

Inter-Varsity Missions

233 Langdon/Madison, Wisconsin 53703/(608)257-1103

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Ans'd.....

September 8, 1986

Dear Ralph,

Just a brief note...because you mean so much to me.

I realized that even more during our time together at VISION 86. During the time of prayer and singing at the last session, as we were all gathered at the front, I looked down at you standing there among the rest, and my heart leaped with praise to our Father for having brought our lives together. I've told you before, but I must tell you again, that God has put so much into me through you--things that go way beyond strategy and statistics. You have had a profound spiritual ministry in me, for which I will be eternally grateful to our Savior. I mean that.

In fact, I suddenly remembered on Sunday afternoon, after everyone was gone and I was standing before the SVM marker one last time: It was your article in 1974 in CT on the SVM ("In the offing") that brought me to Fuller Theological Seminary and SVM. Of course I didn't know anything about you at the time. But that article came so close to things on my heart that I decided that I should get out to a school that would harbor such visionaries.

Now, 12 years later we were together at the very spot where the SVM began, and in the midst of a new generation of students and mobilizers that I believe, with you, will make, along with many others like them, the SVM to pale by comparison. As I stood at the marker I was again deeply moved with praise for all the "seeds" you have planted in so many of the people at Vision and Mt. Hermon 86, that are now beginning to bear fruit. It really is a new day. And, as a result, you now have and will continue to have many spiritual children.

My love is sent to you and Roberta in all sincerity and respect. Wherever I go, part of you goes with me. And, in the end, all of it is really part of our Lord Jesus. To Him I give the final gratitude.

