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Special points of interest:

- Spring Registration Starts
- Local Contacts
- How to Apply for an Event
- Ten Tips for Witnessing

I-AM team at Newport By Melissa Keefe

Newport was my first mission trip away from home. So, you can expect I was a little nervous, but mostly excited, especially since there were six girls on the trip, so I knew that we would have a good time. We had a small group, but we all had God-given talents to be used differently throughout the week. Each of us was given a different part of VBS to run. My sister, Danielle, and I were in charge of Bible application and also games. Games were a fun time to bond with the kids and just run around and have fun. Bible application was a little more challenging. Most kids' attention span isn't very long, so we had to keep them occupied and on task, which was pretty hard, considering we were outside and there was just too much to play with! One particular time, I was feeling like the kids weren't listening to me, and I knew they were ready to move on, but I had to make one last point. I was explaining to them God's love and forgiveness, and I said, "God always loves you and will always forgive you, no matter what you do. He will always be there for you." And one little girl, named Kimberly, looked up at me and said, "Really?" and I replied, "Yes, always!" and she just said, "WOW!" I came to Newport thinking I had to teach these kids about God and do it perfectly so they'll continue to learn about him. But, I ended up learning so much from them in return, and I know I will never forget them. They are so amazing, and their faith is so simple, that I think if we all took time, we could learn so much from little children about faith.

I-AM in partnership with St. John Lutheran Church in Idaho Falls, Idaho, sent a VBS team to the Church Of All Nations in Newport, Oregon. Melissa Keefe, 16, is a member of the I-AM Advisory Board. This article demonstrates how God opens doors to all people at all ages to receive the Gospel message!



I-AM! St. John team members

More information about the Newport VBS trip can be found at: <http://www.nowlcms.org/ExpandingMinistries/Newport-All-Nations.aspx>

From the director Don Petersen, I-AM Program Director

I am stoked! I-AM is off and running. This past year I-AM developed a training program for participants and adult leaders, selected and set up an Advisory Board of exceptional mission-minded people from across Idaho, and best of all, we sent our first team out on a mission trip! What an accomplishment for the first year.

God is good! I would like to thank the Northwest District Expanding Ministries team, Ablaze, and Camp Perkins for their prayers and support in assisting I-AM in program development this past year. As plans and preparations are made for next summer, our continued focus is to equip young adults to share the love

of Jesus with others through a mission experience. We stand committed to partner with individuals and congregations in this effort. We need your continued help in getting the word out about I-AM. Thanks for your support and continued prayers.

Don Petersen

Do you have what it takes?

By Susan Olson

Do I have what it takes to do mission outreach work?

Mission. The word alone conjures up thoughts of rough experiences, doubt, sleepless nights, doubt, fear, doubt, excitement, doubt, faith, doubt . . . you get where I am going with this – we doubt that we have what “it” takes to be useful in mission outreach.

As Christians, we know that doubt is NOT good – because our God accomplishes more than we can ever imagine. We forget that he is there before us in every situation. Eugene Peterson, author of *The Message Bible*, says, “Everywhere I go, I have already been anticipated. . . Christ got there ahead of me. . . Christ is in that room (or that place) already.” Talk about doubt busters!

Still doubting a bit? Well, on the reverse side, that is a good thing – it means that you have stepped out of the way and are dependent on Christ. He has already supplied all that you need. So get out there and be a part of what Christ has already set in motion. There can be no doubt his love reaches others through his Spirit in you. You have what it takes, you have Him.



Susan is part of the Northwest District Ministries team and is involved in mission and outreach as part of *Tracking the Spirit*.

