

DR. SEELIG EQUIPS NAVY LAY LEADERS

For PLNU Director of Planned Giving Dr. Steve Seelig, this summer helped bring home the message that God can do big things with ideas that start small.

Like so many at PLNU, Dr. Seelig is involved in exciting ministries outside of his job at the university, including serving for the past 23 years as a Navy chaplain. This past year, as the REDCOM Northwest Staff Chaplain, Capt. Seelig served 5,500 personnel in 11 states, coordinating a religious ministry for 19 site locations. Even though he had 32 chaplains in his area of operation, the majority were serving in roles supporting active duty commands that did not allow them to be available for ministry to most Reserve Center personnel. Dr. Seelig thus discovered a real spiritual need and desire for authentic spiritual leadership.

As a way to meet this need, Dr. Seelig decided to pursue a generally underutilized Navy role of “lay leader.” His “little idea” was to recruit 20 lay leader volunteers and get them to come to a one-day training in the Seattle area, but money was not available to bring everyone together. Instead, he was encouraged to use already existing video teleconferencing technology.

As God so often does, it turns out He closed one door in order to open another, leading to greater things. Through the use of teleconferencing, 85 lay leaders from 25 different sites throughout the country, representing active and reserve commands and several joint services, received this training. Dr. Seelig taped the session in hopes of creating a CD tool for future use. To his surprise and delight, the Navy has now expressed great interest in the new tool. The professionally produced DVD kit will soon be aboard every Navy ship and command worldwide, helping to train additional lay leader volunteers who can conduct Bible studies, lead religious services, and touch hundreds of thousands of sailors worldwide with the good news of Christ.

Dr. Seelig is quick to give credit to God, emphasizing how God changed what he had in mind to be something far greater. It's a lesson he has learned before in Scripture. The



Dr. Steve Seelig



apostle Paul, for example, was prevented from visiting Asia Minor as he had planned because he was imprisoned. But this change in plans had a result that has impacted generations: while in prison, Paul had time to write much of what is now the New Testament. Dr. Seelig's story is a reminder that God can still turn obstacles into avenues for even greater impact.

“It’s an amazing, amazing thing,” Dr. Seelig said. Sometimes God surprises even ministers with just how big He can make a little idea. ■



PLNU STUDENT WINS PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP

PLNU student Joel Day was selected to receive the prestigious National Security Education Program David L. Boren Scholarship to study abroad during the 2005-06 academic year. The fellowship is paying for Joel to study at the University of Bucharest in Romania this year.

Established by Congress in the aftermath of the Cold War, NSEP provides outstanding and highly motivated U.S. students with the opportunity to acquire language skills and experience in countries critical to the future security of our nation, in exchange for a commitment to seek work in the federal government. NSEP Boren Scholars achieve high levels of language proficiency, are drawn from a wide range of academic fields, and represent our future government leaders.

Since 1994, more than 2,000 students have received NSEP Boren Scholarships. This year, Joel is one of 130 undergraduate students selected from a pool of 733 applicants. NSEP Boren Scholars will study 24 different languages, including Arabic, Mandarin and Russian, in 31 different countries.

According to Robert Slater, director of NSEP, the program “represents an essential component of a comprehensive national security strategy to address serious and long-time deficiencies in critical language expertise.”

Program alumni are currently working throughout the federal government, contributing to critical missions for, among others, the Departments of Defense, State, Homeland Security, and the Intelligence Community. ■

SEND A TREAT TO YOUR STUDENT

Special occasion coming up or want to do something special just because?

Have a homemade birthday cake, brownies or cookies delivered right to your student's residence hall room! The PLNU Women's Auxiliary, San Diego chapter, offers this service for a minimum donation of \$15. Every penny of your donation goes to a Women's Auxiliary project that will enhance students' PLNU experience. This year, funds are being raised for map signage that will help students find their way around campus.

If you would like a homemade treat sent to your son or daughter, contact Elizabeth Bergherm at (619) 944-8046. Two weeks notice is requested on all orders.

