



May, 2009

Dear friend of ACMNP,

Greetings from sunny Colorado!

Last November we asked you to consider donating toward our recruiting efforts. Despite the tense financial season, we received a generous surge of support from you that enabled our recruiters to visit more than 150 colleges & seminaries this fall & winter. As a result, we received more than 800 applications (a 30% increase from last year!). The rhythm of our programs is shifting again; summertime is here, our staff members are in their parks, and we ask for your support once more.

As the rhythms of life take us all through the calendar year, it's easy to forget the national parks and the impact that ACMNP has on peoples' lives. From our office desks it's hard to grasp the breadth and depth of the Grand Canyon. We lose sight of the peace found in the hush of a mountain meadow colored by purple asters and Indian paintbrush, the bugle of a bull elk echoing off the hillside behind us. However, it is important to remember how evident God is to us in these places – how our senses are tickled & how they inject our lives with meaning.

We believe these places are important because God works through them to initiate processes of healing, strengthening, forgiveness, & trust. Just recently, a seminary professor shared with me how significant his experiences were in the national parks as a child. I was even more surprised when he began to recite from memory pieces of a sermon he heard nearly thirty years ago at an ACMNP service. He, like many of us, hears the voice of the Holy Spirit in the outdoors.

Attached is a story that provides a beautiful portrait of another way God gently uses this ministry in the national parks. As you read it please consider how your donation to ACMNP helps people connect the beauty they experience in the parks to the artist-Creator who painted it all. We realize that how you choose to donate your time & resources is extremely important to you. When you donate to ACMNP you send a message that encourages & reminds our staff that they are creating room for God to work. Together, let's celebrate God's majestic creation and participate in God's dynamic re-creation. Thank you for giving!

Joyfully,

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