

# Captive Free South Central 2003-04 Journal

**Date:** 9/16/2003

**Submitted by:** Jessica Gulhaugen

**Journal Entry:**

Well, here I am on the road (literally, I might add – heading towards Strawberry Point, Iowa) after a seemingly short month of training. At this point I am just overwhelmed at how faithful and amazing God is. He has blessed me with incredibly talented and unbelievably fun teammates, who I can't wait to get to know better. I can already feel myself changing spiritually, socially, mentally, and probably in other ways that I can't even sense yet. And that just emphasizes to me that the path before me is an extremely exciting one, albeit challenging, that God has placed before me for a definite purpose. And that, my friends, makes me want to walk it all the more. God Bless!



**Jessica Gulhaugen**

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**Date:** 9/17/2003

**Submitted by:** Dan Malloy

**Journal Entry:**

My spirit and enthusiasm for our ministry are at an all time high. Tonight we had our first electric program in Volga/Strawberry Point, Iowa. We also did two programs at the nursing home here this morning. Seeing the joy on the faces of the people and the excitement in their eyes, especially the kids, made it very clear that God was working in amazing ways.



**Dan Malloy**

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**Date:** 9/19/2003

**Submitted by:** Amber Dawn Broome

**Journal Entry:**

The members of Captive Free South Central are all VERY excited to finally be on the road! It's awesome to be able to spend so much time together. Our relationships with each other are starting to become very genuine and strong. An unbreakable bond is definitely starting to form!

Of course, we've all come from various walks of life and we're all at different points in our faith journey but, in general, we all accept and respect everyone's differences. Our team strengths and weaknesses are very well balanced between the six of us. I'm surprised everyday by my teammates and their many talents and gifts.

Yesterday we made a trip to Pikes Peak National Park with my host mom, Lorna. After lunch by the Mississippi River, we took a walk through some of Iowa's most beautiful wilderness. Tysen, Gabe, and Dan had grabbed their instruments and were further up the trail than Jessica, Beth and I. After a while of walking, us girls started hearing faint drum beats and guitar strumming. We found the guys behind a beautiful waterfall singing "Living Water". The peaceful sound of the water falling on the rocks the theme of the song well. It was one of the most breathtaking sights I've ever seen. GOD IS GOOD and He makes us notice it everyday! Word.



**Amber Dawn Broome**

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**Date:** 9/22/2003

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

South Central has had the privilege of Rachel Bolte's presence the last few days. As a staff member of Youth Encounter, she has been doing some on-the-road training with

us. It has been great to have her with us and hear her very positive comments about our team's strong relational and music ministry.

I have only known my teammates for a month now, and I already love them like brothers and sisters. Over the past week, I have had many moments of complete and total amazement that God has put these incredible people in my life.

Having already completed two years of the Music Major at Gustavus Adolphus College, I have really enjoyed putting my knowledge of music to use on team. I love playing keyboard, guitar, flute and singing, but during training I learned to play bass guitar, electric guitar, and a little drum set. It's fun to move around to different instruments during the programs.

We spent our Day Off today at Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp in Story City, IA. We got groceries in town last night, and it was fun to cook for ourselves today. We made a creamy chicken and pasta dish with bread sticks and lettuce salad.



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

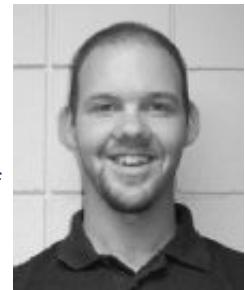
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**Date:** 9/28/2003

**Submitted by:** Tysen Bibb

**Journal Entry:**

Howdy y'all! This is Tysen here coming at ya from the land of Oz. That's right...Kansas! Let me tell ya it's been awesome so far! I love my home region. God has shown Himself to us so much in these first two weeks. We've been blessed so abundantly with great host homes and great programs. I knew Kansas was flat...but whoa people...it is FLAT! It's so hard knowing that we're less than three hours away from the Rocky Mountains and we're not gonna get to see them. I love mountains but it's all good. We'll just have to get pictures from Captive Free Southwest. Anyways till I talk to ya later...One Love, One Truth, One God. Peace out, this is Tysen signing off.



**Tysen Bibb**

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**Date:** 10/2/2003

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

South Central is starting to settle in to life on the road. Four hour drives everyday are normal for us now as we travel across Kansas. I was born in Southwestern Minnesota and have lived there all my life, so it is very exciting for me to see the changing landscapes and experience life in different areas of the U.S.

This morning Jess and I left our host home at 7:45 a.m. and were amazed at the view from this country home in Levant, KS. The sun was just barely above the horizon and was partially covered by clouds. A few horses were grazing in the field surrounded by a white fence. I couldn't see the end of the gravel road that we were driving on; it just seemed to go on forever. It's hard to describe it in words, but it was breath-taking!

Yesterday was a busy day for us! In the morning we led the chapel service for a Christian school in Colby, KS. It was so precious to see the elementary aged kids singing along with us on "Open the Eyes of my Heart, Lord" and many of the other worship songs. When we were finished, the principal got up front and said a prayer before the students returned to class. This really made me think about how lucky we are to be living in this country where prayer and Christian schools are allowed. Next we went to 2 nursing homes and did short programs at each. In the evening, we had supper, played games, and sang songs with about 50 youth ages 2-12. I don't think I was prepared for the amount of energy these kids had! We had to make some changes in the middle of the program to get the kids involved more. The kids loved the songs and loved running around and doing actions. At the end of the program, I was worn out! It was a busy day, and I was glad to go to bed early that night!



