



BRONCO CAMPUS MINISTRIES

P.O. Box 19012, Kalamazoo, MI 49019

(The joint ministry of the Reformed & Christian Reformed Churches)

September 2011

A new semester is off and running. The first week of a semester is busy and very strategic in making contact with new students and reconnecting with returning students.

We began on Labor Day Evening with a "Taste of the Nations" kick-off event at our home. A few students provided food from their countries and we "of course" provided the American hot dogs and hamburgers. The students enjoyed the fun, food and fellowship. We explained in advance that we would provide information about the year and invited anyone who wanted to fill in some basic information to designate their interests and contact information. After dinner the students went outside to play yard games and later came inside for a warm drink. The evening proved to be a good test to determine whether what we were offering students was in alignment with their interests. Some students indicated that they wanted to be involved in everything.

Our week continued with our first International Luncheon (Snack Time the first week) and Bronco Bash on Friday afternoon. The number of students coming to our snack time was 50% more than we had anticipated. Bronco Bash began with a half hour down pour. In spite of the rain, we were again able to reconnect with a good number of returning students and meet many new students.

In a few weeks I will be able to give you more specific information about what we observe and see developing. I am encouraged that some of the students who have been involved last year have indicated a stronger desire to connect this year and that their interest in Christianity seems to have grown. Please pray with us that many students would become Christians and many Christian students would grow deeper in their Christian faith. During the past year I have been using the words of Ephesians 3:20-21 in my prayers. When I think that God is able to do far more than I can think, dream, imagine, or consider possible, I find myself asking God to just amaze me by what He wants to do. As I have witnessed so many incidences in which this has taken place in my own life, I now want to pray these verses for the lives of students and our ministry.

During this summer, Fran and I had the opportunity to visit some students who came through our ministry in the past. It was so encouraging to visit and hear of how they are living out their Christian faith today. One purpose of these visits was to analyze their journey of faith at WMU and learn how it has progressed after they moved away from WMU. I believe this information is useful to determine how we might better encourage the faith and spiritual development of the students we minister to today. Fran and I were very encouraged and learned a lot from these students. We are now trying to put what we learned into practice.

As we begin a new school year, we also request your financial support. Our giving income has been low this summer. As we begin the new school year, any gifts you could give would be deeply appreciated. As I have mentioned before, we do not seek any funds which should be directed to the needs of your local church. If you have some discretionary funds that you could give to help us, we would be very grateful.

Fran and I continue to feel honored to minister at WMU. As the students return and we meet them, we feel invigorated to love them and share with them the greatest story that can ever be told. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and if you have questions or want to learn more, just ask, call or send an email.

For Christ, the University and the World,

Rev. Ron De Young – RCA/CRC Campus Pastor