

Captive Free South East 2004-05 Journal

Date: 9/12/2004

Submitted by: Andy Adams

Journal Entry:

Wow! Training has been quite the experience. Luther Dell, near Remer, MN, has been home for the past two weeks, and will stay home for one last week of training. This weekend marked our inaugural performance. Our first booking, Our Savior Lutheran Church in Solon Springs, WI, went very well; I am thoroughly pleased with our performance. In addition to being our first booking it was our first experience with host homes. The house I was privileged to stay at was very beautiful and I was able to experience so much of God's wonderful creations, it was very relaxing. I am very thankful for the many blessings that were showered upon us in our first experience out on the road. For now, however, it is back to Luther Dell for a final week of training and practice before Captive Free South East takes to the road again and heads south for the winter. Walk Blind,
Andy



Andy Adams

Date: 9/23/2004

Submitted by: Kristen Corr

Journal Entry:

We've been on the road for not quite a week now. It's so strange to be on the road for real—this is what we'll be doing for a year now! How exciting!

Our first stop was in Mason City, Iowa where we were very busy with a family night program, a lock-in, and bits of 3 Sunday morning worship services. We were nervous, starting with so many things in the same weekend, but God provided us with lots of energy and great people to be with. It was a wonderful experience.

Sunday we drove to Elkader, Iowa and did a family night program there. It was a small, very enthusiastic congregation. I am from eastern Iowa and have connections with the church in Elkader, so it was great for me to be in someplace familiar.

Our next family night program was Wednesday night in Andover, Iowa—my home church! It was wonderful for me to be welcomed back briefly into my home congregation. They love Captive Free and were extremely excited to see one of their members up there behind the microphones.

My teammates and I met each other only one month ago. It is so amazing to see how much we have grown, as individuals, and as a group, since training started. While at training, we were stretched, challenged, affirmed, and encouraged by everyone we met, and now that we are on the road God continues to keep teaching us in these ways through all of the people we meet and through all of the experiences we have. I am so excited to see how much we grow, how much the Lord works on us this year!!



Kristen Corr

Date: 10/1/2004

Submitted by: Rachel Russell

Journal Entry:

Even though we've only been on the road for almost two weeks it seems as though we've been doing this forever. And despite the fact that I'm still adjusting to life on the road and trying to figure out exactly what all of my personal responsibilities are on team it feels quite natural to be where I am and doing what I'm doing. I enjoy living for the Lord in such a literal way. Now that's not to say that there are no conflicts or struggles in team living, because it's by far one of the most difficult, and precariously balanced living situations that I think I will ever encounter, not to mention be a part of. However I find the struggles and challenges have been met equally by joys and by times of being built up. I think that even in just the four weeks of training that we went through I grew more spiritually than



Rachel Russell

I have in the past couple years.

We have been so blessed by all of host families that we have stayed with. It is a struggle for me to meet so many incredibly wonderful and generous people and then have to leave all of them right away. It is however encouraging to know that wherever we go in life there will be people that will reach out to us and change our lives by becoming a part of them. I am so grateful that God has blessed me with the opportunities that are now before me since being placed on a Youth Encounter team.

Date: 10/3/2004

Submitted by: Caroline Moore

Journal Entry:

We have been doing some amazing things so far. God has blessed our team in so many ways. I am getting used to the fact that as we travel south that I am going to have to get used to the fact that it is HOT!

Sunday night we had a youth night in Alpharetta, GA it was amazing we worshiped with about 30 high school students. Then we played some games with them. It was so much fun spending time with them and seeing how God is working in there lives and in the church. I pray that God continues to bless them in all that they do. Psalm 143:8-12.



Caroline Moore

Date: 10/5/2004

Submitted by: Andrew Johnson

Journal Entry:

We've spent most of the last week in the various suburbs of Atlanta. It is definitely way more humid here than in at home in Canada. We've had some great host homes, we're definitely experiencing some 'southern hospitality'. We've had Jim from Youth Encounter with us for a few days, he's been a lot of fun to have along. He's been doing some on-the-road training with us.

I did a sharing in Louisville, GA on Friday talking about how God is with us always even though we cannot always feel him. I shared several verses and afterwards a man came up to me and shared another verse with me that I thought was really cool. It comes from Mark 5:36: "Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler 'Don't be afraid; just believe.'" I really like that one. Check out Genesis 28:15 as well for another verse I really like.



Andrew Johnson

Date: 10/7/2004

Submitted by: Andy Adams

Journal Entry:

Wow! It is hard to begin to express what I have felt in the past two weeks. God has blessed us so abundantly everywhere we have gone. It has been such a blessing staying with all of the families we have so far. Thank you so much! As a team we do have our ups and our downs, but every time God brings us together to do a program there is this overwhelming sense of unity. We are all working toward the same goal – worshiping our Lord and Creator. The south east region of the country is so different culture wise from back where I come from (Wyoming), it is really cool to get to observe different cultural influences and different ways of life in general. At the same time I see all the differences, I notice so many similarities, which helps me to feel like I am at home, wherever I go. Thank you, God for providing me with so many wonderful experiences the past two weeks. I also thank you for the knowledge that things are going to get even better, your plan for us is just getting underway, and that is awesome to think about.