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

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**Date:** 10/5/2003

**Submitted by:** Gabe Dahlke

**Journal Entry:**

Hey everybody, this is Gabe from Captive Free South Central. Well things are going pretty well, overall for us. We have been having a frustrating time getting bookings, but it just comes with the territory I guess. The office has shared their frustrations with us as well so at least we know that everything is being done that can be at this time. We are having a good time hanging out with our various hosts though. The team seems to be on the same page most of the time so far, so I am glad about that. Right now we are in Kansas City, Mo. We just got done doing a youth retreat at a camp right outside the city. It was a lot of fun. The kids really seemed to enjoy themselves. That is the kind of stuff that reminds us why we do what we do. Well, nothing much more to talk of that I can think of right now so I am going to sign off. Please keep us in your prayers and God bless all of you.



**Gabe Dahlke**

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**Date:** 10/6/2003

**Submitted by:** Jessica Gulhaugen

**Journal Entry:**

Well, hi everyone! Today, I'm sitting in an open-air pavilion in a camp-type place by Kansas City, Missouri. We just got done hanging out with a whole bunch of kids from Kansas City. We had a whole day/night/day filled with games and music and just hanging out. I must say that as a sound tech, it was nice to have an electric show last night. During our stay in Kansas, we pretty much did acoustic shows, so getting to work with the sound board for the first time in a long time felt really great – I was beginning to miss it. Kansas was really cool (and really flat), I got to meet lots of great people in Garden City, Colby, Levant and Hutchinson; and we get to go back to most of those places, so I get to see them again. Overall, this is continuing to be an incredible experience, and I daily get to see God working in amazing ways.



**Jessica Gulhaugen**

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**Date:** 10/7/2003

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

This weekend we were back in Kansas City at our home congregation, St. James Lutheran. It is nice to be somewhere a little bit familiar to us. When we left, it felt a little like leaving home again. The people of this congregation have been wonderful! They have been so welcoming, loving, and generous! On top of that, the youth are just plain fun!



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

Although I'm having a lot of fun, I'm really starting to miss my friends and family. It's especially difficult to call my college friends and find out that their lives are continuing on, and I'm not there to be a part of it! I will miss being with my family for Thanksgiving this year, but I know that God has a very special plan for me this year.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our ministry in any way. Thank you to my sponsors, host families, youth, friends and family! Without your prayers, financial gifts, and love, this ministry would not be possible! You have all touched our lives in incredible ways! THANK YOU!

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**Date:** 10/7/2003

**Submitted by:** Amber Dawn Broome

**Journal Entry:**

I've never been more excited about this year! I learn new things everyday about the world, my teammates and myself. The road is becoming home and the team is becoming family. This past weekend we had an awesome retreat in Kansas City with our host churches' Jr. Highers. TALK ABOUT ENERGY! Before it started I wasn't sure if my own personal energy could come CLOSE to matching theirs. As

always, God provided me with the energy I needed and then some! The retreat went GREAT! I love all of God's surprises! He's so faithful and good to us all!

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**Date:** 10/11/2003

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

The last few days in Shawnee, Oklahoma have been amazing! On Thursday evening we got to go to a birthday party for the 11-year-old daughter of our contact. Then we did a Family Night Program in a small sanctuary for about 30 people. Just as Matthew 18:20 says, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them," I felt God's presence in that small gathering. As we played each song, I felt God taking over more and more. I didn't need to worry about the notes, so I was able to just worship our awesome God!

On Friday afternoon we played at a Juvenile Detention Center for 120 youth. I was nervous going into it because I didn't know how the youth would react. I felt like I wouldn't be able to relate to them because I've lived a pretty sheltered life and haven't experienced many really tough times. As I watched the youth file into the gym in their different colored shirts (representing the different stage of the program they were in) I wondered what brought them to this place. All these young children of God needed to hear the gospel just as much as everyone else we had encountered. Then I remembered that we were planning to sing "Beautiful." Usually, I introduce that song by talking about how the world sees our physical appearance and God sees us all as His beautiful creations. I had been given the honor of telling these youth they are all his beloved children and beautiful creations, yet I felt so unworthy to be delivering that message. For some reason God called me to this time and place to deliver his message of love.

As we began to sing, I felt out of place and a little embarrassed, but the youth seemed very excited to have us there and seemed to enjoy the music. If I had stayed in college in Minnesota, I never would have been stretched and pulled out of my comfort zone in this way. Praise God for His amazing plan for my life!



**Amber Dawn Broome**

**Elizabeth Wojahn**

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**Date:** 10/13/2003

**Submitted by:** Tysen Bibb

**Journal Entry:**

Hello everybody! This is Ty here givin' a shout out to all of you following the continuing adventures of Captive Free South Central. Recently the team traveled to my very own hometown for a housing only. It was great to show the team around and have them meet my family. At first I thought it would be a little strange pulling the Youth Encounter van up in front of my house but it turned out being great. We'll be spending lots of time there in a couple weeks for Halloween so it was great to break some of the ice. The whole team is psyched to go back and spend time with the youth at my church and meet my extended church family.

Right now we're in Wichita, KS. The people here have been so kind and supportive and God really used us to make a difference here; it was awesome! This is quickly becoming one of our favorite places. Praise be to God for wonderful people who are willing to serve Him by taking us in and being our family away from home. Well that's it for now. Tune in next time for more exciting adventures of Captive Free South Central. Talk to y'all later. God Bless! Bye!

Tysen Bibb

Phil. 4:13



**Tysen Bibb**

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**Date:** 10/14/2003

**Submitted by:** Gabe Dahlke

**Journal Entry:**

Hey all you Youth Encounter cyberspace junkies,  
How's it going? Well things are looking up for captive free south central. We are actually starting to get bookings. It is awesome. We are having a blast with all of the new peeps we are meeting. Wichita has been incredible for us. All of our hosts and everyone that we have come in contact with has been absolutely incredible. We had a great time in Shawnee Oklahoma too. We got to play at a juvenile center. It was awesome. The kids were great. They were very responsible. It was just a fun time. Well I have to go shave my back right now so I will talk to you all later. Peace, Love, Jesus forever. I'm out.



