

A STEP CLOSER TO MISSION SERVICE

Where did the summer go? For that matter, what happened to September? Though there has been a short stretch of extremely warm weather in Elgin for October, the trees have changed color and the leaves are dropping. Once again, the Elgin Ministry Center (EMC) has wrapped up another five-week Fall training session known as "Access."

It's always great to have Missionaries-in-Training at the EMC because it's really what International Teams is all about: equipping missionaries for fruitful service around the world.

Training semesters start in January, June, and September each year and last for five weeks. This past month the EMC has been filled with vibrant worship, great classes, fun mealtimes, and informal fellowship. The last two weeks of Access concentrate on Second Language Acquisition (SLA). These are days of intense and challenging study for our missionaries-in-training.

Four MITs who completed training in September are already serving in Mexico, Ecuador, and Bolivia. The twelve long-term missionaries will be heading out soon for ministry in Ecuador, Bolivia, Austria, Costa Rica, and at International Teams' Refugee Ministry in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It's exciting to think of the ministry possibilities and the great things God will accomplish through them and in them as they willingly leave family, friends and the comforts of home in obedience to God's call to service.



The road blocks for an American to actually have a fruitful ministry in missions can be daunting (see statistics below.) For most ITeams missionaries, raising support is done

AFTER training, which can delay departure for months. Please pray for these brothers and sisters, that God will supply all their needs — financially, spiritually, emotionally, and physically — in the weeks ahead. We also invite you to join in their practical support as God directs. A gift to International Teams' "Where Need is Greatest" fund can help underwrite activities in the mobilizing and training of new missionaries for the field.

Missions Statistics:

- There are a total of 35,000 American missionaries on the field (down from 65,000 in 1988).
- 99% of those committing to mission service never make it
- It takes an average of 7 years for a person feeling the call of missions from God to actually GO!

*(Dave and Carolyn Meyers,
New Tribes Mission
http://www.ntm.org/dave_meyers)*

The Eagle Has Landed...

We have made it to Quito, Ecuador! For the three weeks prior to our landing, we were in Elgin, Illinois in training with International Teams. We spent full days learning about the values, ministries, and the forms of ITeams. They were long days, and our brains were filled to maximum capacity; however, we were challenged enough to be certain that this was the place we were supposed to be. Our favorite class was one taught by the founder of IT - Kevin Dyer. He is a passionate man who dreams big, still, even after 50 years of a thriving organization that has been transforming communities all over the world. He gave us some very practical principles to live by on the field including: have the courage to try new things, have a keen sense of justice, learn to cooperate with others, etc. Kevin also gave us some real life case studies to discuss. It was such a meaningful and useful class, and we left feeling excited, aware, warned, and encouraged.

Adam and Sara DeVries
ITeams missionaries in Quito, Ecuador

An Immersion Day was held at the Elgin Ministry Center on Saturday, October 13th: a day where those feeling a call to missions meet ITeams staff and learn more about opportunities for service around the globe. 72 people were in attendance (a new record!) from the following states: California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Texas, as well as Ontario, Canada!

ITeams Immersion Day, October 2007...

One woman came to ITeams all the way from **Delaware** because she felt God calling her to learn more about ITeams' Refugee Ministry options, even though she could only stay 24 hours!

Another woman flew in from **Texas** and shared that she really didn't want to come, but felt she HAD to, in obedience to God! She was SO glad she obeyed!

A couple who came from **Ohio** have already sold their part in the family business and are eager to move forward because God is calling them into ministry to refugees ...

Is God asking YOU to take a big step? For more information about ITeams next Immersion Day in February 2008, email Victoria Grant at victoria.grant@iteams.org!

I N T E R N A T I O N A L T E A M S

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

TRAINING - to help subsidize the cost for a missionary to attend our five-week Access Training program, required for service on the field.

MOBILIZATION - to help underwrite the cost of a Missionary Immersion Event at the Elgin Ministry Center where a potential missionary can hear about the heart, passion and vision of International Teams.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS - to assist missionaries on the field with communications and information systems support.

You can now give online at www.iteams.org/give



NEXT ISSUE: Athens, Greece – Nea Zoi (Lost Coin Ministry)