



Coastlands Update

Winter '06-'07

You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8b

Winter/Spring Ministry Schedule

Report from the Field By Jim Schofield

- Jan. 8-12 Manhattan Christian Academy, New York City, NY, K-8 SEW
- Jan. 22-26 Salem Christian School, Salem, NH, K-8 SEW
- Jan. 29-Feb.2 Upton Lake Christian School, Clinton Corner, NY, K-8 SEW
- Feb. 12-16 Mt. Hope Christian School, Burlington, MA, Pre-K-5 SEW
- Mar. 5-9 Penobscot Christian School, Bangor, ME, K-8 SEW
- Mar. 12-16 Nashua Christian Academy, Nashua, NH, K-5 SEW
- Mar. 18 Calvary Bible Church, Meredith, NH, Teacher Training
- Mar. 19-23 Concord Christian Academy, Concord, NH, K-9 SEW
- Apr. 2-6 Good Shepherd Christian School, Barrington, NH, 6-10 SEW
- Apr. 16-20 Cape Cod Trip with Concord Christian's 8th Grade Class
- Apr. 30-May 3 Valley Christian School, South Hadley, MA, 7-12 SEW



Jim is a middle/high school teacher at Concord Christian

Children engaged in joyful worship, students receiving scriptural teaching, young minds growing through thoughtful journaling, boys and girls feeling the touch of personal mentoring; Christ's love flowing freely. These are things that for many years have been the fruit of Coastlands ministry here at Concord Christian Academy. Each year we all (students, staff, parents and faculty) look forward to the times of "Spiritual Emphasis" when Ms. Brady and her team come to join us.

Coastlands ministry is based on personal relationships, first with the Lord, followed closely with all those that they serve. Before the team

visits us, we work together to find a spiritual need that the children have. This forms the focus of the teaching for the week. We then work to integrate this focus in both the special times of teaching led by the ministry team and with the regular classes that the students have for the week. We make sure there is time for the students to journal, which allows them to reflect on the teaching. All these things work together to give the children a meaningful time to grow in their walk with the Lord.

Beyond the formal times of worship and teaching there are many times of informal fellowship and mentoring. Members of the team are always looking for opportunities to get to know the children one-on-one. They will be at the lunch table sharing a meal, in the gym playing a game, helping a student with homework in study hall, all while sharing the love of Christ. These are the moments that stick in

the minds and hearts of the children, and solidify the teaching they have received.

In addition to the time spent at the school during Spiritual Emphasis week, we also have the joy of having Mr. Huffman join us when we take the 8th grade class for a week to Cape Cod. In the last few years, Matt has led us in daily devotions and has mentored and built up



Cape Cod

our 8th graders greatly during this time. A special

time during the week is the sunrise devotion. He and a number of the students gather before dawn on the beach to be there as the new day begins. Together they praise God for the beauty of that event.

Coastlands ministry has been a true blessing to us each and every year and we look forward to many more years together.

Attention! Last Call!

We will now be sending the newsletter only via email unless you request a hard copy. If you would like to continue to receive a hard copy or are not currently receiving it via email but want to, please notify Pam or Matt. Their contact information is located on the back page.

Pam's Ponderings:

LABOR-IN-VAIN RD

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."
1 Corinthians 15:58

Several years ago as I was driving through Ipswich, I was amused to find a street named "Labor in Vain Rd." It occurred to me that it may have been a particularly difficult road to construct, or perhaps it was a dead-end street. Either way I would not want the phrase "Labor in Vain" to be part of my return address. I would not want to live there.

Sometimes as Christians we feel that we are living on

"Labor in Vain Rd." Our sacrifices in our homes, churches, workplaces, and schools may feel like the spiritual equivalent of spinning our wheels. We may see no immediate tangible evidence of the fruit of our labor. We may grow impatient or despondent with delayed answers to prayer. But God's promise to us is that NO work done for HIS glory is ever in vain.

When we give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord, we may be confident that we are not living on "Labor in Vain Rd." Regardless of what we see or feel, we may claim His promise that our service in His name is NEVER in vain.

Special Thanks

... to **Tony Long** and **Robin Walton**, who have graciously agreed to serve on the **Coastlands Council**.



Tony Long

Tony is the principal of Salem Christian School in Salem, NH, and Robin works in youth ministry in south-central Maine.

Pam, Tony, and Robin met twice this fall and will meet again in February. *Their priorities currently include establishing a Coastlands ministry base, beginning the incorporation process, securing new venues, and obtaining interns from Christian educational institutions.*

Notes from Pam and Matt

Lesson Theme

Last year we taught a series of lessons called "D.A.D.D.Y.: God as our Heavenly Father". This year we have developed a new series of lessons using the word "**C.R.A.Z.Y.**", which is based on a Mercy Me song with the same name. To many people in the world today it seems CRAZY to serve God, yet Mercy Me reminds us, "*It would be crazy to choose this world over eternity.*"



Pam, Jean Cronk, and Elaine Driscoll

Off Weeks

Pam and Matt have been busy even when they have not been "on the road". Pam has been busy writing her doctoral thesis paper, which is due in February. Matt has been substitute teaching at an excellent Christian school in New York, and has been grateful to get to know the staff and students over the past few months.

