

“Bottom line is, Jesus *IS* Lord...”

...and it doesn't matter if you or I believe it. It won't make it any more or less true. I could wholeheartedly believe that $2+2=5$, but it doesn't make it true. $2+2=4$, and Jesus is still Lord. I could wholeheartedly believe that Jesus is *not* Lord, but it wouldn't make it true. Jesus *is* Lord. And someday, *every* knee will bow, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, and *every* tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord (see Phil. 2). It doesn't say *some* knees will bow, and *some* tongues will confess, but *every* knee and *every* tongue! So, if that's true, then why not make an effort *now* to help as many knees bow and tongues confess as we can, including our own? Jesus *IS* Lord. What are you going to do about it?" And with these words (or with words close to these), I closed "The Great Adventure" track at this year's Journey retreat. It was exciting to hear that many of the 36 students we served in this track either committed to give their lives more fully to Jesus and his leadership, or they committed to help bring their friends to an understanding of Christ's forgiveness and leadership (or in some cases, they did both!).

Even the Skidmore and Union students who were in the other 3 tracks throughout the weekend left with a sense that they needed to give their lives more fully to God, in order to be used by Him. I heard a desire from all 8 of them (6 Skidmore, 2 Union) to see their non-Christian friends come to know Jesus. But even more than that, *they* wanted to be able to be used by God to draw their friends into relationship with Him. How exciting! Some of them committed to having more consistent times alone with God. Others of them committed themselves to better time management, so they could have time to invest in the relationships that God wanted them to. Still others desired to take better advantage of the opportunities that God gives them to talk about Him, even if that means stepping way outside their comfort zones.

It was fantastic to watch God at work in the lives of students at this year's Journey retreat! He brought healing where there was brokenness, comfort where there was sorrow, and a great joy in worship of, and obedience to, Him. Thank you for praying.

Jesus, Lord of Fund-Raising

I am writing this letter in the midst of a fund-development week. The whole NY/NJ region of InterVarsity is off campus this week raising funds for the ministry. As I've been meeting with God this week for my quiet times, He's really been teaching me through His Word about not limiting His ability, and to be expecting the unexpected from Him—which includes the area of fund-raising. If He can feed 5,000 people with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, and He can walk across half a lake on top of the water, then \$9,000 seems, well, like not a very big deal.

There are a lot of new opportunities that are arising for me in InterVarsity as I am approaching "senior staff" status. I will be applying to train a staff intern on campus next year. I will be going on a 3 week mission trip to Guatemala in June and July. And in general, as I become more experienced, I will be offered and given more responsibilities. It will be much easier for me to tackle these new responsibilities when my budget has been completely met. Please pray that God would provide the remaining funds for the ministry, perhaps in unexpected ways, and that I wouldn't limit the possibilities with a lack of faith, or expectations that are too narrow or low.



Some of the Skidmore and Union crew at The Journey.

God Really Does Answer Prayer!!

Funny thing...no matter how much you insist to students that God will answer when we pray, unless they see it and experience it themselves, they just don't get it! There have been times on both campuses in the past 2+ years where getting students to pray has felt like pulling teeth. And yet, when we pray, and God answers, their motivation grows, and they become more passionate and committed to prayer.



Last year was a time when it felt like teeth-pulling at Union. So I told the leaders that the only way we were going to have a fellowship that prays is if we have a leadership team that prays. I challenged them to consider what it would look like to spend as many hours praying for our freshmen outreach as we spent doing it. They took me up on that challenge, and we prayed all summer for the fall outreach. We prayed specifically that God would bring in lots of new students, particularly freshmen, who would bring fresh life and passion into the fellowship. For our outreach, we handed out 500 bottles of water to the freshman class on move-in day. The bottles had labels on them that let people know who we were, and when and where our meetings were. We also attached a response card, where people could ask for follow-up. As students received these water bottles, and saw some flyers that were hung around on campus, they came to our meetings!! We've had at least 10 new students attending our Bible studies and/or prayer meetings (including several non-Christians). And because new students are coming, and there's more life in the fellowship, some students who have come in the past, but haven't been faithful, are starting to become more committed. Now, the world might be tempted to chalk all that up to good advertising, but we all know better! **God answers prayer!**

At Skidmore, we've been having a hard start to the semester. Though we had a strong new student outreach, and we talked to and followed up with many freshmen who seemed like they'd love to get involved with the fellowship, participation has been really low. I met with three upperclass students one-on-one last Tuesday, all of whom were confused and frustrated with the lack of interest the freshmen seem to have to connect with other Christians on campus. So, in all three of those meetings, we prayed that God would bring people and unite His body on campus. The next day, they had 13 students attend their large group meeting (they'd been averaging 3-5). One of the students from the Tuesday meetings said to me, "I don't know where they all came from!" "Don't you remember?" I asked. "We prayed for them." **God answers prayer.**

Want to Save Trees?

If you would like to receive this prayer letter by email instead of hard copy, just email me and I'll make the change.

Also, if you are not on my regular email list, to receive links to more frequent prayer requests on my website, and you'd like to be added, just let me know!

The address is: danielle_bailey@ivstaff.org

God Answers Prayer!!

So Please Pray For...

Students who are **committed** to prayer, to each other, to doing their part in the body of Christ on campus, and to seeing their friends come to know Jesus.

The **present leaders** on both campuses. At present, we have one student leader at Skidmore and one student leader at Union. Pray for Krystle (Skidmore) and Jeff (Union), that God would give them strength to lead well and to carry out the rest of the semester with excellence. Pray that I would encourage them well and be a great resource to them as we serve together on campus.

That God would raise up **new leaders**. We'd like to have new leaders step up and start leading in January on both campuses, but we're not sure who those new leaders will be. Pray for discernment and clear leading from the Holy Spirit.

For **\$9,000** or **\$750/month** in new, regular support for the ministry. Please pray with me that God would provide this amount by the end of December, so that I am able to participate in all the upcoming opportunities that God has for me with InterVarsity.

For **Urbana**, InterVarsity's mission convention, being held this December in Illinois. At least two students from Skidmore and one from Union are registered, but it's possible that in the next couple of days several others will register as well. Pray for preparation of hearts, and of details!! A convention of 20,000 people is a lot to organize, even with the great system they have set up for Urbana.

Thank you all for your faithfulness to partnering with me in this ministry. God is answering our prayers, and changing students' lives!! May you continue to be blessed and strengthened to serve the Lord in all you do!

*In His Service,
Danielle*