

STARCHER SCENE

FEBRUARY 1, 2007

WHAT I'M WORKING ON

Here it is at last, the letter bringing you up to date on what I'm working on now that I'm living in Chicago and working as affiliate staff instead of full time staff. I'm working on a project that I've been excited about since my senior year in college. If you've ever been involved in a youth or college ministry, you probably know how disorganized things often feel. Especially in a larger group (let's say 50 or more students), it becomes difficult to keep track of everyone who is involved, who is in what Bible study, who is serving in what capacity, who came to last week's meeting . . . and what did I do with the phone number of that person I was supposed to call next week to get together with?

As a group continues to grow, it becomes harder and harder to stay organized and effectively minister to the students involved in your ministry. Some ministries solve this problem by hiring a part time (or full time) person just to keep track of all that information. For many ministries, that isn't an option. Even if it is an option, it still takes away from the ministry in the form of paying someone or burning out your volunteers on data entry.

So what's the solution? We need a program that meets several requirements. It needs to be easy to use. It can't be some complex database system that looks like it came out of the Dilbert HR department. It needs to reduce time spent on data entry. As much as possible, we want our staff and volunteers spending their time pouring into the lives of students, not sitting in front of a computer entering names and addresses. It needs to be free. Many local-level student ministries are operating on very small budgets. One of the most exciting parts of the project is that we (you, me, and the other people helping out) will be able to make this great tool available for free.

So that's what I'm working on. An online tool designed to help local level ministries operate more effectively by keeping better track of student involvement and spending less time doing it. I believe this is one of the greatest felt needs in our growing student ministries and am very passionate about helping to meet it. Thank you for all your prayers and support. Without you, this wouldn't be possible.

~ Josh



Our first attempt at a snowman. It was probably about 4 feet without the hat. We have a lot of room for improvement in the snowman department.