



After a meeting in Moby Gym at the staff conference



Dr. Bill Bright (1921-2003)



One of the worship times at the conference

## An eventful summer!

Our June and July were spent in Ft. Collins, Colorado, working, taking classes and attending the biennial staff conference. We are so thankful for all of your special gifts that allowed the extra expenses of the summer to be covered. Heather took a class on the Old Testament and one that explored different doctrines of God, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit. She commented, "I feel like I have such a better understanding, appreciation and even love for the Old Testament. I have a greater confidence in Scripture and being an image-bearer of God has gained a richer meaning." Hundreds of other staff took similar classes. (The heart of taking the time to develop Campus Crusade's staff in this way is that their love for God would grow deeper so they might run the race for the long haul.) The class I participated in dealt with finances (related to the office, and some about personal) was a great help, not only in knowing how to do my job, but the importance of being a good steward with what we are entrusted and having financial integrity.

Just as our classes were wrapping up, the pace quickened with the start of the conference. Every conference will have certain moments we will never forget. On the whole, this conference will be remembered as the time God chose to take our founder, Dr. Bill Bright,

home to heaven. It was obvious that God's hand was in the planning of the speakers and content more than we could have even known. Earlier that day we had seen a drama unfold onstage as one speaker vividly painted a picture of the Bema Judgment in Heaven. (This is when we will be judged for what we did with what God entrusted to us and then rewarded accordingly.) It was an emotionally sobering time as we were reminded again of what will last for all eternity, versus the many activities we pursue that have no eternal significance. The drama showed how reaching even one person for Christ could have wonderful ripple effects. As we heard of Dr. Bright's homegoing later that day we were struck by the ripple effects his faith had on the expanding of the kingdom of God—his vision and faith has resulted in BILLIONS hearing the gospel! Amidst the grief of loss there was joy, as we knew Dr. Bright was finally getting his chance to see his beloved Savior face to face! That night Chris Tomlin, a great worship leader, led us as we sang. It was incredible to know and realize that God is holy and powerful and in love with us.

We left with renewed vision as our president, Steve Douglass, encouraged us to continue on so we might see our vision realized:

**MOVEMENTS EVERYWHERE SO THAT EVERYONE WOULD KNOW SOMEONE WHO LOVES JESUS.**

Pray that we would be intentional in meeting our neighbors and sharing Christ with them. (So that we might be that someone they know that loves Jesus.)



At Bear Lake, Rocky Mountain Nat. Park, CO (near Ft. Collins)



Delicate Arch, Arches National Park, UT



Inspiration Point, Bryce Canyon National Park, UT



North Rim, Grand Canyon, AZ

As rich as the summer was, there were also some struggles. As part of the team that runs the conference we enjoyed perks such as hearing from speakers like Larry Crabb, Rick Warren, Steve Douglass in a more intimate setting. However, we were also there to serve the staff in humbling ways like picking up trash left behind by the staff after meetings. Heather said, "I found myself struggling, wanting to serve the staff like Christ would, and as if I were doing it for Christ, yet also wishing that people would be more considerate and acknowledge that service. It was convicting to see my willingness to serve at times being centered around whether people were acknowledging my work and thankful for it." Please pray that our hearts would overflow with love for others and a willingness to serve even in the mundane and unseen ways.

### *The long way home*

Heather and I took some vacation time after our summer responsibilities were over and headed further west. We cut across Southern Utah and visited several National Parks on the way to the Grand Canyon. It was hot, and barren, but also incredibly beautiful. We took lots of pictures as the diversity of God's creation overwhelmed us. I remembered someone saying that even with all the beauty of nature to not forget that God's greatest creation is people. (A good thing to remember when surrounded by other tourists, who could be seen as a nuisance.)

*Please pray for us as we settle back in at home and work. Pray that we would apply what we learned this summer. Pray for rich fellowship with God and each other.*

Thanks!

*Heather + David*