

June 2010 Goracke Newsletter

Sunset International Bible Institute ... Singapore!



Greetings from Singapore,

June proved to be a month of mountaintop and valley times. Most of my month's time was consumed with either preparations for or the actual unfolding of both SIBI pre-camp or PP church camp studies/activities. In last month's newsletter I briefly mentioned that Dr. Nat Cooper would be SIBI's visiting teacher for the pre-camp seminar titled, **"We Have Something In Common."** The seminar was attended well with 30 attending students from several neighboring countries as well as many local Singaporeans.

You might remember from last month's newsletter that Nat's study would focus on several Biblical characters and the challenges they faced and overcame and how in all truth, we face some of the exact same struggles and challenges in our own lives. A few of the study sessions included Biblical people such as King Saul, Naomi, and Jeremiah and how they dealt with real life issues such as grief, rejection and how certain decisions made in life can cause people all kinds of trouble. Nat also taught about certain struggles the first century church faced and how the Christians of those days overcame and resolved their struggles and maintained unity and continued on in the purpose of the Lord. Personally, I found this time of study to be not only refreshing, but so valuable to be able to help others during the common times of struggle we share in life.

After the four day SIBI seminar, our family turned our focus to four more days of filling our spiritual buckets at the PP church camp hosted in Bangi Malaysia. Nat was also the invited guest speaker for the PP camp and presented several lessons which focused on character development and its vital importance from his work with Character Counts. There are more details about Nat's character lessons in our family news section, but check out www.charactercenter.com to get a good taste of some of what Nat shared at the PP camp. You will be thrilled with the value of the material that Nat and Character Counts have to offer!

Sadly, my co-worker, Charles Cook, returned to Singapore from his State-side furlough only to pack and finish up with the necessary things to do for his final days of serving as the administrator for SIBI Singapore. Last month I reported that Charles was denied his employment pass which is required to legally live and work in Singapore. Since that time the PP leadership has announced that the SIBI Singapore board of directors that we work together with which consists of some very gifted PP members is to be dissolved. Therefore, everything concerning the immediate future of SIBI Singapore is tentatively on hold (except for plans I personally will be serving at for July and the first part of August) until Sunset leaders from the US and PP leadership come together for negotiations. According to the PP leadership, a new board will be set up once a new administrative dean for the school is appointed. Please be in prayer with us concerning these things.



Dr. Nat Cooper teaching the SIBI pre-camp seminar... "We Have Something In Common"



Nat Cooper pictured with some of the SIBI pre-camp international students from Thailand, China, Myanmar, India, the Philippines, and Singapore. A total of 30 students attended this SIBI pre-camp seminar.

“It’s not what happens to you in life that matters, it’s what happens in you. For, if what happens in you is right, what happens to you doesn’t matter.”—Dr. Nat Cooper

Below is a picture of the 338 “campers” who attended the 2010 Pasir Panjang church camp.



Family News, Notes & Kiddo Quotes...

It is amazing to me that children who have finely tuned radar ears that can detect a candy wrapper being discreetly opened up from any location within our apartment and be on the spot as fast as lightening, have difficulty hearing simple, clearly stated, two or three word directives like, "Bed time" or "Clean up time." Apparently radar ear goes kaput without sweet incentive. Even if I carried an endless candy supply around with me, and the kiddos' ears had "earlids" like their eyes have eyelids and I could see if their ears were open or shut before I started speaking, being human I know we would still have communication problems at times. Nevertheless, communicating with them is definitely a blessing. It is not variety that is the spice of life, but communicating effectively in our relationships that spices life up.

Speaking of spices, the month of June was peppered with important communication and relationship building lessons for our family. The main event where this peppering took place was at the PP family church camp. Nat Cooper's 'Character Counts' lessons concerning the importance of building character traits such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship in ourselves and our children were filled with practicality and sage. Ultimately it is our goal to be a family that magnifies God with our character. Don't forget to check out Nat's website where he includes ideas for helping to teach the above mentioned character traits to children as well as other helpful information and quotes about character. On that positive note I'll wrap up this section of our newsletter for this time. Know that we love you and that God loves you even more. He loves you the most!

Our Love To You... Tom, Nancy, Jaydon & Shayla

Kiddo quotes...

Are these healthy pancakes? Next time let's not make healthy pancakes.—Shayla (The "healthy pancakes" came from a pre-mixed box brand that were gluten free, sugar free, and additive free. I asked her if we should make unhealthy ones instead since she thought they tasted better. She gave me an 'Oh Mom' look and said, "Let's just make our old style.")

I like my sister best...when she's sleeping.—Jaydon

Instead of juice can we get a 'burpy' drink instead.—Jaydon (He got sodas for us all.)

Overseeing church:
12th Street church of Christ
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Seagraves, TX 79359

Is Dad a teenager?—Shayla

Mom, have you past 79 years yet?—Shayla

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Farewell see-off at the airport for Charles cook