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*Dear Family and Friends,*

April—what a month!!!! The joy of the celebration of Easter, our family together for a full week, continuing to help students to get “up to grade level,” preparing for an upcoming YFC Banquet, Golf Event, and the Summer Food Service Program, “dreaming dreams” about God “doing new things” in our local YFC ministry, finishing another Alpha series at church. Of course, there was the annual ritual of spring—several rounds of lawn mowing, and one more after several straight days of “April showers bring May flowers.”

In the midst of our joy at knowing the Risen Christ and being part of His Church, I was powerfully gripped by a lead article in yesterday’s (April 27) USA Today—“Survey—72% of Millenials (18-30 year olds) more Spiritual than Religious.” Lest the headline confuse you, check out some of the findings:

- Among the 65% who call themselves Christians, many are either mushy Christians or Christians in name only. Most are just indifferent.
- 65% rarely or never pray with others, and 38% almost never pray by themselves either.
- 67% don’t read the Bible or sacred texts.
- Many are unsure Jesus is the only path to Heaven: Half say yes, half no.

Among those who “believe they will go to Heaven because they have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior:”

- ◆ 68% did not mention faith, religion or spirituality when asked what was “really important in life.”
- ◆ 50% do not attend church at least weekly.
- ◆ 36% rarely or never read the Bible.
- ◆ Just 40% say it is their responsibility to spread the Gospel.

OUCH!!!! What a challenge—to pray, to live out our faith, to be as creative—yet Spirit directed as possible to reach as many young people—those who are still in middle school and high school—as we possibly can. The assignment is as challenging as it has ever been. Thanks to many for praying, encouraging and supporting us for so many years. Please continue as we seek to impact our kids with the love and forgiveness, hope and security, meaning and purpose, that is found in a personal relationship with Jesus. (Not just for kids, but for everyone).



*Red River Gorge—Easter Sunday afternoon*

I received an encouraging e-mail yesterday from one of our college tutors, a wonderful Christian young lady who attends University of Kentucky. She wrote: “I have immensely enjoyed working with you and the other tutors and staff, along with the wonderful students that come to the program. Thank you for helping me get involved in something that was truly inspirational!” How grateful we are for our tutors—particularly those who so clearly demonstrated their devotion to Jesus to the students.

One of the great joys of this semester has been supervising Ben in his mentored ministry through Asbury Seminary. Ben, who is legally blind, has been a tremendous help and inspiration to a number of the kids. He will be graduating in just a few weeks and will be moving to Prague, in the Czech Republic, to teach high school History at a Christian International school. As most of you read this letter, Ben will have shared his story (and personal testimony) with a group of our students and tutors. Pray that his enthusiastic presentation (that's his personality style) will have a long-lasting impact, and provide opportunities for personal ministry among lots of the kids.

What does May hold for us? What are some other prayer concerns?

1. Spring YFC Banquet on May 14. An important night to tell the story, encourage folks to partner with us, and to enlist involvement in the coming year.
2. YFC Church Challenge Golf Event on May 22. Still have room for more foursomes to get involved. Contact me right away.
3. Helping kids finish up lots of course work. Praying for spiritual opportunities in many of their lives. Looking forward to several graduations.
4. Working with our partner, Police Activities League, at details for involving almost 50 urban kids at Kids Across America Kamp in late July. We need over \$5000.00 to pay camp fees by May 15. That's a big faith step.
5. Laying the groundwork for Summer Feeding Program. With fewer sites allotted to us, we will need to be strategic in site selection.
6. Seeking God for clear direction as to new (or renewed) initiatives to best use our time and resources to impact the greatest number of teens with the Gospel in the coming ministry year (starting July 1).

As a family, we enjoyed the first week of April together, as Amy was here at Easter for the first time in several years. A backyard fire (in our fire pit), with smores and all, a great afternoon of hiking at Red River Gorge, and lots of family "visit time" made for a wonderful week. We are all active—with work and other areas of involvement. We had a strong finish to our Alpha series at church, and are hoping for some involvement with our Chinese friends during the summer. Tim is just a few days away from finishing the semester, and is doing extremely well. Truly we can say, "GOD IS GOOD TO US—ALL THE TIME."



*Tessica singing at church's Youth Day. She is working diligently at making up courses, and hopes to graduate from high school in the coming year.*

As I took some additional time today to reflect on Scripture and to pray (being at a park looking at the water helps), the Lord brought a verse of an old hymn to mind: "All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided, Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me." Thanks to many for being His instruments of provision in our lives.

We wish you God's richest blessings as you enjoy the "new life" all around us in this spring season.

In His joy!

Dan & Paula