

# IMAGINE!

Thank you for teaming with us in reaching students for Jesus.

## Planning Without Earthly Confidence



**JERSEY METRO DIRECTOR, ROB MITTUCH, ENCOURAGING THE FIERY CROWD OF STUDENT LEADERS**

Many salutes to you all!

With the recent and harrowing news that we're pregnant, our natural (and Godly) inclination is to plan for our baby's current and future wellbeing. We're also concocting ideas that would prohibit Joey from gaining sympathy weight: using smaller plates, snacking throughout the day and reminding him that he doesn't possess a womb.

There are mainly two elements to our planning: prayer and seeking wise, though often jokey, counsel. Thus far, our highly adroit bunch of guides have told us essentially the same things: you won't know what you're doing, you will know what you're doing and prepare now by getting oodles of slumber--as if stored sleep can be cashed in later on!

In all of our painstaking preparatory efforts, one thing we've learned ministerially that we must translate here practically is that planning without earthly confidence is supernatural. If, as Christ's lovers, we're meant not only to live *for* him but to allow him to live *through* us, then our plans, methods, systems, projections and ambitions must be his, whether for our families, ministries, jobs, etc. The moment one puts confidence in his fleshly foresight and knowledge, this is no longer Spirit-led but man-led.

God wants us to be so immersed in intimacy with Christ that our planning about him (Sunday services, retreats, outreaches, family Bible studies) is supernatural. This doesn't mean we gawk irrationally at the sun until it burns our retina. God wants us to think. He created thinking. However, our trust isn't in our thoughts alone, but God's sovereignty in it all. In the end, we have to ask, "Who gets the renown? Us or him?"

Over 85 committed student leaders communed on January 28th and 29th at the NJ Metro Spring Planning Summit held at a Salvation Army Camp in western New Jersey called Camp Tecumseh, putting their thoughts to the cross in planning through prayer for the next semester. Not only were staff able to hearten students with the greater vision of the ministry, but students dirtied their hands as they strategically mapped out campus events in a fashion that would most effectively communicate the gospel.

It's Spirit-filled fellowships like the Planning Summit that stir Will and Cyrus (who we shared about in our December letter) at Monmouth University to challenge their movement's men to be fearlessly Christ-like. This semester, the Lord graced Will with the honor of being student president. Only Christ-glorifying, flesh-crucifying rallies like the Summit will move J.J. McNamara (who we shared about in October) to continue bulldozing tenaciously through sharp opposition in sparking a movement at William Paterson University, the third largest school in N.J.

Other students, like Lindsey, Chelsea and Sam (last names held for privacy) were provoked to action, believing God will provide their full support for mission trips to Venezuela and North Africa. Christa Diaz from Kean University will televise the gospel with The Jesus Film in Jerusalem! How thrilling! In his Kingdom plan, God is preparing these students for a lifelong lifestyle of discipleship, in which they can make a potent gospel impact in their churches, workplaces and families, disclosing Christ's ministry of reconciliation to the lost and living God's Kingdom on earth by the enabling of the Spirit.

It is a privilege not only to view God's hand of providence in our pregnancy, but in the lives of dedicated students, too.

*Warmly,  
Joey and Jenn Sforza*

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## PrAYer PoiNTs

-That many non-Christians would come to faith in Jesus this semester

-That students won't grow weary

-That graduates would catch a Kingdom vision, taking the gospel to their respective fields

-That our summer mission trips would be loaded with passionate laborers

-That WE, Jenn and Joey, would be encouraged regularly in our walk

-That we would walk in our calling joyfully and diligently

-That our baby will be healthy.  
P.S. We think Baby Tuna is a BOY :)



Come join Jersey Metro in its twelfth annual **Fellowship Dinner**, where we'll communicate the exciting things Jesus has been doing on New Jersey campuses!

Date: Saturday, April 9, 2011

Time: 5:30 reception and 6:00 dinner

Place: Crowne Plaza. 2055 Lincoln Hwy. (Rt. 27) Edison, N.J. 08817

PLEASE CALL **MARK SCOTT** TO RSVP:  
**(908)-917-6260**

## PLANNING RETREAT

