

Dear Leaders,

In my last communication with you, I promised that I would share another note with you after we had completed our Writers' Conference that was held on August 18–20.

I must say that our time together was intense! In a good way, that is! National WMU invited 19 writers to participate in our meeting (18 were actually able to attend. One writer had suffered major damage to her home after the spring storms and was unable to join us). We spent our three days together praying for direction, seeking the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and charting a course for the RA/Challengers material that will be released for the 2012–2013 church year.

While I wish that I could tell you that all details about the material were finalized, that simply isn't the case at this point. We still have much work to do in the days ahead, and our writers will play a big part in how all of this unpacks. However, I can tell you a few things about the RA/Challenger transition that will help you as you answer questions that come up in your state:

- 1) Beginning in September 2012, the following materials will be published by national WMU for RAs:
 - a. *RA World* (student piece for boys in grades 1–6)
 - b. *RA Leader* (leader piece for boys in grades 1–6)
 - c. RA Leader Kit (leader resource kit that includes pictures, activities, and other items needed to conduct a RA meeting)

- 2) Beginning in September 2012, *RA World*, *RA Leader*, and RA Leader Kit will become bi-monthly subscription pieces. Full descriptions of these materials will be included in the WMU Year Book 2012–2013 and WMU Catalog 2012–2013 when they are released in March 2012. A final release date the magazines and kit has not been set, but our goal will be to deliver these pieces in July 2012, so church leaders can adequately prepare for the new church year. As with all subscriptions and products from national WMU, they may be ordered from our Customer Service (1-800-968-7301).

- 3) In the months ahead, I'll be better able to tell you about RA/Challenger products and how you can order those. We are still finalizing those details, but know that we'll have an answer as soon as possible and will pass that information along to you as well.

- 4) A strong missions emphasis will continue in all of our RA materials. WMU continues to work with the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board to resource missions personnel around the world. We will continue telling the story of SBC missionaries and how God is using them to further His kingdom.

- 5) We are still finalizing plans for Challengers. To be honest with you, the Challengers piece has been a tough nut to crack. Months ago, we conducted a survey for both RAs and Challengers, with hopes of hearing from missions leaders and material users. The RA survey went great! We had a tremendous response to the survey. Unfortunately, the Challengers survey was poorly answered. So, during our Writers' Conference last weekend, we used most of our time with our writers (all who have written previously for Challengers) to better understand the curriculum, direction the material has taken over the last few years, and possible directions for the future. Our goal is to produce quality material for teenaged boys in the local church. We want to train up godly young men who are passionate about missions and the Great Commission! In the days ahead, we'll continue to finalize our discussions with our writers and other leaders about the course we take for Challengers. Once those decisions are made, I'll report back to you with our plans. Until then, if you have ideas for Challengers, please let me know! I'd be interested in hearing your input!

I'm sure I've probably missed something or didn't answer a question you've been thinking about. If that's the case, please let me know and I'll do my best to respond to your question or concern.

Until then, may God continue to bless all that you do for Him and His Kingdom.

In His Name,

Steve

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Missions resources are available at www.wmystore.com.