



UPDATE ON LIFE IN AMES

The Rock on Friday nights has been getting full. We've been averaging close to 150 people in attendance and the puts us really short on chairs. It's exciting to see so many new faces every week! Please pray that we can be faithful in following them up. During the month of February we did a series on relationships from roommate conflicts, into what purity in a Christian dating relationship looks like and finally what God calls us to eventually in marriage.

This semester Christie and I asked all of the college freshman in the Rock to come on over to our house for dinner. We had a lot of fun hanging out with them and building relationships with those we don't know as well. It was also a great opportunity to cast the vision of what the Rock is about and how they can be involved.

Over spring break (here in the middle of March) Christie and I will be helping lead a small team up to Duluth, MN to reach out in the frigid north. From our research there isn't much of a Christian influence on the 15,000 college students. It should be exciting to head to a new and unique area for the gospel. We are enthusiastic about what God might do with the time.



Ben leads music at the Rock



Tim preaching at the Rock

LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN COLORADO!

Christie and I are heading out to the GCM Leadership Training Program (LT) this summer in Estes Park, CO.


The LT program has been very instrumental in furthering my personal walk with God and helping me grow as a leader. My first LT was in 1998 when I had just graduated from high school. I moved away from home for the first time and stepped out in faith trusting God to take care of me. It was an amazing summer of new relationships, learning to serve others and practicing being accountable to other men.



Stephen and Anthony

I went back in '99, 2002 and 2003 and took significant steps of faith each time. I had many opportunities to try out new leadership skills at different levels enabling me to attend as a full time intern with the program in 2003. These experiences dramatically affected my heart and were instrumental in my decision to pursue ministry full time. God has used the LT program to catalyze my faith and ultimately make me more like him!

Another very significant effect that the LT program has had on my life is God introduced me to my future wife through the program. Summer 2002 I was asked to lead music and she was assigned as my backup singer. Our friendship slowly grew over the next year and God brought us both back to LT the next summer and that is when romance blossomed. For obvious reasons students are discouraged from pursuing such relationships during the program, so we took it slow and asked for lots of counsel and God has obviously blessed us!

Both Christie and I are excited about returning and spending a summer in the place that we met six years before. 

AN OVERVIEW OF LEADERSHIP TRAINING ON THE BACK! »

LEADERSHIP TRAINING - GCMLT.ORG

LT is a summer program for believers who desire to be transformed into people who impact their world as they live out their faith.

» The Challenge

Taking a look at Western Christianity, most people who claim to be Christians are not making a significant impact on the people around them. Instead of influencing the world for God through their lives as Christ says believers will in Matthew 5:13-16, the majority have assimilated to the culture to the point that their lives are undistinguishable from anyone else's.

Jesus not only laid out this expectation, He also set the example for us. So, why aren't Christians acting like Jesus?

"The primary reason that people do not act like Jesus is because **they do not think like Jesus**. Behavior stems from what we think – our attitudes, beliefs, values, and opinions," says George Barna in [Think Like Jesus](#).


» The Call

Many people who come to faith in Christ never learn what it means to be a disciple of Christ. That's what LT is all about – it helps to develop a biblical foundation for believers to live out the heart and mind of Christ every day, and as they do that, to influence the world around them for God.

"Romans 12:2 clearly expresses God's desire for us," Barna continues, "we must intentionally turn our back on the world and aggressively develop a mind the world is incapable of recognizing. We are exhorted to undergo not just a change but a transformation. That's what a biblical worldview does to us; it is an intellectual rebirthing of the person akin to the spiritual rebirthing that occurs in our soul when we embrace Christ as our savior."

» The Transformation: Leadership Training

Every aspect of LT further develops this biblical worldview: the gut-level teachings, raw worship, practical application workshops, compassionate community projects, small group discussions, opportunities to share your faith, full-time employment, and the community of Christ-followers you live with.

LT is unique because each of these components fits together to create an intense environment where you experience life transformation at an accelerated pace. You're able to focus on the truths of God and the issues in your life in a safe, focused atmosphere allowing for significant growth and development to occur in your walk with God. 



THE ROCK

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