

Hey, everyone!

I wanted to briefly thank the CVCA staff, faculty, administration (and of course, all the parents) who supported our Pittsburgh Project ministry this year with prayer over the past several weeks. For those who might be unaware, CVCA sent TWO teams to Pittsburgh this summer, in consecutive weeks. Eric Ling led the first trip (admirably!) and can report more of what his 50 students witnessed that week in Pittsburgh, but I can certainly attest to the power of God in the lives of the students who attended that trip and the following week, both from firsthand account and from conversations with students since the two trips ended.

CVCA served roughly 60 vulnerable homeowners in the city of Pittsburgh over the last two weeks, which is inspiring, and as always the relationships forged between students and their (mostly elderly) homeowners was a source of great joy and edification to our student servants. But perhaps more compelling to me was the remarkable degree of unity and spiritual breakthrough witnessed among our teams over the last two weeks of service. It seems that in the past few years, God is tilling the soil of our students' hearts as early as their time in Pittsburgh Project to begin a spiritual work and stoke a hunger for service and serious reflection on Christ that—one that will continue (I'm sure) to manifest itself when they rejoin the student body at CVCA in the fall and eventually on their trip to the Dominican Republic.

The tears and prayers expended in Pittsburgh this week by teachers and students (some of whom rededicated their lives to Christ on the trip) were accompanied by phrases like, "Why do we have to wait until senior year to be a radical influence for Christ at CVCA?" Students were moved to take advantage of the "fire" they sensed in their spirits to challenge the student body to reject sin and embrace service and godly devotion, and to remain unified by God's love and grace in the process. Without faculty or Pittsburgh Project staff goading them into a commitment, students were confessing on their own the need to inspire their peers to greater faith, and though our sophomore teams engaged in service during two different weeks, they apparently had strikingly similar conversations and impressions from God during their weeks of service in spite of the time lapse.

So, thanks again for your encouragement and support, and though this summary of our experiences was inadequate to capture what we faculty and parents witnessed over the last two weeks in Pittsburgh, be assured that some great reports (and hopefully some palpable change in your sophomore students) will be arriving at CVCA in a few weeks (um, I mean, after a LONG summer vacation) when the 2010 fall semester begins!

Gratefully,
Matt Fleagle