I quit! (For the parents only) By Don Petersen, I-AM Director

Feel like giving up? Would you like to send them back to the Creator? Fortunately for us, God does not have a return policy. I have two teenage sons, 15 and 17. Lately at the Petersen house, it's been full speed from cars and testosterone. How do we cope with the stresses and setbacks of raising teens? After a huge incident with my oldest, I, and especially my wife, were ready to throw in the towel. I had had enough and was ready to kill when the Holy Spirit opened my eyes in Scripture to some spiritual facts. Believe it. “We are created in God's image.” Even those little Frankensteins we are raising are little images of the Creator! “We are fearfully and wonderfully made.” “We are made perfect in the blood of Jesus.” As I pondered this, I came to realize it's not about me, it's about them and helping them nurture a lasting relationship with the Father — our responsi-

“It's not about me, it's about them and helping them nurture a lasting relationship with the Father.”

bility as parents. Some things to consider — first and foremost, prayer! We need to constantly keep our kids in our prayers, during both good times and bad. Remember **YOU ARE NOT IN CONTROL!** Don't ride your kids! Believe me, they know when they mess up. Confront them and teach them through truth and love, then let it go. God will do the rest. We are the vessels through which God works through the Spirit to mold His sons and daughters — our kids. Don't give up. Remember “in God's time.” We need to be examples to our kids. Don't expect your kids to be good if you are not. We only have them for a short time, so enjoy them, play with them, and worship with them. Don't give up. You are not alone! God walks with you!

How do I apply for an event?

Ready to apply for an event? It's easy. Adults and youth can apply. Applications can be found at our Web site at www.nowlcms.org/I-AM/home.html under “Registration,” or you can contact the Petersens by snail mail at 1178 Mojave, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83404 or by e-mail at petersens@ida.net. Once you fill in your application, it needs to be mailed to the Petersens at the address listed above. Be sure that you read and fill out all blanks as applicable. A parent's signature is required if the applicant is younger than 17 at the



time of application. Once your application is received and approved, you will be contacted by the I-AM Program Administrator to schedule a training weekend, and then BEST OF ALL, an event! If you encounter problems or have questions during the application process, feel free to contact the Petersens by phone at (208) 523-1062 or by e-mail at petersens@ida.net.

We look forward to working with you!

Actions through His words (witnessing to friends)

By Angela Petersen

We all have comfort zones and things we feel we can jump up and do. Then there's the other side of the road that's uncomfortable and new where we hardly ever travel. For me, witnessing to a friend is on the new and uncomfortable side of the road.

Although with new, also comes the challenge. The challenge is to quit being a "closet Christian" and show and tell others my joy about God and how things have changed for the better ever since I have been witnessed to and shown the truth and the light.

Me personally, I have been trying to witness not by bluntly walking up to someone and asking them if they know Christ. Rather, I try and use my actions and my enthusiasm and my want to learn more about Christ and his Word. Also, on a worldlier note, I try and

show that being a Christian and being religious can be cool. The clothes, bracelets, music and functions all play a part. Then, people see you wearing a shirt about Christ or hear you listening to a song of praise and then they get interested and you invite them into your world to show them God and hopefully get them to accept Him as their Savior.

Corinthians 9:22-23 says, "Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me

"The challenge is to quit being a 'closet Christian' and show and tell others my joy about God."

tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the gospel to them and the blessing I receive when I see them come to Christ."

I love this because it's completely correct: make the person feel comfortable and know that you are there to help them and guide them and listen to them. They need not be afraid, but get them intrigued to learn by your own light and shine on them and let them know how wonderful and fulfilling the Lord truly is and how overjoyed he'll be to see another child come home to his family.

Angela Petersen, 21, attends Beautiful Savior in Boise, Idaho, and is active in youth ministry at her church and also supports Camp Perkins Ministries.

Spring registration has started

How's your calendar looking for this coming spring? Now's the time to check, and get yourself registered for summer events. Plans are in the works to support a wide range of mission opportunities. Alaska, Mexico and local churches are looking for help in supporting and leading Vacation Bible Schools, sports camps and also hammer-and-nail projects for 2006.

For example, Alaska Missions for Christ (AMC) works with community contacts to arrange Vacation Bible Schools and Sunday Schools. AMC

works with volunteers to staff VBSs throughout Alaska. There is a need for 800 volunteers per year from Alaska and the other 49 states. For more information, go to www.amc-inc.org.