While November and December are typically slow months for the ministry, the schedule becomes very busy in January!

Financial Needs

Our financial needs as a ministry and as individuals continue to be great. If you would like to make a donation to Pam, please send it to her address on the back of this newsletter. If you would like to make one to Matt, please make the check payable to him but send it to Jean Eastman at: 14 Gunstock Ridge, Merrimack, NH 03054. Thanks!



Rock. Paper. Scissors. Shoot!

On The Road: Fall Ministry

We began the year with 2 days of training for the staff at **Upton Lake Christian School** in NY, where we'll be returning for a SEW in January. Then, we had our first SEW of the year at **Mount Hope Christian School**, a pre-K through 5th



Jean Cronk

grade school in Burlington, MA, where we were joined in ministry by Jean Cronk. Mt. Hope exemplifies diversity and is a great picture of what heaven will look like: worshippers from "every tribe and language and people and nation"! In early October Matt traveled to **Holden Christian Academy** near

Worcester, Massachusetts. Since Pam was unable to go, some Holden students and staff graciously helped with worship and object lessons. A couple weeks later we journeyed to **Cornerstone Christian School** in Manchester, CT, working with K - 6th grade. We built on the relationships we developed there last year and spent a significant amount of time with the sixth grade class. At the end of October Matt presented a workshop at the **ACSI Middle School Leadership Conference** at Camp Brook-



Foot-washing is part of the CRAZY week

woods in Alton, NH, and the following week Pam provided 2 workshops at the **ACSI Teacher Convention** in Sturbridge, MA. In addition, Pam and Matt manned a Coastlands exhibit table there for the first time! Finally, we closed out November with the 6th-12th graders at **Living Waters Christian School** in West Buxton, ME. We enjoyed sharing daily stories about our encounters with Ollie, our host family's dog - a DOG who thinks he's GOD!



The Coastlands display table

S.E.W. In-Depth: "Do you know the Muffin Man?"

Teachers often invite us to spend time with their individual classes. We usually sing a couple of requested songs before doing **"Coffee Can"**, which is question-and-answer time. We give students a note



Pam takes requests

card on which they may *anonymously* write ANY question. After they place their cards in the can, we pull out the questions and answer them. Coffee Can enables students to get answers to serious questions that they might otherwise hesitate to ask, and it also helps us

build deeper relationships with the students. *Many questions are Bible-based.* "If God is all good, why did he create Satan?" "Can you lose your salvation?" "How can I get into the habit of reading the Bible?" *Some deal with individual situations or relationships.* "How do I handle a divorce when it feels like I'm right in the middle of it?" "How old do you think someone should be when they have a boyfriend/girlfriend?" "If someone is making fun of a girl but you think if you help her you'll be made fun of what should you do?" *Some are personal and often involve our likes and dis-*

likes. "How did you become a Christian?" "Do you like rap?" "What's your favoritest movie ever?" *Some are very random!* "Do you know the Muffin



"Coffee Can" time

Man?" "Do you like pickles?" "Y are the attractive people so mean?" "Do you like fire and/or explosions?" All of these questions are real, and we attempted to answer each one. In addition to adding variety, the personal and random questions show the students that if it's safe to ask a question like that, it's safe to ask a deeper one.

Coastlands Consultants

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Coastlands Consultants is a relationally-based ministry providing on-site mentoring teams in a variety of Christian venues, including Spiritual Emphasis Weeks, retreats, women's ministries, leadership training, VBS, camp ministry and teacher training. Coastlands teams travel across the Northeast and Eastern Seaboard.



Coastlands Spotlight: Robin Walton



Robin and her daughters, Stephanie and Christine, in Mexico last spring

- New member of the Coastlands Council
- Married 22 years to her husband Mark
- 3 Children:
Greg, 21, engaged, student at Eastern University
Christine, 18, student at the Berkshire Institute of Christian Studies

Stephanie, 16, student at Thornton Academy

- Attended Simpson College, Berkshire Christian College, and University of Maine, with focus on Psychology and Social Work
- Stay-at-home mom, book-keeper, and lifeguard/swim instructor
- Assistant youth leader in Saco, ME
- Intermediate Camp co-director at Christian camp in Belgrade, ME
- Will be going on a missions trip with HCJB to Ecuador this spring

Prayer Requests

- The formation of the Coastlands Council
- More team members
- A house to serve as a Coastlands base
- Financial provision
- More ministry venues
- Teachable hearts and minds
- Interns
- Safe travel
- Physical health
- Pam as she finishes her doctorate