**Gabe Dahlke**

**Date:** 10/26/2003

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

Life on the road has been teaching me so much and stretching my mind in so many ways. Being so far away from my friends and family has forced me to rely on God more than I ever have had to before. No matter how wonderful my teammates are, they are still human and not perfect; they will let me down from time to time.

Therefore we can't look for fulfillment in anything of this world, including other people. We have to look to God for our fulfillment and find our identity in God!

This morning we attended a conservative Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. It was the first time that I had been to a service where I was refused communion. Since I belong to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I don't have the exact same doctrinal beliefs. This congregation believed that to commune together, everyone had to have the exact same beliefs. I felt so left out. It makes me sad that there are such strict boundaries in Christianity and that we can't come together as Christians to celebrate communion together.



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

**Date:** 10/26/2003

**Submitted by:** Tysen Bibb

**Journal Entry:**

Hello everybody this is Tysen. I'm coming at ya from Concordia, MO. We've had some pretty light days as of late. The host homes that we've had have been great. During these slower times I've had a lot of time to reflect on how beautiful creation is and all the blessings God has given me. I watched a sunset one night and have spent a lot of time just hanging out with my team. We've gotten closer as friends but all agree that if things were busier that'd be great. All in all the past week has been a good time of rest and we're looking forward to November and all that that will bring. Please pray for our ministry and the unity of all the teams. May God bless you all.



**Tysen Bibb**

Sincerely,

Tysen  
CFSC

Philippians 4:13

**Date:** 10/28/2003

**Submitted by:** Amber Dawn Broome

**Journal Entry:**

Well...the roads in Kansas may be flatter than a pancake and straight as an arrow but life on the road is filled with many ups and downs & twists and turns. It seems

to me that we're all doing pretty well physically, mentally and spiritually. We're looking to God and the people that He gives us for strength, support and loads of laughter. God STILL amazes me everyday in so many ways! I'm still having "WOW" moments...when I have to look around and take in where I am in my life. I can't help but smile when I see not only where God has called me to be but the unbelievable people He's called me to grow with this year.

They're all my brothers and sisters. We love each other even though every once in a while it's hard to remember it. But like a good father always does with his children, God reminds us of our love for each other and gives us the understanding we need. Word.



**Amber Dawn Broome**

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**Date:** 10/30/2003

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

Yesterday we had the great privilege of playing music in two nursing homes in the Kansas City area. There were over 40 residents waiting anxiously at each place when we arrived. We played for half an hour at both places and were very warmly received. Most of the music we played was contemporary music, but we always invite people to join us if they catch on to the choruses. It was wonderful to see some of the residents singing along with our song called "Romans." It is based on the verse Romans 8:38 that says "None can separate us from the love of God." That is such a powerful verse and powerful song. I'm so glad we were able to share that message with the residents of these nursing homes.

While we were in Kansas City, my team also had the opportunity to take a tour of the downtown plaza in a horse-drawn carriage. It is such a beautiful area; we all fell in love with Kansas City.



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

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**Date:** 11/1/2003

**Submitted by:** Dan Malloy

**Journal Entry:**

Howdy Y'all,

WOW!!! What a fun-filled and busy day we had yesterday! Playing all day for all different ages of amazing kids; some in the coolest costumes ever, and more Spidermen than you could shake a stick at. And on top of that we all got to dress up in costumes for the Harvest Party – Sweeeeet!!! This was a rockin' party complete with games and a costume contest of sorts. We finished off our wonderful day with an hour and a half of music and then some discussions with the senior high youth group. Quite a fulfilling day – I slept like a rock last night. Gotta run, peace out for now.



**Dan Malloy**

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**Date:** 11/9/2003

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

We just had an awesome weekend in St. Charles, MO! On Friday we spent the whole night at the church "locked-in" with the Sr. High youth. The D.C.E. had planned the whole event, so we got to just hang out with the youth and provide the music. The theme for the event was "Truth and Dare," so throughout the night, the D.C.E. read different verses in which Jesus proclaimed a truth or challenged us with a dare. My favorite time of the night was free time. A few of the girls asked me about the songs that we had played and we ended up playing songs on the keyboard and singing for most of free time. They were very talented on keyboard and knew quite a few praise songs. I could see God working in their lives, and I was so happy to be a part of it!

This morning we led music for the worship services and helped out with Sunday school. The class I



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

was with during Sunday school was all the Junior High Youth who would be coming to the St. Louis Quake! It was fun to meet people who we'll get to see again this year!

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**Date:** 11/13/2003

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

Over the course of the last three days, Captive Free South Central has been in three different states! On Tuesday morning, we woke up in Mattoon, IL after doing a Family Night Program there Sunday night and spending our day off there. On Wednesday night we did another Family Night Program, this time in Bettendorf, IA. Then on Thursday evening we were in Florissant, MO where we were lucky enough to catch "Relient K" live in concert! It was so nice to have a week full of activities! I really like keeping busy!

In Bettendorf, IA, we got to meet one of the members of last year's South Central team. It was fun to share our stories and experiences with a past teamer from our region. As a team we are growing more and more confident in sharing our faith with those we encounter! Personally, I am learning to really trust God and his plan for our team this year. When I get frustrated because I don't have a say in where we travel to or that we have to do everything as a team, I just remember that God has so much more wisdom than I do. His plan for me is perfect!



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

**Date:** 11/24/2003

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

Beth November 24

"The Tale of the Cute Kids and Killer Cat"...

