



Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the friends, even though they are strangers to you;...we ought to support such people so that we may become co-workers with the truth. 3 John 5, 8

Dedicated to Providing Services for Missionaries & Their Families

Fall 2011

“MRC TCK Re-Entry Retreat”. . .Just a few weeks ago, that phrase was just an awkward string of acronyms to me; now, just a few days after the close of the 2011 re-entry retreat, it is imbued with memories of great fun, intense growth, and rich relationships.



To say that God’s hand was on this retreat would be shameless understatement; His guidance and care were resoundingly clear throughout the duration of the retreat. One week before the retreat was to begin, we had a staff member withdraw; within 48 hours, we had a replacement lined up, one whose personality was exactly what we needed to round out a very strong staff. The kids were open to bonding with staff and each other, and were very intentional about seeking to support one another as they processed their struggles. Even the weather was an answer to prayer—thunderstorms kept South Carolina’s infamous humidity at bay.

One of the most powerful aspects of the retreat was seeing the participants start to admit and process the grief they carried from their various losses (context, friendships back home, sense of home, etc.). Midway through the retreat, we had a meaningful session on grief and loss in which each participant was encouraged to take account of and really admit their losses, no matter how seemingly insignificant; a few days later, after they had had a chance to talk about that experience with each other and in small groups, we had a “loss ceremony” at which participants were given the opportunity to explain their losses to the group and have the group affirm that those losses, no matter how small, do matter. It was an extremely rich evening, fraught with tears, yet laced with gratitude for relationships experienced and hope of relationships to come.



As retreat facilitators, Jessica and I were hoping that the retreat would foster relationships that could be continued post-retreat so the participants would have a support network to help them throughout the transition process. While the retreat was laid out to facilitate relationship-building, it was really the willingness of the kids to open up to each other that created the sense of group unity and closeness that was felt throughout the retreat, and which has thus far carried over to their college lives. Since the retreat ended, the participants have been actively communicating through a Facebook group they initiated, as well as using Skype and phone calls to stay connected and to encourage one another. —Lauren



Based on what has happened in previous years, we expect these relationships to continue for a long time. Thank you for your prayers for the safety and health of staff and students. We also give thanks for the two grants given that helped us financially for the retreat.

PRAISE REPORTS:

- ☞ Ten new family units that we know of have settled in the Columbia area for a period of time. They have been aware of our services and have called on us!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ☞ Continue to pray for MRC as we expand our services.
- ☞ Pray for the two high mileage cars we use to keep running ,and for more cars or replacements that can be loaned to missionaries during their time in Columbia.
- ☞ Annual Board Meeting—Sept. 24th

Upcoming Events

- ☞ Weekly Bible study and prayer time for women in transition will begin Mon., Sept. 12th, in our office from 10am to noon. You are invited to come as your schedule permits. Call the office for more details.
- ☞ Luncheon for women with a heart for missions —Sept. 26th at noon at Kate and Marion Davis’ home. If you did not receive a postcard, let us know and we can give you further information.
- ☞ The 10th Annual Banquet is Nov. 11th. This is for those who are pre-field, on home assignment, in transition, retired, or interested in missions. It’s a time of thanksgiving and encouragement.

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