Andy Adams

Date: 10/8/2004
Submitted by: Caroline Moore
Journal Entry:

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Caroline Moore

Date: 10/11/2004
Submitted by: Kristen Corr
Journal Entry:

Okay, funny story. Last night we were playing a family night program at a church in Charleston, SC. We were set up to play in front of a huge banner of Jesus. Before the program, one of the members of the church told me that he likes to call that banner the "flamingo Jesus" because the Jesus on the banner only has one foot sticking out from underneath his robe. He said that if the Jesus on the banner can stand on one foot for so long, we should play our program with each of us standing on one foot as well. I laughed and said it was a good idea, but I didn't think it'd work for us.

Flash forward to the second song of the program. We're all playing along and singing and such, and all of a sudden the shoulder strap came untied from the guitar I was playing. I didn't want to stop playing in the middle of the song, and I had to do something to prop up the guitar so I could play it, so I lifted up my right leg to prop the guitar on my knee—and played the rest of the song standing on just my left foot. We made it all the way through the song, although my legs were pretty tired by the end of it.

After the song, I announced that a fellow had challenged us to play like the "flamingo Jesus," standing on only one foot—and I had done it! Everybody laughed. It was a really fun program.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil 4:13 J



Kristen Corr

Date: 10/15/2004
Submitted by: Rachel Russell
Journal Entry:

This past week has been pretty rough. I found out on the 4th that I had a really bad case of strep throat. No good!

We were in Forrest Park, Georgia and were supposed to be doing a Sunday morning worship service. Just before the service though I started to feel really sick and had to sit down. I had, had a headache a few nights before but thought nothing of it. Oops! Well our host mom, Kathy, was a nurse (isn't it funny how God always puts us in the right place at the right time?) and she noticed that one of the glands on the right side of my neck was swollen to about the size of a large gumball. Our host family was great and immediately set about taking care of me. Gran Jan went to the store and got me some decongestants and water and Kathy and Charlie helped me to decide what to do next.

It was decided that since my teams next booking was only an hour away that they would go on to the next town while I stayed behind with Jim Matthias, one of the teams support staff, who was with us that week to do some "on the road training" (again, isn't God funny), and went to the doctor. Kathy got me in to see one of the doctors in her office, who was great and quickly



Rachel Russell

determined that I had strep. He gave me some antibiotics and decongestants of all sorts and I was all set. Then Dot, another nurse in the office who also went to our host church, drove Jim and I to the next town to meet up with the rest of the team.

Well I immediately started taking the antibiotics, of course, and soon started feeling really nauseous anytime I ate or moved a lot. I just finished the antibiotics so I've started to feel a little better but for the past few days all I've been able to eat has been crackers and baby food. Man those were some serious antibiotics.

I've been frustrated at being sick and not being able to help my team during programs or anything like that. I definitely don't recommend getting sick when you're on the road! J However, God has used this experience to teach me several lessons. Lesson one, He will always take care of me, even for the funny, weird little things. Lesson two, so will my team. Lesson three, I'm learning how to be ok with needing help and someone to take care of me when I'm sick. Anyway, God is awesome and I am constantly learning to trust him in all things with out question. He hasn't failed me yet!

Date: 10/19/2004

Submitted by: Andrew Johnson

Journal Entry:

Man we drive a lot. Long van rides give us lots of time for reading and discussing... I was reading Ecclesiastes (which I think is my favorite book) and I came upon this interesting line... Chapter 10 verse 19 says "A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes life merry, but money is the answer for everything." I had to raise an eyebrow at that, especially because the rest of Ecclesiastes is talking about how 'everything is meaningless' and then all of a sudden the line about money. I talked with Kristen about it in the van. One idea I had was that the writer is being sarcastic, which I like because of my sarcastic nature. But due to the context of the verse (the verses around it are definitely not sarcastic) that option was out. So we decided that the verse must not be saying that money is the answer to everything, it is your attitude towards money that is important. Which I think holds a lot of truth. It was a very interesting discussion. Maybe long van rides aren't all that bad!



Andrew Johnson

Date: 10/23/2004

Submitted by: Caroline Moore

Journal Entry:

This past week, we had so much fun doing all sorts of things. We spent a lot of our time doing chapels, which are great. They all tend to want different things to happen, which makes it interesting. I like that we are doing the same things in so many different ways. I also got a chance this week after doing a Family Night Program to talk to a very interesting individual. He told me that he didn't care for the music at all, but he still liked what we do. He was very interested in our ministry and the things that we do as a group, and he appreciated how we can reach people in this way because the message that we had is important to him. I really enjoyed talking to him about what Youth Encounter is doing and how we go about our ministry. I was glad to hear the message that we are bringing with us when we come into people's lives is being received with open minds and open hearts. God is working through us in everything that we do. That was really amazing to witness.