Hello from Raytown, MO! Captive Free South Central has been having an amazing time in Raytown this weekend! Dan and I have been staying with a great family. They have a 7 year old son and a 5 year old daughter who are the cutest bundles of love and energy. Right away, as soon as I met their daughter, she latched on to me and proudly showed me that she had just lost her first tooth! When we got home the first night, the Youth Director and his two kids (a boy and girl the same age) were over. Dan played video games with the two boys while I played Barbies and then Go Fish with the two girls! We ended the night by doing sing-a-long songs in the living room with the parents. My host dad an awesome guitar player and my host mom is great on the keyboard, they both play in the praise band at church. So they helped out with the songs too! That evening I was reminded why I decided to be a part of Captive Free this year and why I want to make Youth and Music Ministry my career! I love kids and I love music! The kids loved the songs so much that they were singing them all through the next day and one of the boys even made up a new verse to one of our songs!

Now on to the story of the killer cat! Monday (our day off) morning, I woke up to find my host family's very unfriendly cat sitting right in the middle of the only stairway from my bedroom to upstairs. I had been told that it had bitten people in the past and it had already been very clear in expressing its dislike of me. So, I thought, well, it will move when I start climbing up the stairs. Wrong... it hissed at me and arched its back. I moved one step closer and it began to spit and jump towards me. That was it, I was not going to try to cross this cat. So, after trying many ways to get the cat to move without it killing me, I retreated to my bedroom in hopes that it would just go away. Finally, in half an hour, the cat was gone and I was freed from the basement. Hopefully I'll never encounter a cat like this one again!



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

Happy Thanksgiving to all! May God bless you now and forever!

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**Date:** 11/24/2003  
**Submitted by:** Gabe Dahlke  
**Journal Entry:**

Hey cyberspace cowboys, hope all is well with you. It has been a trying time for this particular teamer as of late. God has really been stretching me and testing me with personal trials and I am still in the process of working out what he wants me to do. So any prayer is appreciated. We are nearing mid winter training which we are all very anxious about. Other than that though we have been just hanging out trying to stay sane. Thanks to all of you who take the time to read these journals and share interest in what is going on in our lives. We appreciate it more than you might know. Well time to sign off, God bless you all and have a great thanksgiving.

Gabe Dahlke



**Gabe Dahlke**

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**Date:** 12/1/2003  
**Submitted by:** Amber Dawn Broome  
**Journal Entry:**

Dec. 1, 2003

Captive Free South Central is looking forward to getting back to Minnesota for Midwinter training and also winter break. We've had a severe lack of bookings which is absolutely no one's fault. For a while, our energy level was beyond nonexistent. We just sort of moped around for a few weeks sleeping on hard church floors and complaining about this or that. There was a feeling of uselessness within the group that I'd never seen before. It's hard to recognize your call when you're not "actively doing ministry". We had been headed downhill for quite a while when we had the most amazing devotion talk. Nothing had been planned for devotions so instead we just decided to chit chat a little. It ended up being an almost 2 hour conversation about how we felt, why we felt the way we did, and what we could do about it.

It was THEN that we realized that music is just a foot in the door but our actual ministry is RELATIONAL and God has been putting different people in our lives every day! The couple host homes that we've had have been outstanding people! We also realized that Jesus called us to pick up our crosses and follow him this year! He never told us that he'd make sure we knew where we were going all the time.

After that devotion, I felt as if Captive Free South Central had made a huge step! I feel that no matter WHAT God throws our way, He has a beautiful purpose for it and in the end I feel we'll all be better people and a better team.



**Amber Dawn Broome**

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**Date:** 12/1/2003  
**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn  
**Journal Entry:**

Beth Dec 1

Greetings from Iowa Falls, IA! Last night we got to play 3 brand new songs in our Family Night Program! We've come a long way musically as a team since the beginning of the tour! Though they weren't perfect, we made it through each of them. The mistakes helped remind me that we are broken and sinful people. Though I was praying like crazy for God to help us remember everything we had practiced, I still forgot how to start one of the songs that I start alone on guitar. When I realized that I had started in the wrong place, my fingers began to fumble even more. As the others came in with their instrumental parts and I heard the words of the song, I was reminded that Jesus is our "All in All." He is worthy of our praise because "When I fall down you pick me up, when I am dry you fill my cup. You are my all in all!"



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

**Date:** 12/1/2003  
**Submitted by:** Tysen Bibb  
**Journal Entry:**

12-1-03



**Tysen Bibb**

Hello there everybody. I hope y'all had a great Turkey Day. I know I had a lot to be thankful for this year. In my one year and now 4 months on team God has shown me amazing things about Himself and about other people. I am also finding that I am steadily becoming the person that I've always wanted to be deep down inside. God has worked through my time on team and has taught me patience, compassion, real love, that the time we have is short and that every second is a gift, that I really do love kids, that you have to learn to sometimes disappoint people in order to be true to yourself, and perhaps the greatest thing I've learned is that God is so real. To some that may sound like a no-brainer but doing what I've done for so long you really see how God reaches out and touches people right in front of you before your very eyes. They feel His love and become filled with the Holy Spirit and, wow, it just makes my heart ache thinking about it.

It can be so easy to forget when we're in church on Sunday that the words we say and songs we sing aren't about a dead god or even a God who sits up in heaven on a big throne and orders the angels around. He's a real live God that moves around us and through us...that constantly watches over and personally knows every creation (not just humans). We are all part of such a huge story that's been going since before creation that it's mind-boggling to think that we're that same God's beloved chosen ones. So this holiday season as you look at the sunsets, snow, and the ones you love; remember that they're all a gift from your Heavenly Daddy and that the time here is short. Embrace all of it and take a deep breath (by the way...that breath is a gift too). Look to the heavens and say thank you to the giver of all gifts. You may not know it but to someone you're a gift also. Have a blessed Christmas.

