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Skidmore College
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The Journey 2002

"Jesus showed up!" was a comment I read on one evaluation after this year's Journey retreat at Young Life's Saranac Village. With around 224 students and about 50 or so staff and volunteers, it's hard to imagine Jesus *not* wanting to be there! I am certain that the diligence with which the students sought after God in His word, the devotion with which they worshipped Him, and the love with which they cared for each other all sent a sweet aroma to our Father in heaven.

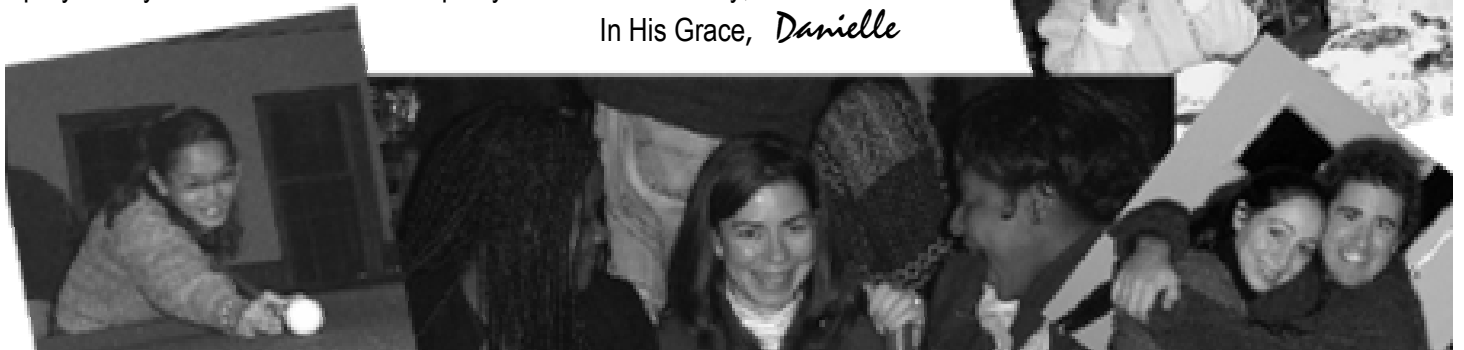
Thank you so much for your prayers before, during, and even now after the retreat. God's hand was evident in everything that went on, from the provision of finances and transportation, to the pulling together of details and logistics, to the transformation of lives by His Spirit, which continues even now. I know that your prayers played a significant role in the way that God met us for this retreat. Ministry to these students *depends* on the prayers of people like you! Thank you for your faithfulness.

Since the retreat, I've had time to sit down with many of my students and follow up with them on commitments they made during the weekend. The students who went through the Map & Compass (inductive Bible study) track have been applying what they've learned particularly well. As they use their new found Bible study skills, the Lord is meeting them in new and significant ways. Many of them have continued to study the book of Acts (which was the text for the weekend), and are becoming encouraged and motivated by the power of the Holy Spirit as He worked in and through the early church.

I thoroughly enjoyed directing a track for the first time. It was great to work with such a fabulous and gifted team of staff and volunteers. The students were blessed by the attention and care they received from the staff, especially their small group leaders. If there was one complaint, it was that they wanted more time in small groups. I think this is because it was in their small groups that they were cared for in a way that modeled what we were hoping they'd take away from the weekend — the ability to create a safe place where broken people can come and experience acceptance in a way that will both bring healing and empower them to grow in Christ. Because it was modeled for them well, students left the track empowered to grow in their ability to help others grow.

So, Jesus indeed showed up. Thank you again for your prayers! I am grateful that God uses so many of you to bless His work in the lives of students. My prayer for you is that Jesus shows up in your life in a new way, even this week!

In His Grace, *Danielle*



Please Pray

Pray that **students would be driven to their knees** in intercession for their campuses.

Pray that **students would experience God's healing** from emotional, spiritual and physical brokenness.

Pray for **development** of my staffing ability as I head to staff training just before Thanksgiving.

Pray for **stamina** for me as I resume my fund-raising work this month on top of my campus work and my training.

Pray for **strides forward** in building bridges to the Pride Alliance at Skidmore.

Pray for **leadership development** on both campuses.

Financial Update

Of my \$47,433 budget, I am thankful that \$32,176 is already pledged to be given this year. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving! This leaves a little more than \$15,000 left to raise in order for me to be fully funded and fully invested in the two campuses. Please pray with me that this goal is met soon, even by the end of December.

Website

Many of you ask for more frequent updates, stories, prayer requests, etc. For you, there is good news. My website contains all sorts of other information about the ministry at Skidmore and Union. That information includes other prayer requests, news articles, a calendar of events, photos, opportunities to communicate to me how you would like to be more involved with the ministry, the ability to view your financial giving records, and much more! Please check it out at : www.daniellebailey-ivcf.org
I imagine that in December, when students are away for a while, I will have opportunity to add even more for you to enjoy!

Listening to the Hearts of Seekers

God used the Willow Creek evangelism conference to renew my heart for lost people. They placed a huge emphasis on the need to listen to the questions that seekers are asking, to the needs that they have, and to the things that make it easier or harder for them to enter into a spiritual journey. While this seems obvious, it became more and more apparent to me how often we as Christians fail to truly listen. We know we have the answer, and we just want to give it to everyone as soon as possible. Well, I thought I'd give you a chance to "listen," by giving you a few thoughts that came directly out of the mouths of seekers at the conference...

Positive Experiences with Church, Christians

- Relevancy
- Space to answer questions
- No pressure, no intimidation
- Open-minded
- Having a "soft sell" - attraction rather than promotion

Negative Experiences with Church, Christians

- Hypocrisy
- Judgmental
- Always talk about Jesus and nothing else
- Pressure—forceful about opinions

What's standing in the way of a decision?

- Fear of change
- What about other religions?
- No need or want of Christianity
- Responsibility to be perfect—not a hypocrite

Advice from Seekers to Christians

- Don't force it, give time and space
- Give a relevant message
- "Look at me as an equal, not as a lost little puppy needing to be saved."