

Dr. Keller's Blog
Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Yesterday was another busy day at AGS. Students went to their morning seminars and then were photographed by region for newspaper publicity. The pictures and names of the students will be sent to local newspapers, which then decide what to do with the information. I have seen some newspapers with large spreads on a student or two (these are usually in small papers) to complete refusal to run either a story or picture. As I said, once the information goes to the newspapers, it's out of our control. Mary Wimberley does an excellent job with handling the publicity for AGS.

After lunch, the students went to the Birmingham Zoo for a service project. Brian Kutsch of the Zoo coordinated our efforts. Students removed lights, picked up trash, did some light painting, and several other tasks. Brian told me that there were some things that just would not have been done at all if it weren't for our group's help. Once they were finished, the students could enjoy the zoo, though most of the animals were pretty listless in the mid-90's heat. To make matters worse, the fountains were out of order.

The Insights Dinner completed the day's activities. Mrs. Denise Killebrew, an attorney with the Baker Donelson law firm, spoke about her motivation to establish First Light, a shelter for homeless and battered women and children. This ministry of First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham has evolved from a basement overnight shelter that flooded every time it rained, to the former Granada Hotel with four floors of accommodations, social services, and protection, all on an annual budget of \$1 million. Mrs. Killebrew spoke of how all people have value and deserve our respect and help. I hope that Mrs. Killebrew's inspiring story will motivate the students to think about their lives as more than just their careers. Mrs. Killebrew (and many other volunteers) brought this ministry into being in their spare time. I know our students are capable of the same types of service to the community.