Sincerely,

Tysen Bibb

CFEL '02-'03  
CFSC '03-'04

**Date:** 1/27/2004  
**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn  
**Journal Entry:**

Praise God for Event season!!!! Captive Free South Central has been super busy in 2004. We've already had 3 events this month and we have 2 more coming up soon! (Events are a weekend conference for youth held in a hotel from Friday to Sunday.) This fall, our schedule was pretty slow, so we've welcomed this busy schedule with open arms! At our most recent event, the St. Louis Quake, we had the opportunity to minister to 575 youth! The capacity of the hotel was only 700, so we completely took over the hotel!

After 3 weekends of high energy, not much sleep, and being constantly in the spot light, I found my introverted self desperately seeking some alone time. I usually love being in front of people, especially when I'm performing music or leading worship, but I was very ready for some alone time when the weekend was over. As usual, God provided just what I needed! We were able to stay in the hotel two extra nights to spend some time with our staff support person. It was a great time of rest and rejuvenation! Praise God!



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

**Date:** 2/5/2004

**Submitted by:** Tysen Bibb

**Journal Entry:**

Hey y'all! Many exciting things have happened this year and God has shown Himself to the whole team on more than one occasion but one thing that really sticks out to me is the trip back to St. Paul after Mid-winter Training. We were on Highway 65 south and close to the front of the long caravan of Youth Encounter vehicles when all of a sudden on our way up a hill the van started skating on a 40 foot patch of black ice. My heart pounded uncontrollably as I decided how to handle the situation. The trailer was acting like it was going to swing around and hit the van so I straightened it up but started to head into oncoming traffic... the van was out of control. I slowly turned the wheel to the right to get back into the right lane and just when it felt like nothing was going to happen and we were all about to panic God took the wheel and all of a sudden the wheels of the van gripped the highway taking us into the correct lane and guiding us into the ditch. Miraculously nobody was hurt and the van and trailer was left unscathed from the impact into the ditch. Within minutes we were surrounded by other teamers who had stopped to see if we were ok. When all was assessed and all that was left was getting the van and trailer out of the ditch, our Youth Encounter family went back to the Twin Cities as we waited with staff for AAA to come. As the van was pulled out and we drove to St Paul we realized that not only were we going home safely but we had had an encounter with the living God that holds his beloved children in His arms at all times. Remember that you are NEVER alone.

In His Grip,

Tysen Bibb



**Tysen Bibb**

**Date:** 2/12/2004

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

"If you ever drop your keys in a river of molten lava, let 'em go, 'cuz they're gone...These Munchies aren't as good as I thought they'd be...Sleep is good...Michelle's flying over the ocean...A random thought?...Beavers eat wood...I can't spell, I need to go back to school..."

This has been 'Random thoughts from Captive Free South Central.' Tune in next time for more random thoughts from van #54 driving down Turner Turnpike in Oklahoma where the wind comes sweeping down the plain.

Disclaimer: This journal entry was a collaborative effort by all the members of CFSC. Please do not hold Youth Encounter responsible for the randomness of our thoughts!"



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

Beth Wojahn ><  
CFSC!!

**Date:** 2/15/2004

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

My dearest friends and family, my sincere apologies for our lack of recent journal entries! We have honestly been so busy with Quakes on the weekends and Family Night Programs during the week!

We are really enjoying Oklahoma right now! The first thing we liked about Oklahoma was the lack of snow and cold weather! All of us northerners have been going without our winter jackets since we came into Oklahoma last week! The second thing we



noticed about Oklahoma was the incredible sun-sets! On our first night in Oklahoma, **Elizabeth Wojahn** Amber and I went for a walk with our host family and witnessed God's amazing art work displayed in the sky. God is so good!

As our team is settling into more of a normal routine, I'm appreciating my teammates even more! I didn't know that it was possible to love my teammates more than I already did, but God proved me wrong once again! When I'm having a frustrating day, all my frustrations disappear when we come together as a team to pray before our programs. As we hold hands or put our arms around each other or just stand in a circle together, all I feel is love for my teammates. It is such a privilege to be serving God and God's people with my 5 amazing teammates!

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**Date:** 2/17/2004

**Submitted by:** Tysen Bibb

**Journal Entry:**

Well howdy all y'all journal loving types! This is Tysen coming at ya from the great state of Oklahoma, home of Garth Brooks, Reba McIntyre, Black Gold, and Buffalo. This week on "Backstage Pass with Captive Free" I'll be discussing tumbleweeds and the effect of 5 Quakes in a row on a veteran teamer. So about tumbleweeds... they're big, they're round, they're weeds, and they tumble... how about that! Now on to the effects of 5 Quakes in a row on a veteran teamer. First of all I LOVE Quakes and Congresses! They're awesome opportunities for youth to grow in faith with their peers in a fun, Christ centered and totally ROCKIN atmosphere. Some of my best memories on team have been Events but it just so happens that when you combine 7 Events from a previous year on team with 5 new ones all in a row, you get a little tired out. Okay, you get a little more than tired out... you're exhausted BUT it's that kind of exhaustion that only comes from giving your all to those who really need you to be at the top of your game and really need you to work hard. I love that feeling of accomplishment! It's best also when you're doing it all for the Lord. Are there some areas of your life that you could be giving more to God? I challenge you to dig deep and give that extra bit of yourself to God and to others, the feeling you'll get will seem like you received more than you gave. YAY JESUS and stuff! Thanks for tuning into another episode of "Backstage Pass with Captive Free". Remember to thank your Daddy in Heaven for all his rich, rich blessings. Talk to y'all later! God Bless.

In Him,  
Tysen Bibb

CFEL 02-03  
CFSC 03-04

P.S. To all my sponsors: THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT! YOU MAKE THIS MINISTRY POSSIBLE. MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR ALL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS KINGDOM.



