YOUTH MINISTRIES UPDATES

The Center for Youth Ministries has had a busy few months. During the month of October, the CYM facilitated Scaremare, which is a ministry that uses death scenes to engage the minds of its guests to think about death and the judgment to come. Scaremare had a very successful year in which its volunteers worked hard and had fun, and we also saw a big year in attendance with 22,800 in attendance and approximately 1900 first time professions of faith. The Center for Youth Ministries also assisted the Recruitment Office in hosting the Youth Pastor’s Breakfast on Friday, November 6, 2009, during CFAW. It helped the department connect with department alumni as well as area youth pastors. Lastly, on November 12 and 13, 2009, the CYM hosted Jason Hayes, a speaker from Nashville, Tennessee, who is involved with Threads, a ministry of Lifeway that seeks to connect unchurched young adults to the church. He was a guest of honor at Connect on Thursday night. This was a small, low key event for youth students to connect with Jason, faculty, and peers within the program. The following morning, the CYM hosted ministry chapel with Jason as the speaker addressing the subject of empty religion out of the book of Malachi, and YouthQuest provided the praise music. Once again, the past few months have been busy for the Center for Youth Ministries; however, the ministry opportunities have been many and the center will continue to minister through more events scheduled for this spring.

INTER-CULTURAL STUDIES UPDATES

Missionary Dave Scovill visited the Inter-Cultural Studies Department during the month of November. He spoke in classes and held a seminar for all missions minded students. The Scovills served as missionaries to the Dani tribe in Papua, Indonesia. His recently published book, “The Amazing Danis”, tells stories from their arrival among the primitive culture and their completion of a Dani translation of the entire bible. The CGM plans to monthly bring in a missions legend for students to gain more wisdom, direction, and passion as they pursue career missions. The Missionary Kid bonfire was a hit. On November 7th, nearly 30 students raised as missionary kids from all over the world, gathered for a time of fellowship, food, fun, and processing of life adapting to American culture. The 12 Light Ministries mission trips filled up faster than ever before this year, though because of recent drops, there are a few openings! Missionary mentor spots are also available for the Xtreme Impact trips this summer. Students interested may stop by Dorm 17 for more information on how to be a part of these amazing adventures.
STUDENT PROFILE: CHRIS BIDDIX

Sophomore Chris Biddix is an integral part of the Center for Global Ministries, located in the School of Religion. As an Inter-Cultural Studies major and Linguistics minor, Chris is able to integrate what he is learning in classes to his tasks within the CGM. Besides helping to plan and serve within an office setting, Chris has also devoted his life to spreading the gospel. Over the past two years, Chris has spent nearly four months in northern Uganda ministering among refugees and ex-child soldiers. “Through all of my trips overseas I have really been inspired that we should never let anything come in the way of us chasing the dreams and burdens God places on our hearts. He will always provide and work above and beyond what we ask or even imagine.” Chris hopes to be serving as a career missionary, developing and teaching literacy and completing Bible translation work among an unreached people group in Central or North Africa. Next fall semester he will be doing an internship though LU abroad working with a career Missionary among unreached indigenous tribes in Brazil. Chris’s burden for the unreached stems from his first missions experience. “When I was a junior in high school I went on a mission trips to Thailand and on that trip I realized that if I have do something for the rest of my life as a career it was going to be exhausting myself to make Christ’ name known where it isn’t.”

INTER-CULTURAL STUDIES SPRING 497 COURSES

This spring, the Inter-Cultural Studies department will be offering new ICST 497 interest courses including: World Cults, and Small Groups and House Churches. Dr. Jeff Ritchey, Assistant Professor of Inter-Cultural Studies, will be teaching Small Groups and House Churches. This course considers the challenge of engaging the lost, making disciples, and starting churches in the major urban areas of the world. Dr. Donald Alban, Assistant Professor of Inter-Cultural Studies, will be teaching World Cults. The increasing numbers of cults with heretical teaching demand our defense for biblical truth and an appeal to those that have been swayed by their influence. This course is designed to meet that need. God’s objective truth, the Bible, is the standard for evaluating all belief and practice. For more information on either of these courses, contact Dr. Alban or Dr. Ritchey.

CSER OFFICE PARTNERS WITH SALVATION ARMY

As the Christmas season is upon us, the CSER office has once again partnered with the Salvation Army in support of the Red Kettle Campaign. Numerous schools and departments have volunteered in helping to ring the bell at the Wards Road Wal-Mart food entrance location. Liberty University has been ringing the bell since Nov. 13 and will be supporting this campaign through Christmas Eve. Last year, through the help of Liberty University and other community organizations, the Salvation Army was able to raise $230,000 for the local Lynchburg area to meet the needs of the community. Thank you for being a part of this service to the community. If you and/or your families are willing to help with this year’s campaign, please contact Prof. Darren Wu at dcwu@liberty.edu.

For more information concerning the newsletter, please contact Dr. Gabriel Etzel at gbetzel@liberty.edu or by phone at 434-582-2568.