council of the AG & doing a breakout session there. We will be also traveling to various universities looking for good target campuses. When I come home my job will to be to build vision in the NW for teams to go to Russia to "Give a year & Pray about a lifetime."

I'm not exactly sure why I have not said much about this trip, especially because not only am I really excited, but I have a sense that God is Going to do something radically transformative in me, my ministry & even in Russia. I hope that doesn't sound arrogant! So, please pray for me, my team & my trip!



Tami, Cayla & Ethan, Your Missionaries to WSU

↙ Here are some more! ↘



Usually I use this space to thank all of our faithful partners in ministry for their generous giving to XA-WSU & while I am very grateful, I wanted to quickly let you all know of something that is on the horizon for me next semester. Basically, after 18 years in full time ministry here at WSU my board has seen fit to give me a Sabbatical. So, starting Jan.1 & continuing on until June 1. I will be on Sabbatical. This decision is not being taken lightly & I will outline more about in future letters, but know that I have a Sabbatical Committee that will be overseeing what it looks like. God has blessed me with an awesome opportunity to rest, re-vision, re-educate & re-connect. But, more about that in the future. For now thanks for your faithfulness - SKB