**Tysen Bibb**

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**Date:** 2/17/2004

**Submitted by:** Gabe Dahlke

**Journal Entry:**

Hello everyone out there taking time to read our journals. First off I want to apologize for not keeping up on writing these things. I have no excuses, only apologies. Please forgive me for my evildoings. So with that out of the way, first I want to give a shout out to Allison. You are awesome. Thanks for being you. Next, I guess I will talk about what we have been doing lately. We have been really busy which has been totally great. We had five Quakes in six weeks. It was a little overwhelming but it was a great experience and if anyone who was at those Quakes are reading these, thank you for making it such a great time. You give us energy we didn't even know we had. It is great. You are all inspirations to me and the rest of the team. Currently we are wrapping up a good week in Oklahoma, where the wind comes sweeping down the plains... sorry, I couldn't resist, besides I was just saying what you were thinking. It has been a great experience. We met Kyle McBee, who has been a great blessing



**Gabe Dahlke**

to us. He has applied for team next year and I really pray that he is accepted. His fire burns brightly and it was very refreshing to see it. So thanks Kyle. We had a great time in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Cushing. Hopefully we will be back through here again. Thanks to all of the host families. You are a blessing to us. HMM, HI MOM. I love you. Hi, Dad, Isaac, Grace and Seth. See you this weekend. To all my Seward/Lincoln crew, Wat up and I can't wait to see you all again. Happy 21st, Steve. I think that is all I have for you guys. It was a pretty long one but I haven't written a journal in a while so I had a bit of catching up to do. All right, until next time... God Bless!!!

Riddle: Pitching great Don Drysdale perfected a throw that would stop in mid-flight, reverse directions and return to his glove. How is this possible???

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**Date:** 2/23/2004

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

God has been working in huge ways through and for Captive Free South Central in the past few days! This week we were able to finally drive down to Texas. We were all excited to experience this totally different culture that we were told existed in Texas! While driving one day in Texas, we experienced our first dust storm! At first we just noticed a lot of dust blowing across the road, so we turned our vent off in the van so that the dust wouldn't come into the van. Then the sky started turning orange, and before too long, the sky was brown and we couldn't see more than 10 feet in front of us! We pulled off to the side of the road and just crept along very slowly. Soon, just as suddenly as the dust storm came, it was gone. This happened many times throughout our drive that day. As we turned a corner and started heading out of a small town, a highway patrol man stopped us and told us to turn around because there had been a 30 car pile-up and the road was completely blocked up ahead. If we had been in that place half an hour earlier, with the visibility as low as it was, we could have easily been involved in that crash. Fortunately, God was watching over us and kept us safe through the dust storm.



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

After our performance that night and leading a worship service the next morning, we headed to our next destination in Missouri. When we arrived in Belton, the pastor gathered us together and told us the amazing story about how the concert came to be scheduled for that night. He had been at the Youth Quake in Wichita a few weeks earlier and had prayed that God would provide a way to bring Captive Free to his congregation. So he met with the Evangelism committee and they decided to call the Youth Encounter office to book us for a Family Night Program at their church. Before they had a chance to call, Youth Encounter called them and said that Captive Free would be in the area the next weekend and could do a Program for them. They immediately said yes and began making plans. Over the course of the 5 days they had to prepare for this concert, they found 5 families to host us, put up posters in 20 different places in town and delivered 400 flyers to people's homes. When we do a program at a church we usually need about \$350 to cover all our expenses, so the pastor collected a door offering at both services Sunday morning and raised \$351!! We were meant to be at that church that night. It was not just any Family Night Program. God had answered the prayers of the pastor and congregation in huge ways and put together this amazing master plan. Praise God for his wisdom and for answering the prayers of His people!

In Christ's awesome love,

Beth Wojahn ><

CFSC!!

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**Date:** 2/26/2004

**Submitted by:** Amber Dawn Broome

**Journal Entry:**

Greetings from Captive Free South Central! Our winter season has been wonderfully busy with many Family Night Programs, Sunday Worships and Youth Quakes. It surprises me how different our team functions when we're so busy!

We've definitely had a refreshing burst of energy after layin' low last fall. So far we've had 5 Youth Quakes that just seemed to get better and better. However, we didn't have too good of luck with weather. I am convinced that our team has a "bad weather curse"; During four out of the 5 weekends (of our Quakes) Mother Nature sent us an abundance of ice and snow. Although our Quakes were never canceled or shortened, many individual youth groups had to head home early. But all-in-all, our Quake season was unreal! I was so pleasantly surprised at the youth and their undying energy! Whether Captive Free was jumpin' up and down acting like crazy folks for Jesus or meditating to campfire songs, those kids were right with us. God worked through them in amazing ways.



**Amber Dawn Broome**

So far, this year has been an unbelievable and life-changing experience for me. I'm still soaking everything up. I'm amazed at how God works through people or situations. God and my faith in Him have never been as real to me they are right now. I keep praying that this mountain that I'm climbing in my faith is a huge one. While I know the many ups and downs, I want to always be learning. Always changing to glorify God better. Taking one step at a time in the race God has placed before me in hopes of reaching my finish line and living with God for eternity.

I thank God everyday for my family and friends back at home and my teammates who all love and support me everyday.

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**Date:** 3/4/2004

**Submitted by:** Gabe Dahlke

**Journal Entry:**

Hey everyone, hope all is going well in your worlds right now. Things are going pretty good for CFSC. We are in Ridgeway, Iowa today on our way to Morton, IL. Sorry West Lakes for invading your region. Well, to bring you up to date on my status, I am tired. Physically and mentally. The road is taking its toll on me. I am to the point where I really have to focus or I don't get stuff done. But from what I hear it is normal so I guess I'm not going crazy...yet. No, things really aren't that bad. I am definitely missing my friends lately too, especially my family and girlfriend Allison. But I will get to see some of them over Easter break so I am really excited about that. We recently spent a wonderful weekend in St. Louis where Tysen and I got to go to the Arch and downtown. It was awesome. I really like St. Louis. Well, I hate to be boring but I really can't think of much more to write. My mind is still waking up, sorry. So until next time...



