



## Impossible to Describe

It was an overwhelming experience. Almost impossible for me to describe. I'm sitting in the back of Edmund Chapel at Wheaton College with over 1000 young leaders from across the United States and Canada worshipping the Lord with intense passion. At the same time, several hundred other student leaders are also meeting in Calgary, Alberta and Baltimore, Maryland.



This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year of SEMP (Students Equipped to Minister to Peers). It grew out of the model of Christ when he sent his disciples out two by two, training them to share their newfound faith. Over the years, because of SEMP, thousands of students have been trained, and even thousands more have been reached for Christ. Students reaching students.

My heart is full of praise for what God has done and is doing! I looked over the crowd thinking, "Where is the next Billy Graham sitting, the next Bill Bright or the next Anne Graham Lotz." Surely in this crowd of young students, God is raising up that next generation of leaders. What a privilege to play a part in shaping their lives around courageous evangelism and passionate faith.

Over the years I have led the charge...but now my role has changed. It is a role of praying for and encouraging the new leaders of SEMP. It is a role I am growing to love...finding out their needs and behind the scenes.... seeking to serve them. Helping them succeed. Bringing them together with other global leaders to learn from each other.... knowing that this type of equipping is also happening in Eastern Europe with English camps.... in Latin America with UEMPS (the Latin version of SEMP) and in Africa the team is partnering in the Soweto township with a new initiative to train young leaders and seek to help solve the AIDS crisis.

In many different forms and in many different ways, the leaders who participate in Global Youth Initiative are seeking to train that next generation. What a privilege for me to serve them! To help meet their needs! To shepherd the shepherds. To play a part in leading the leaders.

My heart is full. The privilege is great. I'm proud of what God is doing through leaders like Chris Folmsbee, Eric Liechty, Mark Edwards, Mark Tittley, Dave Patty....and the list could go on and on. Training that next generation.

As I sat in the back of that room...I felt a great urge from the Holy Spirit to pray for this next generation. To ask God to raise up unusually gifted and passionate young leaders.

I felt a strong urge to pray for you as supporters of GYI. I want you to see and sense some of what God is doing and what a great task we have before us.



Can you imagine over the next few years thousands of young leaders trained? Can you imagine an additional 60 countries around the globe having regular training for emerging young leaders? At present we are in about 40 countries.... and I believe the Lord

wants us to be in 100 countries by 2020. Can you imagine the impact? Can you see young people around the globe being equipped to reach their friends?

I believe this is what the Lord wants. I want to say thanks for praying with me for this reality and for supporting GYI.

I can't do it...but God can. And I believe He is making it happen. I just need to faithfully serve the leaders He surfaces...get them trained...and then help them succeed...connect them to each other. What a privilege.

As I sat in the back of Edmunds Chapel at Wheaton College...it was easy for me to trust God. He has given me the gift of faith...and that night he gave the faith to believe it is going to happen. We are on an exciting journey.... thanks for playing such a key part by your support and prayers. Hang on...for the ride is just beginning

## The Power of a Letter Sent in Love



Their names are Emma, Abbey, and Mary. (pictured from left to right). God has uniquely chosen to have their names recorded in the Book of Life.

It all began about three years ago. Andrew, a freshman, came to Semp and was challenged on the last day to write four of his friends a letter...sharing his faith. Without a doubt, this is the toughest part of Semp...much harder than going out on the streets of Chicago and talking to strangers...because your friends know you and watch your life everyday. Andrew wrote Mary and expressed what God had been doing in his life and told Mary of his concern to see her come to faith in Christ.

Mary was stunned by the letter. Never before had anyone shared their heart with her like this. Mary decided to attend the church youth group and after a few months trusted Christ. She now serves as a student leader.

One year later Mary went to Semp. On the fourth night she was challenged to write four of her friends letters. Mary returned from Semp and began to share with her friends. Now some of her friends are writing letters to their friends. The multiplication continues.

Abbey as a junior high student wrote a letter to Emma. Emma was deeply touched by the letter and at a sleep over, Abbey and Emma spent three hours talking about the Lord. Emma trusted Christ that night as a young junior high student. Now both Abbey and Emma came to Semp together, along with several other friends, and each wrote four more letters to non-Christian friends. And the multiplication continues. A chain of student to student...sharing God's love.

On the last night of Semp this year, I witnessed these 1000 plus students praying over the 4000 letters that were being sent to non-Christian friends. Mary, Abbey, and Emma led that prayer...as they were real life examples of the power of sharing your faith. May the story continue. Bold evangelism coupled with passionate faith. In heaven we will understand fully the multiplication. We will spend eternity seeing how God has used friendships to grow His Kingdom.



## Prayer requests

August is an administrative month for me. With few travel plans, I need to finalize:

- ...the Web for GYI
- ...establish our final draft of mission, vision, and values
- ...develop evaluation standards for our continent and country leaders
- ...design a new brochure
- ...present a proposal to foundations for our GYI meetings in Malaysia in February. (A \$50,000 funding request).

As my travel plans are shaping up for a busy Fall travel schedule. Please pray for:

1. **Wisdom** in my writing and priority management.
2. **Discernment** on how to establish measurement standards globally
3. **Productivity** in the details of administration (not my first love)
4. **Favor** with the Foundations for the funding request.

## On the Lighter Side

A man is stumbling through the woods totally drunk when he comes upon a preacher baptizing people in the river. He proceeds to walk into the water and subsequently bumps into the preacher.

The preacher turns around and is almost overcome by the smell of alcohol, whereupon he asks the drunk, "Are you ready to find Jesus?"

The drunk answers, "Yes, I am."

So the preacher grabs him and dunks him in the water. He pulls him up and asks the drunk, "Brother, Have you found Jesus?" The drunk replies, "No, I haven't found Jesus."

The preacher shocked at the answer, dunks him into the water again for a little longer this time. He again pulls him out of the water and asks again, "Have you found Jesus, my brother?" The drunk again answers, "No, I haven't found Jesus."

By this time the preacher is at his wits end and dunks the drunk in the water again---but this time holds him down for about 30 seconds and when he begins kicking his arms and legs he pulls him up. The preacher again asks the drunk, "For the love of God, have you found Jesus?"

The drunk wipes his eyes and catches his breath and says to the preacher, "Are you sure this is where he fell in?"

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As we chuckle at the misplaced perceptions, I know how real this story is to life. All over the globe people have distorted views of "Jesus". When we say His name, everyone brings their limited understanding of who He is. But for many, like the drunk, the name of Jesus is just that...a name of a person and nothing more.

## Our New Logo

So what do you think? I wanted to add this under the "lighter side", because it truly was an a learning experience....trying to develop a new logo with global perceptions. Concerning color...the Eastern Europeans loved red as it stood for revolution and was energetic. The Australians also wanted bright colors...definitely not corporate colors of blue and green. The Americans and Africans loved blues and greens but needed a lot of energy and action. Latins loved them all. God has blessed us with creative perspectives! This logo reflects (hopefully)...energy...passion...global interests...youth orientation...and initiative. Hope you enjoy it!

