

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Summer Session through the Start of Fall Semester 2010

This is definitely a seasonal job!

I still had students showing for the last two worship services in May and for our May Bible studies (while school was in session). And (as I had told you in my last report for May's UBF meeting), 45 students had told me they wanted to continue to meet during the summer. Well, I kept email reminders going and showed up prepared for worship and Bible study on our scheduled nights all summer—but nobody seemed to make it for worship, and after 4 good June Bible studies in a row (with an admittedly smaller crowd), nobody made it to Bible study either.

I kept up preparation time and office hours (including banking records, thank you notes and the like) anyway—and during the summer I also helped with two Preview sessions, prepared and sent a newsletter/ mailing to churches, and got publicity and mailings ready for the new semester. There were two CRC Board meetings during this time (which I attended)—and I also had the privilege of helping clean up the basement after we discovered it had been flooding.

As the start of classes approached, Marty and I represented campus ministries at the Alamo a couple of days during move-in (we gave away free flavor packets to go with the free water that Commerce Bank was giving away right next to us). I received permission to deliver flyers to all the campus mailboxes, then delivered them. We had up posters about Bible study and Worship in all the dorms and in the Student Center before the first week was done. And, we held a Kick-Off Cook-Out at the Center the Sunday before classes started to welcome students back (12 folks came—including three Baptists whose names I'd received from Preview and had mailed and then emailed invitations).

September 2nd we had a booth up at Festival ISU on the quad. We had flyers for folks to take—and (this idea came from a cluster pastors' retreat we'd had earlier in the summer where we'd tried to figure out some ways our local Baptist churches could support/encourage campus ministry) we also gathered almost 300 sets of students' answers we had (it was the ministers' idea to offer everybody who took our survey a dollar for their trouble—their idea was a big hit). We hope these results will help us better understand and minister to the needs of students.

We've had 46 students for worship the two times we've held it so far (last week the Lutherans had a fundraiser that used our space and time so we didn't have worship on our own—most of our Baptist kids were going home for Labor Day anyway).

Bible study is also getting ramped back up. We have just two students coming to our sessions, but we're enjoying a video series/study (Francis Chan's Crazy Love) quite a lot. We only have two on Tuesdays because at least three others who would come have classes or other commitments on Tuesday nights. We're looking for another night or time when we could have a study that would accommodate them.

Out of my email pool of about 60 names, 11 students total have been involved in worship and study so far—5 returnees from last year and 6 new students. We're stressing how important it is for them to invite their friends—so one of the new guys has already been pestering (I mean received yeses from) two of his friends to come soon. It's encouraging to see people seeking us out and to see others inviting friends to come. I'm even receiving names of students from church people (as I've been filling some pulpits in the area), which is maybe most encouraging of all.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Strunk