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Subject: Summer update!

I noticed recently it's getting cooler here at night and the sun is setting earlier...I can't believe summer is winding down already!

This summer has been really packed for me, so I haven't had much of a chance to write until now. I wanted to give you a glimpse of what I've been up to and the great things God has done.

VWAP teams:

I helped to plan and run Vacation With A Purpose (VWAP) teams this summer. This is something we offer to any church from the U.S. for an outreach to our base to help with building projects on our base and at the same time get a glimpse of world missions in addition to being a part of sending youth to the nations. God met each group in a real way and it was wonderful to see that they went back to their own churches energized, with an increased passion for missions and many of the participants were so impacted by God during their week that they made decisions to rededicate their lives to Him. It's such a privilege and a blessing for us, as staff of these groups, to be a part of what God is doing in their lives!

We had 3 very large teams: one of about 60 people (40 youth), one of 110 people (families, adults and youth), and one of about 90 people (80 youth). We put a lot of time into preparing the week program for each team and it was my job to plan morning devotion times as well as 2 evening meetings with speakers and presentations about programs we run on this base that the youth might be interested in doing. Several of the youth from these teams now want to get involved in missions and are considering doing a DTS at YWAM Montana. We put in long days, but it pays off when you hear from the teams at the end of the week that they feel their lives, and view of God, has changed because of the time they spent here. It is amazing how much our Lord can do a lot in just one week! I've included some pictures from these groups working on our base...





Another of my tasks was to connect the teams with local outreaches. For instance, one team helped run a day camp for kids from our Lakeside community. I took another group to work with Habitat for Humanity in a nearby town; we helped prepare a house for a young couple in need of an affordable place to live. As I wrote about in my last newsletter, local outreach is very important to me and I was glad to be able to involve some VWAP teams in our community.

Dorm 1 Faith Project:

Last December, a group of younger staff were commissioned to lead the way in prayer, raising awareness of needs, and fundraising for our staff dorm renovation. This dorm was in need of serious repair to maintain a safe living space, but our base did not have the money to make the repairs. I was asked to lead the team and while it has been a good learning experience it has also been difficult at times. Since fundraising for the dorm is something we did in addition to our daily work, it meant we had to have meetings in the evenings and over the weekends.

We started with a “Giving Night” in February because we felt that before we ask anyone else to give, YWAM staff should lead the way. We all live by support, so there is no one here who has much to give. We believe

God will provide and He asks us to step out in faith. It was amazing to see everyone giving sacrificially that night and by the end, \$36,000 had come in. We've since seen God provide in so many different ways, from random strangers donating money to the project, to businesses donating the use of heavy machinery needed and discounts on building supplies. The VWAP teams also played a huge part in this "God story" as they donated a full week of their summer to pay their way here and help move this project forward.

The dorm has had a complete makeover this summer. All the windows were replaced, siding stripped, insulation put up, new siding on and painted, and every room now has its own temperature control and electric heaters. Early in September, the dorm can be re-inhabited but renovations will continue over the next year one room at a time to redo the bathrooms and get rid of mold issues. It's been amazing and such a blessing to see how God has provided the money we've needed just when we need it.

Here's a link to our Facebook page where you can see pictures and read more about the project: <http://www.facebook.com/Dorm1FaithProject>

Other ministry and projects updates:

- Work with our local youth group continues. Attendance dropped somewhat during summer, but a core group continues to come. Myself and a few other staff have been able to connect more deeply with a few of the older girls attending and we're praying God can influence them to not get drawn into the party crowd, since they're at that age now.
- I've continued working with Leadership13 and in the last two weeks had to write a grant for them. I'm still finishing up some documents for that and we will submit the first request in September. This is a challenging task and I covet your prayers as I work through this difficult process.
- Samaritan House: I asked our leadership team on the base last week if we could serve meals once a week at this transitional homeless shelter from September through June this year. We had served there for six months this past Jan-June and it was a great opportunity for our staff and some longer-term students to connect with our local community. The leaders agreed to purchase the food needed and have our kitchen prepare it, so that's great news! I'll be recruiting volunteers for this starting September 11.
- We'll be starting Reading Buddies at our local elementary again this Fall.
- I'm also helping Jean Berna, twin brother of Berna, to find a Discipleship Training School (DTS) he can attend in the Caribbean. He and his brother work at the Wesleyan/WISH mission base on La Gonave, in Haiti. I mentioned before that his brother, Berna, had completed a DTS in Port au Prince last Fall. Jean Berna would now really like to attend a DTS and there are a few different people from the States working to raise money for him. We're trying to get him to a DTS, most likely in Grenada, that will start in January.
- I will be taking a much needed break in late August for a couple weeks to go east, home to Long Lake. I also have a baptism to attend in Rhode Island of the child of some really good friends of mine. They asked me to be the godmother to their son, Levi, who was born in May.

I have been praying and waiting on God a lot over the last several months and do have some steps He's given me. This email update has become quite lengthy, so I will write in the next few weeks to explain what I feel God is leading me toward.

I've been thinking a lot about how many people there are in difficult circumstances and, while reading my Bible this morning, this verse really struck me: "But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish" (Ps. 9:18). I'm so thankful that God knows the needs of every person and He will not ignore them. I wanted to share this in hopes it will encourage you, as it did me, for those you know who have deep needs and also as a reminder that God is so present in the situations we are each walking through.

For His Glory,
Veronica