**Gabe Dahlke**

Gabe Dahlke CFSC

Question 4 U: How far can a deer walk into the woods?

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**Date:** 3/7/2004

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the Lord your God with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths."



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

So, according to this verse, we're supposed to trust in God 100% of the time with 100% of our lives, right? Well unfortunately, it's not that easy. Every day I struggle to trust God with the small stuff, but it's even harder to trust God with those huge life-changing decisions. In the Bible we read about God asking Noah to build an ark on dry

land with no rain in the forecast. Everyone thought Noah was crazy; Noah himself probably thought it was a little crazy, but He obeyed God. We all know how that story ends. Because Noah trusted God, he and his family were saved from the flood.

A little over a year ago, God called me to do something that didn't make any sense to me. I was a sophomore at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. I had a great group of friends, I got along with my professors, I was involved in a lot of activities, my family was nearby, I was on track to graduate a semester early with a double major in Religion and Music. I was comfortable with my life. Then I started feeling God tugging on my heart asking me to step out of my comfort zone. "Ok," I thought, I can do that, but how? Soon the answer came, one of my camp friends recommended that I apply to be on a Captive Free team. My first reaction was, "What?! Take a year off of school? No way!" Then, slowly, God started to change my heart, and I realized that it was God's will for me to apply for Captive Free. After going through the application process, I received my letter of call in January 2003. Now I have been touring with my 5 crazy, wonderful teammates through the south central region of the United States for the past 7 months. I trusted God, stepped out of my comfort zone, and God has blessed me in so many ways that he could not have blessed me if I would have stayed in Minnesota.

While I was trying to decide whether or not to accept my letter of call to be on Captive Free, I remembered one of my favorite Twila Paris songs. The lyrics for the chorus just rang so true in my life: "I don't know the way to go from here, but I know that I have made my choice. This is where I stand until He moves me on, and I will listen to His voice."

I challenge all of you to examine your lives and see where you could be trusting God more, and if God asks you to do something that doesn't seem to make sense to you, just trust Him! I promise that if you learn to trust God and not depend on your own understanding, He will show you the way and He will bless you in even bigger ways than you can imagine!

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**Date:** 3/9/2004

**Submitted by:** Dan Malloy

**Journal Entry:**

Greetings from the road. It's a bright, sunshiny, yet bitterly cold Tuesday morning here in Dubuque, IA, and we just had Christmas in March. A few nights ago we had a program in Davenport and there were four Youth Encounter alums in the house. That was pretty cool to see and also brought about our out-of-season holiday. One of the alums, Chris Bernard, CFSC 94-95, decided he would play Santa and brought us a big box full of wrapped presents with some specific instructions on how to handle them. It was a ton of fun to open presents and see the hilarity that ensued at one team meeting this morning – everything from a bubble gun to leopard print slippers that were soft and fuzzy... yeah!!! So thanks to Chris and all the alumni who help make sure we're taken care of and have a little fun every once in a while. Peace out y'all.



**Dan Malloy**

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**Date:** 3/24/2004

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

For the past 7 months and 6 days, I have known my teammates, and for the past 6 months and 10 days we have been doing ministry. I thought I knew everything about my teammates and the ministry, but today I was proven wrong. As we met the pastor of a church in Fort Worth, Texas, he asked us some questions and pointed out some things about us that I had never noticed. For example, he pointed out that I speak in "sound bytes," which he said meant that I was able to speak in a very clear and concise manner. He also asked my teammates questions about their families and church history that I had never thought of asking before.

After spending some time being tourists in the former stockyards area, we visited 3 members of the



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

congregation who were bed-ridden at home. As we crammed all 6 of us, the pastor, and all our instruments into the bedroom and sang, we saw an overwhelming joy come into the eyes of these people who had been in pain for so long. Being in front of large groups of people, it's sometimes hard to see how the people are being affected by our music and it's harder to make a personal connection with anyone. Today was a whole new wonderful exception to our normal ministry.

Since I was a little girl growing up in Minnesota, I've heard that everything is bigger in Texas. Up until today, I just thought they meant material things like the cows we saw grazing in the pastures and even the jelly beans that were being sold in the stockyards gift store. However, today I witnessed how big the hearts of the people in Texas are. May God bless you Texas, as you've been a blessing to me!

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**Date:** 4/26/2004

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

April 26th

How beautiful are the praises of your people! This phrase came into my mind one night while we were playing a worship song during our Family Night Program. I looked out into the audience, and although many people had their hands raised in worship, one man caught my attention. He didn't have his arms raised, but he was swaying back and forth with his eyes closed as he sang with a great deal of passion. I could tell he was completely lost in worship! It was such a beautiful thing to witness!



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

God, it is really such an honor that I get to lead your people in worship! Thank you for using me as an instrument of your love!

Beth Wojahn ><  
CFSC!!

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**Date:** 5/5/2004

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

May 5

For the past 8 1/2 months, I have been asked the same series of questions every day.

What's your name? Where are you from? So, how often do you travel, just on weekends? How old are you? What are your plans for next year? and What have you learned from this experience?



