

Seeing Stars

"...the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." Matt. 2:9-10

As I sit here and read this verse, it strikes me. The Magi were overjoyed at seeing the star! A star on its own is not something to be overjoyed about. I'm sure it was a nice star and all, and they *were* supposedly astrologers, but I'm pretty sure the star wasn't the object of their joy. Instead, the star pointed them to what they were looking for—the child who was born king of the Jews. And when they found Him, they bowed down and worshipped.

During a challenging semester on campus, I have been overjoyed when I've seen the stars that God has put in place to point me (and the students) toward what we are looking for—our King. Here are some of the stars I've seen:

- ✓ The IV staff team in the capital district: These people are not only my supervisees, but they are my colleagues, my friends, and my team. I am thankful to work with such kingdom-minded people, who share in both the joys and struggles of campus ministry, and cause me to be more like Jesus as I seek to serve them and love students. The team's love for the students they serve, for each other, and for me makes me want to worship Jesus.
- ✓ Alysia, our chapter president at Skidmore: I have seen a leader blossom in the midst of many struggles this semester. I've seen her learn to trust the Holy Spirit living within her, hear and respond to the Word of God, stick with it when no one else wanted to, and stand with integrity as she struggled with people who disagreed with her. Alysia's response of obedience to God makes me want to worship Jesus.
- ✓ Ismatu, our prayer coordinator at Skidmore. Ismatu checked in with me every few weeks to let me know how things were going with prayer meetings, in the chapter, and personally. She asked for ideas and help, but got the job done with no hand-holding. And she recently told me that she's felt convicted that she's doing too much, and not doing it well. She's seeking to choose the things that God wants her to do. Ismatu's responsibility and sense of commitment, as well as her desire to serve God well, make me want to worship Jesus.
- ✓ You all, and your prayers: You have been working overtime this semester, praying for us and encouraging us. We have sensed your prayers, and been blessed by your words of encouragement. Your faithfulness in prayer and your generosity of spirit make me want to worship Jesus.
- ✓ Scripture: God does not promise ease and comfort, but "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8:28) God's promises of His purposes coming to fruition, and goodness and joy for us in the midst of that, make me want to worship Jesus.

And so I follow the stars, and I bow down to worship Jesus. May you be overjoyed at the stars that God places in your life this year, and may they cause you to bow down and worship the One they point you to.

For His Sake,
Danielle

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA: Students & Faculty Transformed | Campuses Renewed | World Changers Developed

✓ If you would like to receive my email updates, please email me and let me know!

✓ If you'd like to make a year-end donation to the ministry, visit http://www.intervarsity.org/donate/to/Danielle_Bailey