

The Lowedown

A monthly newsletter from the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe

September 2008

On the Move

As I write this letter, my office is a mess and there is stuff strewn everywhere.

Last week, I was in Seattle for some meetings and I called home to talk to my family. My son Joshua said to me, "Daddy, mommy sold your desk!" Indeed, my old desk was a casualty of moving. So my computer is on the floor and the keyboard is in my lap as I type this letter.

In less than 2 weeks, everything we own will be packed on a truck headed for Southern California and we will be saying goodbye to our home and community of the past 10 years. We are very sad about that but we are confident in God's plan for us.

Things are very different for us in our life and ministry and it is quite a change for sure.

The leaders at UC Davis are meeting this week to plan and strategize for the beginning of the Fall quarter, which is in less than 2 weeks. It is quite odd for us to not be a part of that.

Nevertheless, we have been busy getting acclimated to our new role, which has included a lot more traveling. A few weeks ago, I spent a week in Orlando getting training and input on my new role as a regional director.

Then last week, I spent the week in Seattle, meeting with other regional directors across the nation to discuss how we can be more effective in reaching the growing number of ethnic students.

While I was in Seattle, I had the opportunity to meet with two long-time friends who are partners with us in ministry. It was a fun time to catch up and also explain what my job is and what we'll be doing.

It occurred to me that you may have some of those same questions. So I thought I would answer some of the most common questions for you in

this newsletter.

Why did you decide to move?

Actually, Jen and I weren't thinking about moving. We thought we would be here for a few more years, which is why we went ahead with plans last year to add onto our house.

As we evaluated our ministry, we realized that everything we dreamed about and were trusting the Lord for when we moved here 10 years ago had actually happened. Our vision had been fulfilled.

When that happens in the life of a leader, you either expand your vision to trust God for new and bigger things or you become a manager of the structure that you've created.

As our vision has become more of a reality, our vision has expanded. We realized that the vision God has given us has now exceeded the job we were in. So, we were looking for ways to have a greater influence and trust God for things beyond UC Davis and Sacramento.

Ultimately, as we thought through it all, we realized that God was calling us to a position of greater influence and responsibility, which has necessitated a move.

What is your role?

Jennifer and I are now regional directors in the Pacific Southwest Region of Campus Crusade. We work with a team of other directors in giving leadership to all of our staff and ministries in California, Arizona, Hawaii and Las Vegas.

We help make personnel decisions, such as where to send our staff and what locations we want to establish ministries.

We make strategic decisions, such as how can we more effectively reach students.

We coach and care for all of our staff and help them to be more effective in reaching the goals they've established in their own ministries.

There is a lot more travel involved and there is a lot more coaching and training of staff in how to do their job.

What else can you tell us about your new role?

A specific area that I will be giving leadership to is in the area of Ethnic Student Ministries. Currently, there are over 3 million college students in our region and half of those students are non-white. We are a diverse population culturally. The question we have wrestled with as a ministry is how can we effectively reach those students who don't identify culturally with the group we've established on campus?

My job is to help our staff and our students to begin to minister cross-culturally on campus and to help them establish ministries in these communities that are culturally different than ours. You might say that I am responsible for giving leadership to reaching half of the students in our region...1.5 Million students!

We were looking for a bigger vision to trust God for and we got it in a big way.

It's a new day for us and we're excited but nervous at the same time. We are finding our way and trying to be learners. We're desperately asking the Lord for His wisdom and that He would move in a great way among the students of our region.

Would you pray for us as we move? And would you also pray for us as we give leadership to this greater role and responsibility?

Thank you so much for your partnership and your prayers. We need them now more than ever.