



Anne with COAT women's discussion group



Teaching healthy eating and cooking class



Modeling participatory assessment of community health problems



ECHO staff demonstrating appropriate sustainable technologies

Spring COAT

We have just completed the spring 2010 Community, Orientation, Assessment and Training (COAT) session. It was a busy, full and rewarding time for both of us. It's always a joy to teach classes from Bob's Spiritual Formation handbook and to see "lights go on" as we interact with the trainees concerning truths about God, the Gospel and the Christian life.

This session, Anne led the weekly discussion of *TrueFaced*, a book about being authentic and giving and receiving grace in the context of community. During this time, each woman was given the opportunity to tell her "life story" to the others in the group. It was amazing to hear how the Lord had carried, healed, blessed and called these women into faith and ministry.

As usual, we also met with individuals and couples for "Life Inventories" and "Marriage Check-Ups." This process often stimulates much growth and healing in various areas, and we feel so privileged to be a part of it.

Expanding responsibilities

In the past year especially, NMSI has become more aware of a need to clarify and refine its Human Resource and affiliation policies and procedures. Bob has been able to use his education in Human Resources to help re-write the policy manual and give input to the affiliation team. Anne has been helping to develop the processes and personnel to encourage and oversee pre-affiliates from the completion of COAT, through support development, until deployment to the field.

Anne is also applying her educational training by taking the role of Family and Consumer Sciences Resource Specialist for NMSI. Her vision is to counsel, write and teach in the areas of family, child development, nutrition, communication, and life management to help individuals and families on the field and at the Center for Global Outreach (CGO) in Florida. As a start, she taught a class on healthy eating, cooking and weight loss principles weekly after work during this COAT session.

Anne also just attended a week long workshop called "Health, Agriculture, Culture and Community" at an international but locally based organization called Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO). She learned principles of sustainable agriculture and technologies, was introduced to frequently unrecognized, highly nutritious plants for various climates, and explored the obstacles and problems in introducing new health and nutrition practices in various other cultures. For example, people in a tribal culture may say, "But our ancestors have always farmed this way," or tribal Muslims may shrug and say "It is the will of Allah," when a malnourished child is dying. It was a fascinating and enriching week which will hopefully help provide a good foundation for assisting affiliates on the field.

Loss

In the midst of all of this positive change and progress, we have experienced great grief and loss in the past couple of months. In mid March, two of our friends and co-workers at the CGO died within a week of each

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other. John Hamilton, formerly on the field in Russia, left a wife and four year old daughter; and Kylee Boden, left a husband and four young children including a new-born son. The same week, Bob's dear Uncle Phil passed away, and Bob flew to the Pittsburgh, PA, area to attend his services. It's hard to describe the range of emotion we're experiencing individually and as a group as well as the depth of comfort we have from the assurance of salvation and eternal life.

PRAYER

- For the families of John Hamilton and Kylee Boden
- For wisdom and progress in our new responsibilities
- For preparation for both Summer COAT attendees and Summer interns going overseas



Anne with Health, Agriculture, Culture and Community classmates, mostly physicians and community development workers headed for the field

Bob and Anne

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