MOP to CWC | Aug 2012



by David on August 22, 2012 in By David, Entrepierres Updates

Our summer began at MOP at Greenwood Hills in Pennsylvania. It was a great time sitting under the teaching and counsel of seasoned Christian workers. We were encouraged by how many young people also attended and everyone was very excited about all the possibilities for the future. That week flew by and we were soon on our way to France, pumped up and energized with a lot of great information to think about. We dove into the work head first with great energy and ambition . . . but a few weeks in we hit a wall (and not just one of the 14th century walls). We were challenged and exhausted physically, mental and spiritually. We were faced with the reality that this was not just a short youth group trip during our summer break. We weren't with all of our friends from home and there were no programs to follow or fun activities planned for our enjoyment. We experienced loneliness, isolation, discouragement, conflict and at times wanted to quit and come home to all of what we knew as safe and comfortable. We struggled with the "Why us?", "Why here?", "Why now?" and "Why not someone else?", "Why not near home?", "Why not later after we've

lived our lives?". By God's strength alone we pressed on and He gave us much grace, answered many of our prayers and comforted our hearts.

"Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Matthew 11: 28-30 (ESV)

I just turned 30. For this milestone birthday, Rachel lovingly organized many peoples' memories of me from the past and it brought back many experiences from my childhood. "Back and forth, back and forth, I was a 4 year old strapped to my dad's shoulders in a faded blue (almost purple) aluminum framed carrier. All bundled up in my orange hooded wool sweater as we travelled steadily up the rough dirt road at camp, far away from everyone I would have otherwise inevitably woken up. Dad would stop every so often and, to my great wonder, show me a unique stone, leaf, piece of bark, flower or bug. My little eyes took in the intricate details, my soft hands felt the new textures, my wrinkly nose smelled the rawness and, if dad didn't take the object back, my salivating tongue tasted the flavors of God's creation. The sun was not nearly up but you could feel the light coming. The dew was rising all around us and you could hear the wildlife beginning to stir. I remember this like yesterday. If only life was as simple as traveling on my father's back now." (Sometimes I imagine this will be the way we walk with Jesus in heaven and He gets to show us all the obvious things we missed during life on earth.)

"So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:12 (ESV)

Time passes so quickly. If you close your eyes for a second you can miss out on years. If 30 years has passed by so fast, you can imagine how quickly just 2 months has gone! We had some pretty lofty goals heading into this "vision trip" and unfortunately, but probably not to have been unexpected, we have not yet reached all of our goals. Much prayer, consideration and wise counsel is still needed as we seek God's leading regarding these matters. Pray.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Matthew 9:37, 39 (ESV)

We are currently at the CWC in Annecy, France interacting with Christian workers from around the world all striving towards a common goal. As a young couple, we are in the minority and in great demand. I wish we could say "YES!" to everyone who has come to us and talked with us about their needs. We are overwhelmed by the great need for laborers and the realization that we are not capable of doing it all or even very much of it. Imagine how overwhelmed the current workers must feel! There is much labor to be done as so many people around the world are in darkness. They are waiting for the true Light to come and their time is passing quickly. How are you spending yours?