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# The Campus connection

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Skidmore College  
Union College

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## A Special Update

My dear friends,

Every day I am on campus I see evidence of God's hand at work, His goodness displayed in the lives of these college students we serve. My only regret is that you, my partners in ministry, don't get to see this evidence more often yourselves. That's the privilege I have in writing you these letters...to give you a window into the ongoing work of the Lord on campus.

Two and a half years ago, I sent you a letter written by a freshman student who had just come to know and follow Jesus at Skidmore. She was experiencing the joy and excitement of a brand new life, and excited about all that God was teaching and showing her.

Faithful as our God is, He has continued to be at work in Veronica's life. She is now a senior, still growing and thriving, and seeking the Lord for what's next in her life.

Rarely do we get to plant seeds AND watch them grow. It's been fun to be a part of the process in Veronica's life. God is doing great things in and through her. But you don't need to hear it from me...it's much more exciting coming from her!

This is my Christmas gift to you...a chance to see not only the seeds that are planted, but the fruit that is being born in this ministry. Here you'll find first the story Veronica wrote two and a half years ago at Easter time. Following it is a letter she just wrote for you recently. They are long, but well worth the read. Curl up with a cup of hot cocoa and enjoy! And please praise God with me for His faithfulness in Veronica's life!

Thank you for serving Christ with me. It's a joy and privilege to be partnering with you!

Blessings,  
Danielle

## From April, 2002...

"Last Sunday was my first Easter! Wow! It was amazing. You know, commercial Easter is great - a cute bunny, colorful eggs, and lots of candy...but celebrating the resurrection of Christ is simply amazing. I have been thanking Jesus for a month now and it was great to have a special day devoted to celebrating and recognizing Jesus.

As I said I have been thanking Jesus for a month, I only say a month because it was only last month that I asked Jesus into my heart, and it was only four months ago that I found God. These last few months have been amazing for me... I cannot stop filling my mind and spirit with God's words and love. I cannot stop reading and praying... It is wonderful and I love it. At this time, God is filling me with as much information, faith, knowledge and history of Him as possible. I am getting to know Him in anyway He shows me. I think that right now this is specifically a time that God is filling me with questions and answers. God is filling me with His love and I am beginning to see Him in my life.

...I cannot stop praying... The Holy Spirit is guiding me in prayer. And I am becoming closer with God everyday... the biggest difference in my life that led me to become Christian is that I started to be completely open about learning about Christ, the Bible, and Christians as people... Every experience is different now that I recognize the presence and importance of God."

I was not raised Christian and it is really hard for me to become Christian. It is not just hard because my family does not believe in God, it is hard because there is so much that they do not agree with that is in the Bible... a large

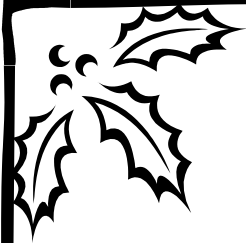
part of [this disagreement] is differences in thinking. And it is by this different way of thinking that I was raised. This disagreement is where much of my struggle comes from... the most useful thing that anyone has said to me in respect with my journey is... that I may find that I will change some things right away, I may find that I will change some down the road, and I may find that I will hold on to some things forever. [My friend] said some people read some passages and say, 'forget about it.' And I am sometimes tempted to do that. But knowing that I do not have to change or understand everything immediately helps me not to get caught on the 'little' things. It helps me to avoid getting discouraged away from God just because it is hard to agree with something. It helps me to work through things and to know that with some things I will feel immediately and will make perfect sense to me, whereas other things will be harder and take longer, and with those things I just keep praying. This helps make the whole process seem more possible. It helps me realize I do not have to get stuck on things. This helps me to focus on the things that are working for me and to work through the rest with God...



### **Cont. from front...**

...When I first started to go to the Christian Fellowship on campus I went to learn and to observe what it was these people were doing. And the first couple of times I learned about the people and what they believed from an observational level, but then I finally decided to go as one of those people, as a person who believed in God, and as a person who was going to actively participate in the worship and learn from a level of experience. When I did that, it was amazing. I could feel God's presence and He filled me with His love. When I finally decided to be open to God He filled me immediately, the recognition of this was almost overwhelming because it was so amazing to experience. This shows to me that all anyone has to do is become open and to allow for God to work within him/her."

### **And now from December, 2004...**



"When Danielle asked me to write another letter about what God is doing in my life I thought, 'Wow, there is so much.' I recently shared my testimony of how I became a Christian with my fellowship and as I was reflecting on my faith as a new Christian, I realized how much my faith has changed and grown. I really saw this transformation when I was asked to reflect on the question, 'What aspects of my life would be different without my faith?' At first I said, 'well, a few of my friendships... well, a lot of them... well, actually all of them... and the classes I take, and my decisions of what to do after college, what I eat, the movies I watch,' and my list goes on and on. I came to appreciate that everything I do and the choices I make revolve around my relationship with Jesus. Now, that sounds obvious, I mean that is what a Christian is, and I knew what I was getting into when I decided to follow Him. However, to actually see the change and the real ways that Jesus has changed my life and my thoughts was impressive to me.

So, the question remains, "What is God doing in my life?" As a senior, I spend hours thinking about where God is going to take me after college and I get really excited. There are so many opportunities and so many desires. I have thoughts of continuing with geology, going into social work or education, working with children or elderly, becoming a nurse, being a farmer, being a mother, living at home, and going to Africa. With so many ideas I ask God what He wants me to do. His answers are not always clear, but He has given me influential experiences. This semester our fellowship has been volunteering at the Salvation Army's after-school program for low-income children, and my heart has been opened and filled with compassion, joy, energy, and also sadness. My eyes have been opened to a population of children that I previously had little interaction with. And then, through a friend at Skidmore, I found out that there are children in his country of Sierra Leone that do not have hands. My heart does not know where to begin. I have a deep love for the people of the world; I see a lot of suffering and pain and want God to use me to ease this pain by sharing what He has given me with the world.

The thought of changing the whole world is a noble but unrealistic one, but I am comforted that I will be used in a special way. I wonder exactly what God has in store for me. I know with great assurance that God has a plan for me and that if I continue to listen carefully He will guide me. Sometimes the sorrow of the world is overwhelming, but by knowing that it is not me but, that it is God in me that is, and will be, at work in the world gives me great ease and peace when I think about my future. I simply have to be a vessel for God. So where God is taking me on this journey I am not exactly sure, but I feel him preparing me to further touch the lives of His children. May He be glorified.

Thank you for your prayers and contributions to InterVarsity. Skidmore is a place where God lives but few know it. We love Skidmore and Jesus and we are glad you do too."

