



Outside our apartment in Astoria

The Lees bite the Big Apple

Mid-Summer 2008

Paul writes in Romans 8 that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose.

As people who have been redeemed from the curse of the law, and even more, as those now called to go to the nations as ambassadors of Christ, we regard it a special privilege to be called MTW Missionaries. This past month in New York City participating in MTW's Pre-Field Training (PFT) is another aspect of that ongoing good to which God has

called us--me, my wife, and my children. This good was and continues to be revealed in numerous ways from the incredibly gracious response of our children (imagine robbing your teenage children of the better portion of their summer vacation), to our participation in the multi-ethnic body of Christ at Ascension PCA, to the friendships discovered on 41st Street in Astoria, to the wisdom shared and hopefully the lessons learned during our training sessions held at Evangel Church.

As we move on to the next phase in the iteneration process, something John Leonard said during our training

stands out. He said, "Everything you need is already waiting for you." For us in Christ, how could it be any other way?



Tricia with our NYC neighbor Pietra



The Church Connected

Over the last several issues of our newsletter we have stressed the connectational nature of the church of Christ. There can be no doubt that all those who are truly in Christ are one. But in our travels so far, the connections have been more easily and naturally made as we have visited predominately anglo-ethnic, southern churches, and a few in the midwest. Our experience in New York City during Pre-Field Training, on the other, hand reveals a much more diverse and accurate representation of the "nations, tribes and tongues" to which we are all called as followers of Christ to go into with the gospel. In light of our experience, there is no better place on earth to have this multi-cultural training than New York City.



Our Field Ministry Team

Ministry in Queens

When we arrived in Queens we were immediately connected to Roseanne Kytka and the ministry at Ascension PCA in Forest Hills. It would be almost a week later before we would meet Michael Kytka, Roseanne's husband and the pastor at Ascension who was down with a sinus infection. With that, our trials and tribulations in NYC began.

Due to his illness Michael was absent from our introductory meeting, so Roseanne conducted the entire meeting, not only sharing our upcoming field ministry assignments including Vacation Bible School, but also Ascension's vision for the community. Knowing that Michael was under the weather, I volunteered to preach if need be...well need was. And so I had the privilege of preaching our first Sunday in New York City.

This wasn't the only challenge we faced while working with Ascension. Our VBS schedule was full to say the least. And, added to the daily PFT training schedule, it



Preaching at Ascension PCA

felt as if there was barely enough time to breath. Later in the month Jeff Marlowe did arrange for us to have a few days off for which we were all truly grateful.

In spite of the demanding schedule, we found the people at Ascension an inspiration because of the freshness and excitement with which they went about their ministry. The beauty of this was that their excitement was contagious, and it wasn't long before it rubbed off on the entire team. On the other hand, it often seems that in more established churches many are merely going through the motions without any real passion for the children, or for the gospel of the kingdom.

In light of this very evident contrast, the question for us all is how do we inhabit and dwell in God's zeal as we go about the mission and ministry to which we are called?

In Christ, Michael & Tricia

Michael & Tricia Lee
 Missionaries to Northern Mexico
MTW # 14461
 520 Danfield Dr.
 Clover, SC 29710
 re4merz@bellsouth.net
 www.bethelpresbyterian.org/NoMex

Donations Address
 Mission to the World
 PO Box 116284
 Atlanta, GA 30368
 For e-donations call:
 1.866.373.6133



Prayer & Praise

"Strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf"

Apostle Paul

1. Special Thanks

To our interns and field ministry team members Joey Hane, Abby Hoekstra, and Caroline Royal who aided us immeasurably not only through the performance of their duties, but also by the gracious Christ-like manner in which they performed those duties; humbly without grumbling or complaining. Thank you for being the aroma of life to the living

2. More Thanks

To Jeff Marlowe, and Peter Beck of GTD, and all the great facilitators, pastors, and trainers who during PFT shared with us all a little piece of your souls. As a former Staff Development Educator, I can say without any hesitation and this in spite of all of the home work and assignments; PFT is the one of the best training programs I have ever attended.

3. The Road Ahead

Currently, our support account is just under **50%** of what we need to go on the field. Please pray that God would open up doors to more churches and individuals who will be willing to partner with us in Northern Mexico.



Tricia & language acquisition training with Dwight Gradin.