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Being Called


Dear Friends - On the first weekend of new staff training, we were sent on a photo scavenger hunt with our small group. Part of the scavenger hunt sent us to Downtown Disney to play with Legos and try on costumes. As usual, it began to rain late afternoon. As we were leaving, a man walking to his car with his family asked us where we were from.

There were eight of us, four couples, from all over the country. Trying to keep it simple, we just answered, "From all over." He asked again, wanting to know specific locations. So we told him, "Illinois, Texas, Arizona, and Wisconsin." To his amazement, he replied, **"Wow! That is not even from the same region!"**

Then he asked us the million-dollar question. **"Are you a Christian group?"** We were shocked. How he knew, we will never know. Of course we answered yes and by this time his wife and embarrassed teen-age daughter pulled him away. We said our goodbyes and climbed into our cars.



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Although we had spent a week surrounded with people from all over, we didn't realize the impact of meeting other couples and singles from other parts of the country. Not only were we hearing about what amazing things God was doing all over the world, but we were also seeing the unity of God's people.

Through this somewhat simple conversation with this man, we realized how God's people are united with the same goal: reaching people for Christ. The couples in our small group and us have the same vision: to turn lost students into Christ-centered laborers. The only difference is our locations and our roles.

It was so neat to see God using the different skills and personalities of His people to build His Kingdom. Jesus said to His disciples, "Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together." (John 4:35)

Two of the eight of us will be going on to use the media to reach students for Christ. One couple will be going to Asia. One girl will be in an office helping the staff in the regional office. Three of us will be on campuses in the United States, working with students. We partner with people all over the world, including you, so that together we may rejoice at God's work in His Kingdom. All of us will gather fruit for eternal life and one day we will all meet and celebrate in the presence of our Lord.

We appreciate your partnership and look to the day we can celebrate together what God did through all of us. Thank you for your support and prayers! You are so essential to our vision!

We love and care for you very much!

please Pray

- That we would rely on God to provide our support. Our first month had a slow start but, we are excited to jump into the next.
- Our patience and endurance, that we press toward the future, with a goal in sight.
- To put our relationship first and make time to spend together.

if you would like to receive our prayer letters via email please email us with the subject "prayer letter" to ryan.strandt@uscm.org

