

Tim McCallan

Livets Ord bibel skola År 2 (Word of Life bible school year 2), Uppsala-Sweden

31 October 2008

Hey everyone,

It's just me with another wee update.

It's about 1/4 of the school year through now and to be honest it's still quite tough for a lot of us. Many people are having a hard time emotionally, especially those who are doing back to back years, that's having done first year last year and second year this year. I totally understand. For me it is very difficult being away from friends, family and especially Laura, as cheesy as it is I don't care, it's just true. Obviously I miss so many people but I feel so much change in me, even just after two months of being here. God has been speaking so much to me and touching my life in many ways and I think not having lifelong friends and family around to experience those changes makes it almost daunting to come home. This is just being so honest right now. I can see how important it CAN be to do both years of bible school here. Last year was the foundation that this years building will stand upon and a building that will hold many good things that God will give throughout the rest of my life.

There are so many other worries also. People are having problems with relationships, that's obviously not just subject to bible school students alone but it can become a major distraction when studying the word of God. Relationships are the very core of the Christian life. I mean we were created for fellowship with God and we are put into the body of Christ where we are all members. I know how uneasy friction or break down in communications with other members of the body can make people feel and most of us have been there one time or another, so this would be a priority prayer request.

Then there is every ones common enemy, financial stress and I think most of us are feeling that right now. This credit crunch seems to be affecting everywhere and I have seen the price of food go up three times in as many weeks, if not more. This would be the next priority prayer request and that goes for me also. I still haven't been able to get a job but by the grace of God I am still here and I do not lack anything. I am positive God will continue to provide but I do need as much prayer as I can get as the provision required gets bigger in the next few months. And I keep thinking about the mission trip. As far as I

know I got my first choice to Russia and we have just come back from the survival weekend in which we were placed in our 'probable' mission teams.

Okay I will give you a little run down on survival weekend, actually it's probably more feelings than details because we can't give anything away in case first years get hold of any of the information, I apologise about that. The survival 'weekend' was from early Thursday morning to Saturday afternoon (23-25 Oct) in a massive forest area in north Sweden. Many of the guys here have compulsory military service to complete and most do it straight after school so for them this was no problem at all. I haven't been in the army since I was 10 and in my back garden! So for me it was a problem. Not so much physically. I have been doing a lot of running and trying to get relatively fit, but mentally it was difficult at times. There was very little food, I mean we got/made a piece of bread about the size of a jaffa cake on Friday night and then killed and skinned a rabbit on Saturday morning, it was absolutely delicious! Maybe I was just a bit hungry but it was great like! Two of my team mates were more than happy to kill and prepare it so I was very happy to oblige! It tastes and looks almost like chicken, and that is true. Anyway. I thought I would have more to say but I can't really say more than that, as I said we are bound by our word but take it from me, it's the first and by the grace of the Lord Jesus it'll be the LAST time I ever do it, lol! Oh, and you would be surprised how much wood you can cut when you absolutely need to, BELIEVE ME!

Okay, moving on. Recently I have been more and more involved in the praise in worship surrounding bible school. On a Thursday morning when the bible school meets for prayer and praise and worship, it's like morning assembly I suppose. I think I mentioned before that I have been given the task of looking after all the praise and worship for the second year prayer evenings where the second year class (obviously) gather together to pray for both needs within the class room and for different circumstances around the globe even. The persecution in India is a big prayer point at the moment. We get a lot of information about that through the Word of Life bible school which is in India and through the many missionaries the church has there so we can kind of stay on top of it in prayer at least. Yesterday I received the

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opportunity to lead praise and worship in the morning in which we assembled a little choir and a violinist and me singing and playing guitar. It was only for our class as the main sanctuary was being prepared for the Youth conference which started tonight! I will brief that in a minute. And as bible school students there is always a party every now and then so I sometimes get asked to sing some praise and worship at those also.

I am really thankful for the opportunities in praise and worship because I have picked counselling for my church practical which starts on Monday (3 Nov). I felt the Holy Spirit lead me to make that decision because it's the only area out of all the practical that is harder to get experience in. Where youth ministry, evangelism, children's ministry and praise and worship are much easier to get involved in, even in the local church but counselling is something that takes more than just an interest. Not that the rest don't but I speak from my own heart here so I know it was more than just a passing fancy, and I have a passion to help others and this experience can really count if I let it. But at the same time I would really like to be involved in praise and worship so I guess that's why I am getting the opportunities, to gain the experience another way, and that is fantastic.

The Youth Conference started tonight (Wed 29 Nov). This year again there is expected 5000-6000 young people from all over Sweden and Europe. I was in town earlier today with a few friends and we bumped into some German visitors who are here for the conference. It's awesome, it really is, seeing so many young people with a burning heart to get to know God. There are many good speakers this year with a lot of experience behind them, including Aaron Jayne from the Dream Centre church in Los Angeles. You can check it out in the following web page, it's well worth the look:

www.livetsord.se

I really don't remember if there was anything more. It's pretty late here to be honest so I must apologise for not being more prepared with this and not being able to update it weekly. It's proving quite hard to do as time passes so quickly it appears and I try to make priorities over the computer time and I'm trying to get more involved

with helping out in church and getting as much experience as I can in every area.

Okay summary of prayer points

- 1) For the emotional well being of all the bible school students including me.
- 2) For the relational problems that seem to be a distraction for a few students.
- 3) For financial needs. As I have said it will get more and more expensive and I know my faith is being stretched and challenged so please pray, we really need that.
- 4) And lastly that the youth conference goes well and will inspire many young people and youth leaders to think bigger than what they see.

I think that is everything. As I have said it is late in the evening here so please forgive the spelling mistakes and the lack of preparation for this.

Thank you all very much for your continued prayer support. I very, very, much appreciate it and I know you will be very blessed for a few words you could speak to the Lord on our behalf.

God bless.

Tim