

Remembering Doug West

Alumnus and prayer warrior Doug West died Aug. 3 in a London hospital. He was 51. Doug was director of student advancement at Corban, and was in London on a short-term mission trip which was cut short by a heart attack.

“Doug to me personified the meaning of our new name, Corban. His life was truly dedicated to God in all he did,” said president Reno Hoff. “I never met a person more interested in prayer and getting others involved in prayer.”

From his office, Doug coordinated new student orientation, supervised the freshman core groups, and oversaw the camp team ministries program. He advised undeclared transfer students, oversaw spring break and summer student mission teams, hosted Christian Camp Day on campus, and was master of ceremonies for special campus events such as the annual Turkey Trot.

Doug settled into his multi-faceted role on campus after graduating with the class of 1996. He liked to refer to himself as “Director of Student Success,” co-worker Daren Milionis said.

He died as he had lived: praying. Doug had selected Philippians 1:21, “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain,” as the theme verse for Sunday, August 31st. After reading it and leading the mission team in a time of prayer at London’s Woodgrange Baptist Church, he slumped to the ground. Before he left on the mission trip he had emailed Tom and Barbara Ward, the missionaries he had gone to serve, about being able to serve God on a street near their home that is similar to a street in Pakistan: “It wouldn’t be a bad thing to die on Green Street.”

“Doug is a good friend who understands and supports our passion to tell about the love of Jesus to this neighborhood,” Barbara Ward wrote in an email. “His servant’s heart made him a real example to us.”

She wrote of his enthusiasm and passion for prayer, missions and Christian camps, and then added: “We are thanking God for a faithful, consistent life of service that can only seem tragically cut short to us who do not see as God sees. Our trust is in Him and we know He is trustworthy.”

West also ministered in Sierra Leone and Senegal, both in Africa, and had trips set for this fall to both places. Over



the past few years, West met and mentored young Africans whose families had been ravaged by civil war brutality. As a result of his leadership and advocacy, some of these men have stepped forward to become leaders—one has established four churches in the refugee camps in the last three years, and 1,000 children are being fed each day as a result.

The camp team ministries program led by West was a significant part of Corban’s outreach each summer, said Marty Ziesemer, dean of enrollment management. With his Christian camping background, West developed a program in which teams of four students each would serve for six to eight weeks in the summer at camps throughout the Northwest.

“Doug was able to think outside the box,” Ziesemer said. “When we went to him for advice, he always wanted to know the purpose behind the event. He knew it wasn’t enough just to have an event. It had to have a purpose. He was a very highly respected person who loved the Lord like crazy and showed it in his walk with Him,” Ziesemer continued. “He was a good friend, a quality person. He’d give you the shirt off his back to help you.”

Memorial gifts sent to the College will go toward the Student Missions Scholarship Fund.



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Remembering Doug is a 22-minute video production of Corban College, and documents the life and worldwide impact of Doug West and his work at Corban. A copy of this presentation is available to you on DVD for a gift of \$5.00 or more.