

## Highlights and Low-Lives

Jo Anne and I attended Cru's U.S. staff conference in Fort Collins, Colorado in July. Since I spend most of my time working with people overseas, I was particularly encouraged to hear how well the mission here at home is going. Inner city neighborhoods, colleges, high schools, boardrooms and locker rooms are all being impacted by the Gospel.

While Jo Anne, Amy and I were staying at the base of the Rocky mountains, Caleb and a friend were high up in the back country. They spent much of the week above 10,000 feet and more than a two day hike away from the nearest road.

Unfortunately, my time in Colorado was cut short by a very early morning phone call from a neighbor back in Orlando who had just found our house in shambles. Thieves chiseled and pryed to break open the back door and then proceeded to ransack the house. During the burglary, the dog escaped and went to a house two doors away trying to get someone's attention.

I flew home immediately and Caleb came two days later. We had several days for cleaning and making repairs before Jo Anne and Amy got there. I was glad they didn't see the house at its worst, but it still took all four of us working together to spot all the damages and to make a final tally of what was missing.



We now have a fancy new alarm system with a two-way communicator, a formal relationship with a detective and a much closer connection to all our neighbors.

I have had to learn to make more time for chatting with the neighbors every time I go outside. This may sound strange to those living in smaller communities, but suburban city dwellers don't do much visiting with each other. Not a bad thing for a boy from Badger, Iowa to re-learn.



Ben Gerrard and Caleb at the trailhead for the Maroon Bells Four Pass Loop.

### How To Pray For Us:

- ❖ We are waiting for the insurance settlement.
- ❖ We each experience some disquieting moments from time to time since the burglary.
- ❖ Caleb is off to college at UNF, so of course the dog misses him.

*In Him,  
Russ & Jo Anne*