



The Rhoads Rock

May & June 2005
11th Year, 4th Issue

Campus Crusade for Christ at Gallaudet University

Students Home for the Summer

This spring semester has been a very interesting adventure for our students and deaf staff as well. There were a number of challenges we faced and a lot of trials and errors taking place. But it is good problems to make our campus ministry stronger and better to equip deaf students into Christ-centered laborers. I am often reminded of my life verse: Romans 8:28, "God caused all things to work for good to those who loves Him and who have been called according to His good purpose."

Like Thomas Edison going through a thousand tries with his inventions, so must we do a thousand tries as to what attract deaf students on campus, how to motivate our Christian students to attend our weekly fellowship as well as to maintain the momentum by keeping our student leaders and servants on their toes and in focus with their Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of the spring semester, we had our 3 days ServanTeam Retreat at Ocean City, MD. This retreat is to welcome new servants for our campus ministry. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect the old and new servants into unity. I gave them a head up to prepare themselves this summer especially in the area of evangelism. With some activities in evangelism, God opened their eyes toward this HUGE need to reach their fellow Deaf for Jesus. Pray that God will prepare them for this coming fall.

Praise God, we now have 2 Gallaudet students going on a summer project with Campus Crusade for 2 long weeks in Colorado. Please pray for David Reinhart and Merry Jones to raise support for their summer project. This is Merry's 2nd summer project. Both of them are our student leaders for this coming fall.

Supporting A Student with Love & Encouragement

With this student's permission, I will name this person "Peanut". Last December, Peanut came to Karen about using drugs and alcohol since the age of 5 and wants to become clean for the Lord.

Peanut accepted Jesus one year ago through one of our student leaders at Gallaudet. Peanut wants to live fully for Jesus but the addictions were taking control inside. Peanut has learned so much about the Lord by interacting and getting involved in the ministry with us. Peanut realizes that to surrender wholeheartedly is to come out clean and start fresh in the Lord. Peanut admitted that Peanut was not ready to go into the rehabilitation yet.

While we praise God for Peanut's life and the desire to live for the Lord, we realize that we are facing the greatest challenge in helping, praying, and watching Peanut every step of the way.

In January when our students returned to Gallaudet, Karen formed a support group with a few students that Peanut was willing to trust. We were constantly in communication especially with Karen for almost 24 hours and 7 days from February to April. There were a lot of frustration and bitterness and Peanut wanted us to give up. But we didn't and through it all, Peanut saw this kind of love that never occurs in Peanut's own life before.

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Our Support Goal and CSU

This summer we were assigned to raise support full time. We wanted to go on a summer project, *in other words*, short-term missions but we need to raise \$1400 on a monthly basis by August 2005. We had a number of changes with our finances to make sure our needs are taken care for our family and home. With Peanut's situation to a full recovery, it will not be easy for us to focus full time but we are trusting God to provide all the funds we need in a short time.

We would greatly appreciate your help by providing someone you know who would love to hear about our vision and calling to this unique ministry. You can send your friend's name, address and phone number or email address, even churches, too. We can get in touch with them and send them information about our ministry. Anything you can do to help, let us know. My email address is Robert.Rhoads@uscm.org.

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With that kind of love, *obviously from the Lord*, Peanut began to recover and that was in the beginning of April. Peanut finally decided to enter rehabilitation and get the treatment needed. But problems arose about the rehabilitation. The needs and resources for deaf addicts are often limited. It was a very difficult time getting the rehabilitation Peanut needed.

Finally, a week before the semester ended, Peanut entered the rehab center near our home. Since Peanut's family are out of state and will not be available, the rehab center considered Karen and Bob as Peanut's family for the time being. Since the semester ended, Peanut did not have any place to stay. So Peanut stayed at our home in the basement until a halfway home is ready to take Peanut for treatments, NA meetings, counseling and more. But it will not be ready until July 2005. Peanut plans to continue at Gallaudet this fall with one more year to go.

Please *pray* for Peanut's full recovery. Peanut looks forward to enjoying life from God and experiences those blessings. *Pray* that Peanut will be able to move forward and not to look back. It was not an easy road for us.

Pray for our family time together including Peanut. Our children have taught Peanut many things about the good life from God.

Praise God for His perseverance in our life according to James 1:2-5.



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In addition, we are going to our bi-annual National Staff conference at Colorado State University on July 16th to 29th and we are stretching our trip from July 9th to August 5th to see friends, supporters like you, churches and support appointments along the way.

The CSU conference is a major part of our ongoing staff training and our times of refreshment to equip us for the campus ministry. Our kids love being there. There are expenses such as children daycare programs for our 4 children, housing and meals, tuition and travels we need to cover for 2 weeks. We need at least \$2500 to cover the CSU expenses.

Will you prayerfully help cover our CSU expenses with a gift of \$30, \$50 or \$100?

Enclosed is the envelope that will go directly to Campus Crusade for Christ. Be sure to mention our staff account #0438778. Or you can support online, see information below. Please pray that our time will be well spent, the focus on support raising will not be hindered, and that we will have a good family summer before Bob is scheduled to start the campus planning in August.

Family Updates

Our kids just finished school on Wednesday, June 8th. Grace graduated on Monday, June 6th from 6th grade. She will enter 7th grade at a different school this fall. Robert will enter 5th grade at Woodmore and so will Noah into 2nd grade. Seth will turn 4 this fall. He has one more year to enter kindergarten.

Having an early start of a summer vacation allow us time to relax a bit, go swimming and get ready for our trip out WEST.

From our family to yours, have a great summer! Thank you for your faithful support and prayers!

Robert & Karen Rhoads, 4408 Stockbridge Court, Bowie, MD 20720

Email: Robert.Rhoads@uscm.org and Karen.Rhoads@uscm.org

Phone: Call Relay first at 711 then 301-352-4160

Staff Account #0438778.

You can support online is <http://give.ccci.org>. Type in "Robert Rhoads".