



STEVE & TAMI BARKE



WWW.CHIALPHAWSU.COM - PO Box 1058 PULLMAN, WA 99163; 509-334-0394; XA_WSU@MSN.COM

March 2012

Sabbatical Edition #2

Dear Friends & Family,

THIS MONTH YOU GET TO HEAR FROM WESTON!

WE'RE TWO FULL MONTHS into spring semester, which means classes are starting to bare their teeth in the lives of our students. I can tell that they're being stretched as they try to balance school, homework, social lives, work, and opportunities to minister on campus.

JORDAN JAMESON HAS HAD a great impact on the hospitality of the XA



house. He seems to have never-ending energy for inviting people over; his wacky creativity mixed with his desire to do things well has resulted in some fun and powerful community building events. Last Friday, the house guys hosted a "bless the ladies" night.

They set up the dining room like a 5-star restaurant – complete with twinkling lights, white tablecloths, and suit-clad maitre'd's. Though it was a surprise for the women, they turned it into an outreach by asking the women to invite anyone and everyone. So a couple of our girls made valentines with invitations to the dinner and handed them out to ladies on campus for Valentine's Day. We ended up having around 30 girls show up, many of whom we didn't know! The night included a 3-course meal, chick-flick movie, and a tongue-in-cheek self-defense-turned-comedy routine put on by Jordan himself.

SPEAKING OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, ... the north campus men's core decided to shift their focus slightly for spring semester. Initiated by a couple guys who recently returned from a mission trip to China, the core made the decision to have each member sign up for an international conversation partner through the university's Global Bridge program. Each week they invite all of these guys over for our house dinner and then proceed to build friendships with them by letting them experience Christian community. The international students know that these are Christian guys and they are starting to get curious about what bonds them together so strongly.



OUR SERMON SERIES that is following the "Mission: Kingdom Outward" theme has been solid. Gary Modine, new lead pastor at Christian Life Center in Moscow, spoke on the barriers we often put between Jesus and people. Jake Cheek, one of our student leaders, did an outstanding job of clearly presenting Jesus' call to all Christians that we are to take the gospel to all nations.

ON A MORE PERSONAL SIDE, God has given me incredible favor like I've never experienced before with the Saudi Arabian community at WSU. I'm humbled when I hear stories about our students meeting Saudi guys and they all seem to know me. Even though the evangelism process with Muslims is slow, I'm so grateful that my relationships with these men have gone so far beyond just evangelism. I truly have grown to love them.



FINALLY, THE HAITI TEAM is solidified, we've already raised a third of our budget, and our plane tickets are purchased. We will leave on Wednesday, May 9 and return Wednesday, May 23. The team is made up of 12 people who love each other and are actively seeking to strengthen those relationships by spending time with one another and seeking God's face as a group.

— Weston

Prayer Requests:

Ministry

Family

◆ Cores:

- **Pray** for our Leaders. That God would bless & guide them
- **Pray** for our Cores, they have gone through so upheaval, but they are turning out stronger for it

◆ Discipleship Class:

- **PRAY** for Weston & Julie as this is their first time teaching the whole class...
- **PRAY** for the students taking the class, that they would have open & teachable hearts

◆ Tuesday Night Fellowship:

- **PRAY** for a greater openness to the Holy Spirit
- **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 in our meetings

◆ Steve & Tami's Sabbatical:

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

- ◆ **Pray** for Cayla, She went to Stanford & has gotten some concrete direction for treatment
- ◆ **Pray** for Ethan. Doing well in school & in sports. Pray that God would make himself more real to him.
- ◆ **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-Jan. 2012
 Actual Support Income for: July 2011 - Feb. 2011
 Budgeted Income YTD: \$30,667.00
 Actual Income: \$27,872.00
 Difference: **\$2795.00**

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

Steve's Sabbatical Report

One of the highlights of my Sabbatical so far was my retreat at the Monastery of St. Gertrude, near Cottonwood, Idaho. It is a Monastery of Benedictine Sisters. They put on a retreat called, Come to the Quiet, and it was amazing. A week of quiet contemplation in a beautiful setting. The week started out with a short sharing time on Friday evening, then the next day it was

Breakfast, morning praise, then back to my room to pray, read the word, journal and then midday praise, lunch, followed by more prayer & contemplation. In the afternoon I met with a spiritual director. Sr. Bernadette was amazing & really helped me to define my retreat and seek God more fully.

After that, I went back to my room to pray & journal until evening praise & then dinner. After dinner I usually read a book called Flame of Love, by Clark Pinnock, prayed & went to bed.

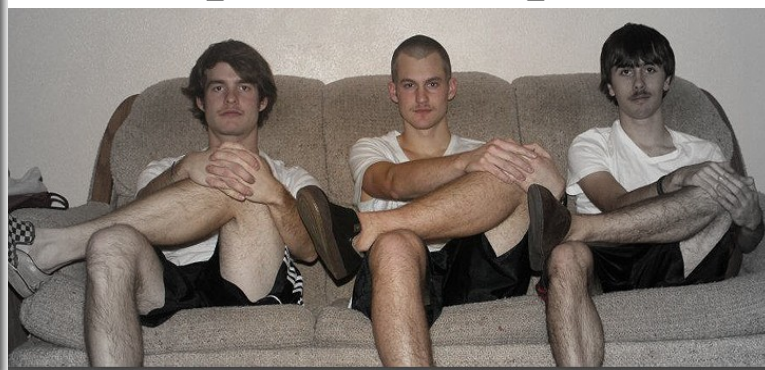
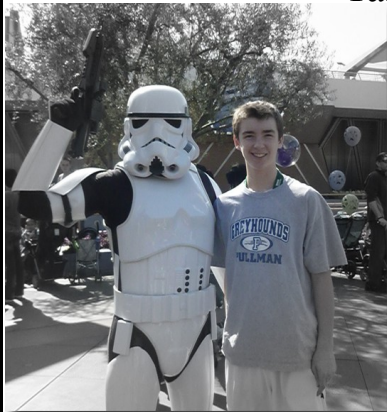
Tami didn't think I could handle being quiet for a whole week, but I loved it so much I want to return at least once per year. God has been so good, Thanks for the opportunity to rest & renew!



Sr. Bernadette Stang — What A blessing!

Tami, Cayla & Ethan, Your Missionaries to WSU

↙ Here are some more! ↘



My Chi Alpha Family & Friends, I really do want to thank all of you who have remained so faithful to my family & to the XA family as you give so sacrificially. I am blessed to have the greatest "job" in the world, I am blessed to work with the greatest people in the world, and I am even more blessed to know that the God & Father of my Lord Jesus Christ has empowered us by His Spirit, to continue to do this job for so long. I look forward to starting the next 20 years of ministry more refreshed than I started the last. I also intend that the next twenty will be even better than the first 20, if that is possible!! - SKB