

Our Dear Friends,

As a kid, one of my favorite summer activities was going to amusement parks. For those who grew up in Virginia when I did, you know that the king of the roller coasters was the Loch Ness Monster at Busch Gardens. The ride starts off with a slow ascent up to the highest point, so as to increase your anticipation (and fear!) with every “click-click” of the track. As you rise above the whole park and wonder what you got yourself into, all you can do is wait and do your best to prepare for the exhilarating rush of the 13-story drop.


That’s a little what summer can be like for me. Things slow down a little, a welcome contrast to the fast pace of the rest of the year. But I know that September is right around the corner, and with it, a whirlwind of ministry activity. Keep your arms inside the vehicle, folks...the school year has begun!

My summer consisted of two major activities; preparing for this year’s Christmas Conference and honing my web design skills. I am so excited about both. God has blessed us with an amazing lineup for the conference (I’ll share more in the coming months), as well as some new opportunities to partner with inner city ministries for our day of outreach in DC. I sense that our staff are more excited than they have been in many years for the conference, which is such a critical factor in drawings students to the event.

Summer School

I have also thoroughly enjoyed learning new skills in web design, which will allow me to better serve our region in the area of technology. My dream is to be able to creatively and effectively utilize my computer skills to help advance our region’s vision through an online presence, and what I learned this summer will help make this dream a reality. Along the way I realized just how much I love to learn, and began to pinpoint some of the gifts and passions that God has given me.

SIMPSONCRU.COM goes live

It’s been a long time coming...we’ve had personal web space for over a year, but parenthood and ministry has kept me from being able to really devote my best effort at getting our site up and running. I’m pleased to announce that www.simpsoncru.com is now ready! I used our site’s design as my main project for learning cutting-edge techniques that will enable me to publish Mid-Atlantic regional content for the web more quickly, which in turn will help better serve our staff and students. See reverse for more... 


WSN Summer Highlights

Worldwide Student Network is the part of our ministry that mobilizes students and staff to take the gospel to countries all around the globe. Through WSN the Mid-Atlantic region has established 5 national partnerships with Campus Crusade ministries overseas.

This summer our region sent out 6 teams to these 5 countries – 1 team each to Venezuela, Kazakhstan, North Africa and Australia and 2 teams to East Asia. In the 6 weeks that they were in country they were able to share the gospel with a total of 678 people and saw 117 of them make decisions for Christ! 61 of them were in East Asia, 52 in Venezuela, 2 in Australia, 1 in North Africa and 1 in Kazakhstan. The response rate obviously varies in different parts of the world, but it is still a great praise that in some of those harder to reach locations people are responding to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

2004 STINT

In addition, there are currently 16 people headed out for 1-year STINT (Short Term INTERNATIONAL) mission trips to our partnership countries.

Turn the page for some great stories about what God did overseas this summer... 

SIMPSONCRU.COM continued...

We'd love for you to stop by our site and let us know what you think! You'll find out more about our family, how God blessed our lives with Jacob, how we were called into ministry and much more. A family photo album will be updated regularly (great pics of Jacob!), and I will be posting our monthly newsletters and prayer requests there as well. There are also helpful resources about spiritual life, adoption and technology. Finally, if you know of others who might be interested in partnering with us, there is a helpful section for that as well.

Why SIMPSONCRU? "Cru" has been adopted by many schools as the nickname for their movement as well as their weekly meeting. It fit nicely with our last name, and the domain (web) name was available. I was going to use "amazon.com", but someone must have gotten that one already.



Whew! The site is finally done!

WSN Highlights continued...

East Asia

Gwen, an intern at IUP, shared the gospel with a student named Valerie (not her real name). "As we talked, I could see her expression change as she heard about the love and forgiveness of Jesus. That day, Valerie gave her life to Christ. After she prayed to receive Him as her Lord, she looked at me with tears in her eyes and said, "Thank you, Gwen, for telling me this. I've been confused for so long. I've looked for this my whole life, but no one ever taught me about Jesus. But today you taught me, not only with your words but also with your eyes. I had only ever known of a god of protection (Buddha), but today I know a God of forgiveness. Today, I am clear."

North Africa

From Tom Hudzina, staff at Penn State

"A student named Hicham had noticed that our group was very close and wondered how long we had known each other. After explaining that we had only known each other a few weeks he exclaimed, "Three weeks! There is something very different about you that we do not have here in my country.' He had seen the interaction of our group and was able to see 1 John 3:19 in us."

Australia

From Jeff Rendell, staff at Virginia Tech

"We were able to greatly encourage the Aussie students already involved with Student Life. Many of the Aussie students stepped out and shared their faith for the first time with our students. One student, Alan, is a freshman who had only been a Christian for a month when we arrived. He is growing rapidly in his faith and did surveys on campus with me as soon as we got there. Alan is from China. Many of the other students are from areas all over Asia. Please pray that God would raise up laborers out of Student Life who would go back to their nations and reach people for Christ."

Carri and Jacob

Life at home has been a daily adventure! Jacob started walking right after his first birthday at the end of May, and we have been chasing him ever since. He loves to be the first to spot trucks and airplanes, and would play outside all day if he could. He can say about 10 words now, including "ball", "car", and his favorite, "cracker".

Carri continues to love being his Mommy, and is experiencing the reality that her role requires more patience, determination and self-sacrifice than probably any other occupation on the planet! She is perfect for the job.



Carri will also be coaching Laura, a new staff woman who is raising her initial support before reporting to her first assignment. She is excited about the opportunity to provide encouragement, accountability and wisdom as Laura enters into this incredibly challenging stage of her ministry.

Prayer Requests

- ◆ Pray for those who are leaving this month for STINT; that God would provide all of their support, that they would work well as a team, that they would walk closely with God and see much fruit.
- ◆ Praise God for several new ministry partners! Please continue to pray that God would provide all of the remaining financial support we need (currently about \$1000/month).
- ◆ Pray for wisdom in the use of our time, and that Carri and I would find some babysitters so that we can continue to have a regular date night.
- ◆ Pray for wisdom and diligence for Luke as he enters into the most significant planning time for this year's Christmas Conference.

Serving with You,

Luke + Carri