



IAM YOUTH ABLAZE

A Ministry of International Accelerated Missions

JUNE 2009

Removing the Distractions

In the account of Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt, the command given was "Let my people go, so that they may worship me." How amazing that we are freed from our sins and Jesus' death on the cross spoke to our adversary to "let them go" so we can enter into the presence of God to worship Him. Many times we are unable to enter into the fullness of worship because of the distractions around and inside us. We saw this very clearly during our times of worship with the students in Refiner's Fire Ministry at OSL.

Worship...

We had an amazing year with Refiner's Fire Ministry, partnering us with Our Savior's Lutheran Middle School. One of our main goals was for every student to encounter God more deeply through the Word and through worship. Together, we learned a lot—how to pray for each other, how to *step it up* in our faith and our walk with the Lord and how to worship God without distraction. The highlight for us was seeing the growth in each student in their outward expression of worshipping Jesus.

Blind Folds...

Our first worship encounter, at the beginning of the school year, found the students feeling a bit exposed and uncomfortable. They looked at each other, made gestures or faces, and would chit chat with the person standing next to them. No doubt, it was an awkward beginning. We really had to trust Jesus to carry us through to the end.

Much prayer and seeking God gave us the idea of blindfolds. We tried them out at a Breakfast Retreat in November, and challenged students to sit away from their friends with the blindfolds on. What happened next was beautiful. These once awkward, uncomfortable young people were able to express themselves in worship to the Lord without reservation! As the music played some raised their hands, others danced, while some knelt down in reverence with their hands raised up in worship. They were released into a new level of worship as the distractions were removed. To hear voices joined together singing "Holy, Holy, Holy" was powerful.

As the weeks went on, although the blindfolds were itchy, they still wanted to wear them because they longed to be in His presence. We knew the next step was to enter into His presence without the

aid of the blindfolds. So during our Boot Camp Experience (BCE) in April, through quiet times alone and times of corporate prayer and worship they got to know God in a deeper way, enabling them to enter into His presence without the blindfolds. Many young people wept and got down on their knees crying out for forgiveness for themselves and others. God gave some of them a new song to sing which brought us closer to the holy of holies. We heard them cry out for others' salvation. The call upon their lives, to set themselves apart in surrender to Him, arose within many of them.

Please join forces with us as we pray that all the Lord did in their lives over this past year will not be stolen from them; that they will remember how they met with God and how He spoke to their hearts.

Pray for them as they meet the challenges of living in a day when there is such an assault on their way of life and on their faith. The war that wages over their lives is real and it's powerful, but we know the author and perfecter of their faith. Let us also pray to be blinded to the things that distract us and keep us from entering into the fullness of His presence in worship.

IAM YOUTH ABLAZE

DIRECTOR

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Summer 2009 Prayer Point

Zephaniah 3:17 has been resonating in my heart since our first trip to Uganda in 2007. "The Lord your God is in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." (NKJ)

Pray for the interns and children to experience His quiet love for them and hear the song of rejoicing that He sings over them. Especially for the children of Smile Africa.

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POINTS OF
INTEREST

- ★ SUMMER 2009 PRAYER POINT
- ★ UGANDA UPDATE
- ★ PRAYER FOR NORTH KOREA YOUTH
- ★ FIND OUT WHAT'S COMING UP AT IAM YOUTH ABLAZE

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