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

Well, up until today the best answer that I had for the last question was that I learned how to handle conflict better and how to work with different types of people. It's really difficult to share in words all that I've learned this year, and I know that I won't even fully understand all that I've learned this year until I'm off the road. But today, I realized one of the biggest ways that I've grown this year. Living this lifestyle that God is always right in my face has forced me to let God into all the aspects of life. In college it was easy to not talk about God in the dorms or at work, but this year my teammates and I pray together every morning and talk about our faith on the long van rides. Every night when we do a program, we all talk about our faith. Then at our host homes, people ask us about our faith, and it's always right there in our minds. Now I know that I can't go back to a lifestyle in which God is not a part of every single aspect of my life! I can't go back to the lifestyle in which I don't pray in restaurants or remind someone not to take the Lord's name in vain because I was afraid of what they would think! God is in every aspect of my life and I can't deny it any longer.

Beth Wojahn ><  
CFSC

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**Date:** 5/25/2004

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

"Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the works thy hands hath made. I see the stars; I hear the rolling thunder - thy power throughout the universe displayed."



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

These words from the hymn "How Great Thou Art" kept playing in my head as we stood at the base of a 95 ft. waterfall in the Ozark National Forrest in Arkansas. Since we were only in Arkansas for two days, we decided to make good use of our time and do our team devotions outside. After a mile and a half hike to Cedar Falls, we found ourselves face-to-face with this breath-taking waterfall. We were awe-struck by the natural beauty of God's creation. We each took some personal time to just be in God's presence. While I was sitting at the base of this waterfall surrounded by tall trees and huge rocks, my soul kept on singing "How Great Thou Art! How Great Thou Art!"

Beth Wojahn ><  
CFSC!!

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**Date:** 6/11/2004

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

Our first week of Vacation Bible School is now over. We had a great week in Levant, KS singing songs and playing games with over 100 of the area youth! The highlight of the week was the closing program on Thursday night, during which the kids flexed their muscles as they sang "I'm gonna get strong when I read God's word and pray" and many other songs. It was an honor to spend time with such wonderful youth! To finish off the night, one of the Levant residents brought out his Irish long-haired Oxen to give the kids a ride in the wagon they pulled! There were also pony rides, funnel cakes, popcorn and a pie auction during this evening event. When the auctioneer announced that they had a strawberry pie for sale, I said to the kids next to me "My Grandma always makes me a strawberry pie for my birthday!" The news must have traveled fast because pretty soon I was presented with the strawberry pie from the man who had already purchased it. I was deeply touched by his generosity! It's always especially hard to be away from home on holidays and birthdays, but this man's generosity brightened my day more than he will ever know!



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

In Christ's amazing love,  
Beth Wojahn ><  
CFSC!!

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**Date:** 7/4/2004

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

Greetings from St. Joseph, MO on the 4th of July where fireworks have been crackling through the air all day! So far this summer we've helped lead 4 VBS programs, and each one has been such a blessing to me! Staying in one place for an entire week has allowed me to really get to know my host family and helped me to feel more like I am not constantly a guest in other peoples' homes. Other than that, I am really enjoying being creative with the sing-a-longs that we lead almost every single morning! When I'm singing the lead part on a sing-a-long, I always try to throw in a new verse or dance move, and I've really enjoyed trying different things on the electric bass. It has helped keep us all excited about singing the same sing-a-longs week after week!



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

Last week, we were asked to sing for a prison chapel service. We were all very excited, but I was a little nervous. The prison Chaplain led us through the courtyard of this prison campus to the chapel, and much to my surprise we were greeted by many of the prisoners saying "Welcome! We're so glad you're here! Thanks for coming!" The chapel service in this prison was the most worshipful service in which I have ever participated! These men are completely stripped of their freedom and material belongings, but instead of spending their time dwelling in their own misery, many of them have focused their time on studying God's Word! What we see on TV about prisons is no where near what I experienced that day! The prisoners were very real, genuine people, and those who attended the worship service have huge hearts for the Lord. Thank you God for breaking down the stereotype of prisoners I had in my mind and opening my heart to see them as your children and fellow sinners!

Beth Wojahn ><  
CFSC!!

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**Date:** 7/6/2004

**Submitted by:** Dan Malloy

**Journal Entry:**

Random thoughts by CFSC

"On the Road Again..." What a beautiful duet from Beth and Jess in the back seat. On route to Dayton, OH. WOO!! 10 hours, not too shabby. For me, Dayton=Home and I get to share it with 4 of my teammates for a few days. Now that we've emerged from the cloud of smoke and bumpin hip-hop that was our 4th/5th of July we're all "excited" that we only have 5 more hours in the van. Jesus is rockin out with us and his disciples (dashboard Jesus with little plastic figures as his followers) as we cruise the expanses of the concrete ribbon known as I-70 East. Singing into giant glass bottles and random screaming are starting to scare me (not really) but I think it's time for a driver and navigator change. Peace Out.

Dan  
Malloy



**Dan Malloy**

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**Date:** 7/31/2004

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Wojahn

**Journal Entry:**

Fifteen days left with my teammates. Fifteen days left of this ministry. It's been an amazing year in so many ways. Now the challenge comes in returning to college and applying what I've learned this year. Yes, if you didn't already know, on September 8th I'll be starting classes at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN as a Junior. I'm excited to be returning to classes and to see my friends again, but of course I'll miss my teammates in a huge way! I'll miss the opportunity to worship with my teammates and audiences all over the south central U.S., I'll miss the little kids' smiles, hugs, and drawings. Most of all, I'll miss living a lifestyle completely saturated with God! Everything we do, everywhere we go, God is in it! I know that that statement is true anytime/anywhere, but while I've been on team, it has just been so much easier to see it! I pray that I'll continue to see God so clearly in everything I do and say!



**Elizabeth Wojahn**

Thank you to all my host homes and host congregations this year! You've touched my life in a very special way! I've been able to see Christ shining in each one of your lives! Keep that candle burning in this dark world! There are so many people who still need to be reached with God's love! Keep on faithful servants!

God's Peace to you until we meet again!

Beth Wojahn ><>

CFSC!!

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