



# EQUIPPING U

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION/JUNE 2012

## Summer Vacation

Kimberly von Oeyen

Ah. Summer vacation. I can already feel the sun on my face and taste the refreshingly sweet lemonade on my lips. Summers in Michigan can be a wonderful time of leisure and rest. Now, I'm all for leisure and rest, but I'm also for reaching others with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Don't take a vacation from that—it's too precious, and the time is short.

### START WITH PRAYER

There are various seasons in life, and perhaps you aren't able to participate in "formal ministry" this summer. By this I mean: Vacation Bible School, Backyard Bible Clubs, or Summer Camp. But you can be intentional about your summer, no matter what your season of life and limitations. And it all begins with prayer.

Our lives are not our own. We are bought with a price, created in Christ Jesus for good works. Prayerfully submit your summer to the Lord. Yes, that may mean one less day at the beach, but there may be someone in eternity who will thank you—well done, good and faithful servant.



## Becoming a Great Teacher

Kimberly von Oeyen

We all want to be skillful at what we do, including how we teach. So we read the latest books on teaching methods and attend training conferences to develop our gift. And obviously I'm not against either as I'm writing for an equipping ministry. But all the training and tips in the world can't

make us great teachers. Being a great teacher begins with being a great servant. Unfortunately, we leaders often resist the servant role. "Isn't that for someone with the gift of helps?" we reason. But no, it's for all who want to be great in God's Kingdom.



**TEACHING TIP.** Occasionally separate your class into small groups. It's a great opportunity for your students to get to know each other and possibly discover truth for themselves.



**TEACHING TIP.** Crafts are a wonderful tool for reinforcing biblical truth to your students and presenting it to their parents—many who may not hear the gospel any other way!



**TEACHING TIP.** Be a student yourself. You probably have many wonderful resources sitting unopened on your shelf. Take time to enjoy those treasures.

## Being a great teacher begins with being a great servant.

While we're confessing, can we also admit that we do desire to be great in God's Kingdom? God has set eternity on our hearts, and we desire His promised blessings, rewards, and crowns for those who seek him, love him, and are faithful until death.

By choosing to identify ourselves as servants, grabbing the towel instead of the spotlight, we'll see remarkable outcomes in our lives and ministry.

God is honored when we humble ourselves. Jesus modeled that true greatness doesn't come to those who seek honor, but to those who live a life marked by servanthood (Matthew 20).

Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, further enlightens us to "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."

## God is honored. Students are loved. You are blessed.

In our celebrity soaked culture, we can easily teach and "serve" in the church with our hearts focused on selfish ambition rather than the glory of God.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Howard Phelps

*ICEA is a volunteer staffed ministry. Each month Equipping U will highlight and honor one of these faithful servants of God.*

Yet, when we do see our students as more significant than ourselves, God is honored and our students are loved. Teaching as servants will protect others from feeling like pawns who can be sacrificed for our endgame.

In God's kingdom, the way up is down, and the way to greatness is servanthood. Scripture promises that in losing our life we find the unparalleled joy of new life in Christ, the incomparable servant. Ultimately, there can be no greater blessing.

Board secretary, office staff, conference planner, ministry partner, and Second Time Around used books organizer are just a few of the roles Howard has filled in over 50 years of serving the Lord through the ministry of ICEA. Howard, thank you for your can-do attitude, humble heart, and faithful service.

### FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Equipping U. For over 65 years ICEA has been privileged to provide resources and training to equip Christians for life, leadership, and ministry. I pray that Equipping U will be just like our conferences—jam packed with information, instruction, and inspiration for those who serve the body of Christ.

I'd love to hear from you. Please send your comments, teaching tips, suggestions, and feedback to [EquippingU@iceaOnline.org](mailto:EquippingU@iceaOnline.org).

Serving with U,

  
Kimberly von Oeyen



### ENTER TO WIN

The date has been finalized for ICEA's next training conference. Save the date, October 27, and enter to win 1 of 5 gift certificates for \$10 off the registration fee. E-mail your name, address, and phone number to [info@iceaOnline.org](mailto:info@iceaOnline.org) with the subject line EQUIP ME.

Drawing will be held on July 1, 2012.

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