



Ministry Report: 15 July 2009

U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York

Eric and Jody Bryan; Joel (7 yrs), Jane (5 yrs), Berea (3 yrs), and John (1 year)

Picture to the right: 1,300 new cadets just arrived at

West Point forming the Class of 2013. As I write this update, we just finished hosting 4 of these new cadets (from Germany, Washington State, Arizona, and one who was prior service in the Army. All four have attended Chapel services, and welcome our encouragement to connect with Believers at their new home. It was fun to see them devour the hamburgers/hotdogs -- easily consumed 12 dogs/8 burgers in 10 minutes.



Picture to the left: It has been fun to watch these new cadets train around Campus. Their days are filled with learning basic military drill, dress, protocol, and physical training. The next month will be filled with more intense field training, learning how to give each other IV's (scary thought), and working in their feet to accomplish road marches (10-14 miles with pack).



Pictures to the right: Our children continue to find unique ways of ministering to cadets. Lacy the rugby-girl (top), Brian the young man whose life ambition is to end abortion (middle), and Koren, our dear friend who is so-so home-sick for Arizona (bottom), joined us for the Fourth of July fireworks and canon



shoot. All three of these individuals are undergoing intense training (Air Assault training!).

Goal Recap, June 15 – July 14:

Goal 1: Focus on quality time in prayer. We locked in 3 nights where we spent time away as a family. It really takes 2 days just to begin to settle the mind, I've found. Yet we were able to huddle as a family and connect well with each other. On 17-19 July, I have planned time alone, where I hope to get some direction from God to lead our family this year.



Goal 2: Develop/publish the Chapel Management Religious Plan Budget. Finally complete, this document took a lot of time in planning. After several revisions with Chapel staff, we have a document to plan our ministry, full breadth of budget expenses, contracts, salaries – which includes ministries for men, women, teenagers, children, administration, and music for the 3 Protestant chapels.

Goal 3: Hold Neighborhood Small Group Planning Meeting. Yea! We have a date reserved for 14 August at the Post Chapel Annex, and advertised throughout the community. In short, we hope to cast the vision for small group meetings around Post, which ought to help Believers connect, and learn how we might meet the practical needs of our Community as a



Church. Many seem content to operate independently, which I can appreciate, but I hope for growth here.

Goal 4: Plan a good 10-year anniversary for Jody. On 6 Aug we will have been married 10 years. Thank you, Father, for working out someone to watch the kids. I have a place reserved for 5 days away – yet still need to think of some extra fun ways to celebrate this special date. Thank you, Father, for an excellent wife (Prov. 31). Help me honor her well.

Goals, July 15 – August 14:

Goal 1: Select new Teachers in Training. Each Wednesday evening in July/early August we hold a Protestant service for 500-600 new cadets. As part of the service I recruit teachers who assist me throughout the year. My team of upperclass cadets help interview about 75 new cadets, of which we select about 20 to serve as teachers. I need to have this complete by mid August. We also have a training conference for 23 August. We need *Your* discernment, Lord Jesus.

Goal 2: Take a Step to Build Staff Connection. We just received word that one of our Chaplains must deploy to Afghanistan. As such, we have now lost 5 of our 6 chaplains within 3 months, all replaced with new chaplains. A new team is before us – time to seize the day! Ironically, after moving to West Point this past year, I am now the chaplain with the most longevity here – how ironic. I desire to build team cohesion and unity. I hope to take these new chaplains (and their families) on a tour of West Point, showing them the details most don't know about, as learned from cadet days. I also sense that their families need to fit into the team. I'd like to plan a tour mid-early August, all dependent on their complex schedules of course.

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Goal 4: Plan a good 10-year anniversary for Jody. On 6 Aug we will have been married 10 years. Thank you, Father, for working out someone to watch the kids. I have a place reserved in nearby Rhode Island for 6 days – yet still need to think of some extra fun ways to celebrate.

Thoughts for Prayer:

* Thank you for a very enjoyable and fruitful life. I enjoyed taking this picture of the full-moon rising over the hill next to our home. Thank you for fireflies, who overshadow the sting of pesky gnats. There is much of your beauty that escapes my notice. Open our eyes to see *Your* beauty.



* I hope to iron out a long-time conflict between two church members (who have been here for 8 years). Lord, would You help reconcile this relationship, and help me know what role to play. We need Your help, Lord Jesus.

* Father, please help us know whether to return to Active Duty service as a chaplain. Army? Navy? Please confirm in your time. We sense leading, but wait on Your timing. What does it mean to wait, Lord?

* Please help us focus on the work You would have us do, and say “no” to even apparently good ideas that might distract us from being effective.

* Please heal Will Freds' body (cancer), Berea's throat/cough, and help us remember the beauty of Your glorified, resurrected body. Remind me to think resurrection!