

June 2009

Dear Friends,

Several exciting CampsAbroad trips took place over the past few months. In 2008 Dan and Amy Brooks traveled to Porto Alegre, Brazil, to help a group of Baptist World missionaries launch a teen camping program. The Lord



blessed that first camp and they returned in 2009 to continue “passing the baton.” They were joined by John Bott, long time field representative for THE WILDS, on his first CampsAbroad trip. Here is an excerpt from Dan’s final report: “There were 4 professions of salvation and many other decisions. The guys and girls had separate testimony times before going to bed on Thursday night. Many tears were shed from both groups about being broken over their sin. Please pray as many are going to homes that give no spiritual support.” We believe that the missionaries and nationals in that field no longer need our direct assistance. Lord willing, that camping ministry will continue to impact young people for Christ for many years to come.

Around the same time, Steve Stodola and I had the privilege of spending some time in Lima, Peru, with Evangelist Tim Chapman. Tim is no stranger to camping ministry, having spent many summers on program staff at Northland Baptist Camp in Wisconsin. Having devoted his life to strengthening pastors and churches in Peru, he sees camping as playing a major role in his mission. We enjoyed discussing a camping vision for the next 5, 10, and even 20 years! But back to the present. One of the key goals of our trip was to help Tim lay a foundation with area pastors and Christian workers from some of the many fundamental churches surrounding Lima. Around 50 people attended the two day conference on camping. From there we went right into a week of teen camp. I’m sure curiosity helped, but attendance almost tripled from the 2007 teen camp! Most of the young people were believers from the area churches, but we saw solid spiritual decisions throughout the week. After seeing the camping philosophy in action, the area pastors asked Tim to run two weeks of camp next year — and we plan to be right there beside him. This field has loads of potential!



Finally, in April, Dan Brooks led a team back to Mexico. In 2007, a group of our staff drove a trailer loaded with camp equipment down to Mexico. After some excitement at the border, we helped a group of churches start a



mobile camping ministry, specifically targeting rural villages. The group we trained originally continued on their own for two years, but the time seemed right to hold a refresher training course for them. After the training, our team headed south with some camp workers to open up a new location. Although the number of campers attending this particular day camp was disappointing, we rejoice in the spirit of unity among the camp workers and their continued excitement about this unique ministry.

It is a joy to see God’s hand working in so many places around the world.

For the sake of His name,

*Matt Collier*

Matt Collier

Director, CampsAbroad