

Dear fellow Christians in mission,

I present to you the very first addition of the CCMS report on events. I'm very excited to say that it's full of good news.

The first event after the reformation into a mission society was held in Idaho Falls June 13-16, 2005. Co-sponsored by St. John and Hope Lutheran churches, both of Idaho Falls, it surpassed expectations. To all of you that made that possible, thank you and may God continue to use you.

When organizing this event, called the Great Adventure, we had goals to try and reach 100 kids and their families. As things progressed we had to keep ordering more supplies as the numbers grew. At the end we had over 200 kids and many more that came to other events including the theater camp sponsored by the Alleluia Children's Theater, the basketball camp sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the climbing wall sponsored by Cross Country Ministry.

The concept of teams (red, blue and green) really paid off as people were able to use their skills in ways in which they were comfortable. People were given the choice of how they wanted to serve this ministry and placed themselves where they thought they could be the most effective.

The Red Team (or Reaching Team) used their many skills to get the word out. I think the important things we learned here is that you need to spend money here to make it most effective. Proper advertisements, door hangers (our greatest piece in my opinion), and notifications are so very important. In the end, many positives came from careful planning.

The Blue Team (or Building Team), used their skills to help at the event in organizing, working, and leading. Many thanks go to the teachers, musicians, leaders and organizers. The Great Adventure went very smoothly. Another good example of proper planning and organizing. A huge thank you to Angela Jeppesen for all her work making the vbs such a success.

The Green Team (or Growing Team), did a great job in establishing contacts during the event. Now comes the very important follow-up as we try to nurture these new relationships. The real mission work comes after the event and I ask for your prayers as they now begin in this process. We will use the Ask, Care, Tell outreach program developed by Pastor Jerry Reinke. For more information on this program contact me at the CCMS office.

Overall, I couldn't be more pleased. The kids had a great time and more importantly, they heard about the promise that a life in Christ gives all of us. We were able to make many new friends and even more, new relationships with both church and un-church people. We learned that a church unified can do great things and that working together can be both fun and full-filling. We were able to more clearly see the true need for mission work in our own community. And finally and most importantly, we were able to see the work of the Holy Spirit as he came into the hearts of not only those who were guests but those who were privileged enough to make it all work.

Of course this is only the beginning as the Cross Country Mission Society gears up for many more future events. I encourage you to stay involved in this important and needed ministry as we become witness to God's great guidance and leadership.

We have been called to make disciples and as Paul wrote to the Ephesians in chapter 4 verse 1 I urge you to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received". We now have the tools we need to make a real Kingdom difference and I can't wait to work with you in bringing souls to Christ.

May God richly bless you and yours and may his light shine on you and from you as we continue together in mission ministry.

With God as my Shield and my Guide,

Dan Haugen, Executive Director
Cross Country Mission Society