And Cross Country Mission Society, (CCMS) is in need of youth and adults to support VBS in remote Idaho communities. With the use of a large 18-wheel truck and assisted by many volunteers with various talents, abilities and evangelism experience, CCMS uses strategies that have been proven successful to meet and greet both saved

and unsaved people. For more information, go to ccmissionsociety.org.

There are tons of opportunities and limited resources! WE NEED YOUR HELP! Now's the time to start planning for an event! I-AM will assist you in planning your event or an event as a church group. God has commissioned each of us to GO and make disciples!

Are you ready to take first step? If so, I-AM will be there to assist you as you stride to take the next. Register today! We look forward to working with you!

I-AM advisors and contacts

Have questions about I-AM? Like to set up a presentation at your church or schedule a training event? If you would like this type of information the following people are ready to help!

Contact person for the Boise area is Paul Petersen (lunapete@earthlink.net). Contact person for the Twin Falls area is Greg Hula (ghula@immanueltf.org). Contacts for the Idaho Falls area are

Don & Fran Petersen (petersens@ida.net).

Following is a list of I-AM Board of Advisors: Spiritual advisors are Pastor Reinke, Hope Lutheran, Idaho Falls, and Pastor Barth, Beautiful Savior, Boise. Youth advisors are Melissa and Danielle Keefe, Idaho Falls. Business advisor is Terri Gazdik, Idaho Falls. Program advisors are Paul Petersen, Boise; Greg

Hula, Twin Falls; and Bob LaCroix, Hailey, Idaho. Ad hoc advisors are Susan Olsen, Denny Langston, Pastor Denny Lorenz and others, who are part of the Northwest District Expanding Ministries. Last, and Roger Altenberger, representing Ablaze.

We all are committed to support your needs as individuals and as a church in youth ministry and mission work!



Contacts

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www.nowlcms.org/I-AM/home.html
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INTERMOUNTAIN ADVANCED MINISTRIES

I-AM

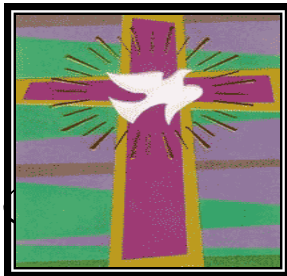
We're on the WEB



I-AM INTERMOUNTAIN ADVANCED MINISTRIES is an outreach and mission ministry for young adults ages 16 years and older. I-AM provides an opportunity for program participants to experience a taste of mission work through active hands-on involvement in a mission event. Mission events may include, but are not limited to, sports camps, Vacation Bible School, Bible day camps or hammer-and-nail work projects. This ministry works in cooperation with LCMS congregations, Alaska Missions for Christ, LCMS Northwest District, Camp Perkins and other Christian organizations to facilitate these mission activities. Actual mission assignments and site of activities are determined based on the volunteer numbers/gifts and ministry needs at the time. Prior to the mission activity, each ministry participant attends a weekend training event. At this training weekend, participants will learn and practice skills needed to support a mission activity, interface with the unchurched in a manner that reflects Christ and use effective communication tools to aid in boldly sharing Christ with others! For additional information, go to www.nowlcms.org/I-AM/home.html

Called to serve

By Pastor Langdon Reinke



What's missing in your life?

For many of you in high school and beyond who are excited about the world of freedom beyond home and the dizzying array of choices that are ahead of you, you may say, "Nothing!" But there are moments when your excitement for your life's future fades. Perhaps after Katrina's devastation there was a nagging thought, "What if my family chose to ride out the storm and MY ideas of the future never came to pass?"

Are you confident that your life is following the course that God desires for you? Don't wait until you are 50 to realize you had been walking down the wrong path toward empty goals that were never fulfilled. Listen to God's calling in your life now, while you are young. You won't regret it! God is calling you! But where? To serve others? To share the love of Jesus with another hurting person? To hear his voice saying to you, "Go where I send you?" If you listen to Him, he will show you the way. Jesus said, "I am the way!" Follow Him and you won't regret the adventurous journey to serve others with his love.

Praying with you on the journey,

Pastor Langdon Reinke