

Soli Deo Gloria

Fall 2014



Strategic Missions:

As you know, I've been working with our Strategic Missions department for the last year. In one year, I've helped pioneer a new initiative called "The Surge" (explained below) and, besides the many hours I've spent helping to re-establish this department with my co-workers, I've also traveled to 7 different countries and taken over 33 flights since January 1st of 2014. I was able to travel to all 6 of our "Target Nations" (Cambodia, India, Nepal, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine), which enabled me to meet the

leaders of YWAM in each location to build relationship and get a better understanding of how YWAM MT-Lakeside can more accurately partner with the God-given vision of the long-term workers. This concept of "targeting" specific nations exists as an effort to increase long-term effectiveness in our overseas outreaches. Now I help to oversee these relationships, guide long-term strategy in partnership with the YWAM leaders in our Target Nations and coordinate the efforts from our base so that we meet real needs on the field. Previously, team sending was not limited to only the Target Nations but as of October 1st YWAM MT-Lakeside has embarked on a season of narrowing our focus for the next 5 years to sending all of our resources (team sending and personal ministry) first and foremost to our Target Nations. This is a very recent and "sea change" of a decision because we believe God is leading us to concentrate our efforts more specifically in order to see more fruit that lasts.

The Surge:

The Surge is the name for the new strategy I have felt God leading me to pioneer at YWAM MT-Lakeside. I've shared with all of you several times about this strategy, but that was before I had a name for it. I thought it would be good to give a recap of the process of what led up to the present.

I felt God leading me to present this strategy to our base Council (eldership) in May of 2013, but I wasn't able to present until September that year and then I went through a long process of refining what the strategy would look like and traveling to our Target Nations in the Winter to ask if they felt this strategy would be helpful for them. The answer was a resounding yes. I returned from traveling to all 6 Target Nations in April of this year (2014) and immediately had to prepare to present the strategy in



its entirety before all of our base leaders (about 30 total) during our Annual Planning week in May. This was the final presentation to see if our leadership felt this was a strategy for our whole base to adopt, or if I should go elsewhere to pioneer this. As you can guess, our leaders prayed, discussed (pretty intensely) and finally decided that this is something God is leading our base to do.

Since the decision in May, I presented The Surge to our entire base (explaining how they will all be a part of every Surge), formed a team of influential leaders - representing many departments - who will help guide every Surge, prayed as a team and decided on Taiwan as the first Target Nation for a Surge, heard back from YWAM Taipei that they feel led to partner with us in a Surge now, announced Taiwan as the first Surge location to all of our staff on August 25, and since then YWAM Taipei's leadership and our team have been working on setting 1-3 mutual goals. We are very close to launching the mutual goals and they are enormous, which means we will truly have to rely on God to come through!



Staff of YWAM Taiwan



VVAP team roofing one of our student dorms

Vacation With A Purpose:

I helped again to run the "VVAP" program (Vacation With A Purpose). We hosted 3 weeks of different teams from Washington, Michigan, North Carolina and Mississippi. This was my third year in a row helping to run this program and I had even more responsibility this time. The teams this summer ranged between 44- 80 people and were comprised of families, and some singles, who came to serve on our base by helping to improve the facilities. Each week we run a program because we want to bless them, pray for them,

and help them to understand what it is we do so that they know exactly what their investment is in. It is always incredible to see how much God can accomplish in their lives in one week. We heard testimonies of God's peace, refreshment, healing and deeper revelations of who He is. All of the teams left saying that they are looking forward to returning next summer. It's a very time consuming ministry to run, but the reward is great as we witness peoples lives being changed and work done on our campus that would normally take our staff a year to accomplish!

Samaritan House:

As usual, we took a break this summer from serving dinner on Mondays at the transitional homeless shelter. I started it up again Sept. 29th and we will be serving every week until next June. This will be our 4th year serving Monday dinners at Samaritan House. I really feel this is an opportunity God gave our YWAM staff to get involved in our local community on a consistent basis because it's easy to work around changing schedules and travel. We also have our students in the School of Biblical Studies and the Discipleship Training School help out as an opportunity to practice what they're learning. God has opened up a lot of great opportunities for many of us to share the love of Jesus and the truth of the gospel over the past few years. Please continue to pray for open doors!



I was blessed to visit family in September. Picture with my sister-in-law, Merline, and my new nephew, Ransom. 09/28/2014 18:19

Youth Group:

I'm still meeting with Ashley weekly for a Bible study. She is the 17 year old from my local girls youth group who became a believer this past April. We've studied through the book of Ephesians, Romans chapters 1-8 and are now starting 1 John. I've gone slowly and spent a lot of time answering questions she has. She is very committed to coming to these Bible studies weekly, which is one of many signs that something has changed in her heart. She is also applying to do a DTS here in the Spring of 2015, which is a huge step. So please pray for protection from the enemy for her as she moves toward DTS and for God's provision of the funds needed!

This Fall:

Along with my Strategic Missions jobs, I am working quite intensely on The Surge, which includes leading the team that meets weekly to guide The Surge. I've been Skyping with the leaders in Taipei often to bring more and more clarity and hopefully deepen our trust in each other as we jump off of a cliff together by setting mutual goals that are impossible in our own strength. I also spend quite a bit of time talking with the leaders of YWAM MT-Lakeside to make sure they understand well how this Surge is rolling out. No leader I've spoken with in YWAM has heard of this type of strategy being done before, so there are no examples to refer to (only principles). I will be making a trip to Taipei right after Thanksgiving in order to help them launch The Surge for their staff, as well as to meet with their leaders to discuss in person how the next 3 years will look.

Personal note and prayer requests:

Thank you, again, for your continued prayers, support and encouragement; I could not be walking out the call God has for me without you. I truly feel the same as Paul when he says, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Phil. 1:3-5). All that God uses me to accomplish is your inheritance, too. Please be praying for God's wisdom and discernment as I'm pioneering The Surge. I know this is what He's trained and equipped me to do, although I don't always feel qualified enough. I'm so very grateful for your prayers and support.

If you would like to send a donation or support me monthly you may send it to: Veronica Thompson, 501 Blacktail Rd., Lakeside MT 59922. Make checks payable to "YWAM" (please do not include my name on the check in order to receive tax deduction). If you would like to learn more about YWAM Montana, please visit our website at www.ywammontana.org.