

March 2009

Dear Friends,

The second week of January, a CampsAbroad team led by Dr. Hay arrived in sweltering Sao Paulo, Brazil to start two very full weeks of ministry. The staff training week, attended by 35 people, was held at the island campsite located about one hour outside the city. No one knew how many campers would show up the following week since the concept of a week-long, overnight camp had not previously been presented to this particular group of churches. Praise the Lord, the camp was maxed out at 60 teen campers, many of them unsaved. Not only did ten young people profess salvation at camp, but several others came to Christ immediately following camp—in area local churches! We praise the Lord for using Dr. and Mrs. Hay and Chris Lynch to encourage these hard-working missionaries in Brazil.



The other CampsAbroad trip that went out in January was a bit unusual (and not just because of the team members)! Matt Herbster, Matt Collier, Tim Meals, and Steve Leatherwood traveled to the Philippines to hold a seminar on camping at Doane Baptist Church in Iloilo City. The training focused heavily on philosophy of camping and counseling—with a special emphasis on dealing with unsaved campers. Christian workers from all over the Philippines attended. From the attendees, we selected a number of counselors and divided them into three groups. This allowed them to put what they had learned into practice at three weekend outreach camps, running from Friday evening through Sunday morning. Matt H., Tim, and Matt C. each directed a camp over the weekend.

I could write for pages about what God did at those short weekend camps. At every turn, we saw Him working in powerful and sometimes surprising ways. To summarize, a large number of unsaved young people attended the camps, many of them from surrounding villages. Over 100 of those young people came to Christ that weekend. Area local churches are now seeking to disciple them. Overall, progress is being made in our goal of spreading the vision for outreach camping in Asia as well as emphasizing the importance of individual application of the Word to young lives. If you would like to read more details about this particular trip, please see the enclosed report.



One final word of testimony: on the way back to the States, our team stopped in Singapore for a couple of days and took a day trip over to Indonesia to explore some future camping possibilities in that 90% Muslim country. On our way back, the vehicle in which we were traveling blew a tire, resulting in a serious accident. We praise the Lord that only one of our party was seriously injured—a truly incredible fact when you look at pictures of that van after the accident. God protected us in so many ways and taught us much about not presuming upon His grace.

Thank you for taking an interest in this unique ministry to young people around the world!

For the cause of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Collier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Collier  
Director, CampsAbroad