

From Their Lips...

I know how much you all enjoy reading all my stories about what God is doing in the lives of students at Skidmore and Union. He's really doing some amazing things. But I thought rather than hear it from me this time, you might enjoy hearing it from them. So I asked a few students to write some reflections on two of the events that were held in the last couple of months, Urbana and Leaders' Days. Here's what they had to say:



Thoughts on Urbana
from Janet,
Skidmore '06

"I went into Urbana expecting nothing short of amazing. I've heard so many great things about the missions conference and just the idea of 20,000 people worshipping God together is amazing in itself. Urbana wasn't just amazing. It was amazing plus, like awesome amazing. And that's exactly how God is. Awesomely amazing plus more.

It took about 15 hours to get there on bus and by the time I got there, I was so tired that some of the excitement was even lost. It was overwhelming. There were too many people, too many things, and too many lines. ... On the first night, I was reminded of how big our God is and how much Christians need to be different from the world. Because of this, it's super important that we obey Jesus when the world is preaching materialism, pluralism, and relativism. We need to strive to be more like Christ all the time. I realized just how much I was starting to become like the world and that's scary. And extremely wrong.

I was really blessed at the conference with the opportunity to be a small group leader at Urbana. The group of 8 girls that I had in my small group came in so ready to find out God's will for each of them. It was exciting to see what kind of army God was raising to expand His Kingdom and mega encouraging to know that people are following and listening to His callings. It was exciting to watch my Godly sisters grow in their hearts for the missions field, whether in US at home or abroad. My small group was committed, expectant, and willing to make decisions that honored God in all His glory. At the end of the week, some girls in my small group made bold decisions to give their entire life to Christ and have Him take them into whatever missions field He wants.

The first full day at Urbana was about Jesus being the King in our lives and that can only be possible if we take the first step of repentance. The speakers talked about idolatries in our lives and how we needed to surrender them to God. Sins hold us back and it's hard to obey Him when the world says it's more than okay for me to indulge in materialism, self-glory, and self-fulfillment. Jesus needs to be the only thing that can fulfill me. He is the only righteousness that can clothe my shameful, naked, and unrighteous body.

Urbana exposed us to a lot of the world and the conditions that people are going through. We are so incredibly rich and we have an excess of so much - in everything! As Christians, we are entrusted to care for all of God's children and have a deep compassion for suffering people around the world. We have to take care of each other.

I forgot just how much Jesus loves me and the people around me. Urbana helped me to realize again how important it is to be a faithful witness on my college campus. God has a plan for Skidmore College and I pray that I along with my fellowship there that we can live out our faith because Jesus is alive and working there! We are "sent" to be servants on our campus. Everyone belongs to God. It is harvest time. We can't be afraid to evangelize because God is with us. The Holy Spirit is in us. I want to see my entire campus saved by the grace of God. I want people to be a part of God's Royal Family as I am..."

Danielle, What have you been up to lately?

It's been a busy few months for me, since you last received a letter. Let me give you a little portion of my calendar:

Dec. 26 - Jan. 1: Urbana 03, InterVarsity's national mission convention

Jan. 5: Union classes started

Jan. 16-18: Leaders' Days, an ENY (Eastern NY) retreat to train our new leaders

Jan. 26: Skidmore classes started

Feb. 11-13: ENY team meeting in Ithaca

Feb. 17-21: The Traveling Team, a missions mobilization team, traveled around the Hudson Valley area challenging our students to consider God's heart for and call to "all nations"

Feb. 25: Went to see "The Passion of the Christ" with 14 students and a professor, at least 7 of whom were non-Christians

more on back...

As always, for more stories, prayer requests, photos and updates, visit my website www.daniellebailey-ivcf.org!

From Their Lips (cont.)...



Thoughts on Urbana and IV from Brandon Bernard, Union '04

"Dear supporters of Danielle Bailey,

My name is Brandon Bernard. I am a senior at Union College, but I have only been a born again Christian for a little over a year now. When I came back to school this past fall I decided to check out InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and it has proven to be one of the best decisions I have ever made. Since joining, God has provided me with some amazing opportunities to explore my faith and to share it with others.

In addition to weekly bible studies and prayer groups, being a member of InterVarsity has allowed me to participate in two life-changing conferences. In October, I went on a weekend retreat in Saranac Lake, NY. At Saranac, I met over 150 college-aged students who could relate to dealing with the day-to-day challenges of leading a Christian life in a very non-Christian school. Just over a month ago, I had the chance of a lifetime to spend the five days after Christmas at an enormous conference in Urbana, Illinois.

At Urbana, the theme for the week was 'Your Kingdom Come, Your Will be Done.' Outstanding lectures taught us about the many changes that are taking place throughout the world concerning health, wealth, religion and more. I learned about how I, as a Christian, can help to carry out 'God's plan for the World' by seeking to live out God's plan for ME.

While the general focus for the week was on missions work, there were literally hundreds of seminars and exhibits where I could investigate how to serve God's will. Whether it was learning how to argue that science actually proves Christianity, how I can deal with college loans and still do missions work, or how to talk to members of my fraternity about Christ; I was able to take my interests and find out how to use them for God.

Perhaps the best part of the week was being part of an entire city of believers made up of 20,000 Christians from around the world. Every person that I talked to had a story to tell and wanted to hear mine. Every heart and soul at Urbana was seeking the same thing – how can we make this world a little bit more like the next? As I'm sure it did for everyone else, Urbana has changed the way I look at the world, and how I live in it.

Thank you for helping to make my Urbana experience possible by supporting missionaries like Danielle and students like myself. Without the encouragement of Danielle I probably would not have gone, and without your support it would not have been possible.

Yours in Christ, Brandon Bernard"

"God's Work Through Leaders' Days..."

"Going into Leaders' Days, I expected an atmosphere similar to church retreats and other spiritual outings. Thinking this would be like other outings, I falsely assumed that I wouldn't have much time to grow in aspects of my life that needed more work. One of these areas was prayer. I grew up praying silently, I was never one to openly pray aloud.

However, this weekend gave me more opportunity to pray aloud and encouraged me to work on it. Whether it is praying with a few people or by yourself, this weekend taught me that praying out loud creates a stronger sense of fellowship with the other members.

In addition to speaking through prayer, God used this weekend as a fellowship opportunity. As a freshman at Union and only being a member of IV for one term, the leadership team and I weren't a very close knit group. However, after the weekend, rather than just being leaders, we became friends. The Lord taught us, through prayer and time together, the importance of friendship outside of IV. It became one of our focuses to promote a family atmosphere among the fellowship, creating a community among the believers.

Leaders' Days allowed God to speak to not only us as a fellowship but also to each of us personally. God's work through the retreat is helping me pray aloud and work on personal quiet times. His works are anything but far and between, we just have to look for them. God can speak through anything or anyone at anytime. We have to listen and find out God's plan for us and our fellowship, and Leaders' Days laid a foundation for God's work at Union College."



Thoughts from Rob Bode, Union '07, hard at work at Leaders' Days

Additional Praises and Prayer Requests!

- Praise God for more new freshmen at Union! We've got several non-Christians attending Bible studies now!
- Praise God for many non-Christians who've seen "The Passion" movie and are asking great questions!
- Pray for good continued follow-up of the movie.
- Pray for my mission trip to Guatemala, June 27-July 17.

I hope you have enjoyed the students' voices. Jeremy and I continue to do well, and are looking forward to another exciting year of marriage and life together. We are both thankful for the faithful partnership you provide in this ministry. Thank you!!

*Many blessings,
Danielle*