Caroline Moore

Date: 10/27/2004

Submitted by: Rachel Russell

Journal Entry:

Well I've had kind of a rough couple weeks. First came being sick, then I found out that my parents had to put our dog down because he was really sick, and yesterday my

grandpa passed away. Not that, that was all that happened but you know how sometimes the hard things are the ones you tend to remember better. Why is that? Anyway, I've just been struggling to focus on what God has me out here doing and not on all the things that are going on outside of that. It's difficult though because the things that have been happening aren't exactly the kind you can just ignore. How do I grieve? When is it appropriate? It's a lot to think about. Don't get me wrong though. I love what I am doing. I get to use the gifts God gives me for his glory and that is the best thing that I could be doing. I am grateful for my team and their constant support. It is defiantly a benefit to be surrounded by people that care about you during the rough spots in life. I am also learning to rely more entirely on God, if that makes any sense. I guess I am learning to see how exactly he works all things for the good of those who love him. I've always known that, it's just good to see him working. You know its funny, life throws all sorts of things at us and we try to catch them all. Who ever said that we had to?



Rachel Russell

Date: 10/30/2004

Submitted by: Kristen Corr

Journal Entry:

So, led by God, we continue to have more amazing adventures. Our last week in Florida, we did a wonderful overnight retreat with middle school students from a Lutheran school. What was even better, this retreat was at a camp in the middle of the Florida wilderness! We led some morning worship times, taught a bunch of games, made stencils that we used to paint t-shirts, and played a couple of songs in the talent show. We also had a bunch of fun conversations with the middle schoolers. What made this retreat even more wonderful for me was that I got to build a fire (with Andy's help) and play my guitar and lead songs while looking up at the stars and smelling the smoke from the campfire. (I have worked for the past several summers at EWALU Bible Camp in Strawberry Point, Iowa, and have been going there every summer since 1992, when I was in 5th grade. Therefore, the place I have felt the most at home during our tour was sitting around that campfire at the Bible camp.)



Kristen Corr

The next day, some of the kids were going on a High Ropes course at the camp, so Andy and I went with them. We were delighted when the leaders of the course said that because of our experience with high ropes courses, they could train us how to help them facilitate. So we got to encourage and help lead the kids through the course as they worked their way through obstacles that were about 30 feet off the ground. Andy and I also got to experience the personal challenges of going through the course ourselves; that was intense and difficult and scary and we loved every moment of it! It's wonderful to encounter God by experiencing massive amount of adrenaline coursing through your body!

Date: 11/2/2004

Submitted by: Andy Adams

Journal Entry:

Thank God! I cannot begin to express with simple words what He has started to do with my life. There have been so many people, so many places, and so many things that God has been able to use to work toward shaping me into the person He wants me to be. I still am not sure where I'll be headed when this year is over, whether it is college, another year on team, or another mission field somewhere in the world, but I know wherever it is, He is building me up for it each and every day. Day after day though I am continually surprised at the many blessings God sends our way. The people we have been privileged to meet, the things we have been privileged to see (including a 14 foot alligator!), wow, this is amazing. One of the blessings that I really enjoy is the weather. Being from Cheyenne, WY, it is weird for me to have a day in the 80s where we can sit and enjoy our day off pool side, on the first of November! That was an amazing day.



Andy Adams

In Him

Date: 11/4/2004

Submitted by: Andy Adams

Journal Entry:

There are times in our lives when what we expect isn't what we get, and when you're not expecting the best, that can be a good thing. In Savannah, GA we arrived at our church to find out that our program was rather last minute for the church (it was a last minute booking due to cancellations that were out of the control of both Youth Encounter and the church in Savannah). When we arrived, we were confronted with the option of not doing any program at all, since many of the congregation members already had made plans before they found out we were going to be at their church. After considering our options we decided to do the program, even if the only people who came were our host families. Not only were we going to do our full program, we were going to do it full set up – another option we'd had was to do an acoustic program. When program time came around, we had more people than we had hoped for. Surprisingly, fourteen people showed up, and we worshiped God with fourteen people. Tonight was an excellent reminder for me that it doesn't matter who is there, because we are doing this for God, and He'll send the people He wants to be there. All we need to do is what He has called us to do, and that night, He called us to worship.



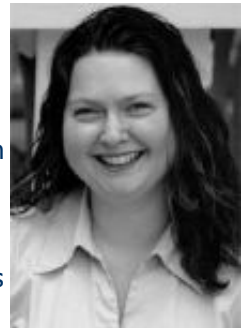
Andy Adams

Date: 11/7/2004

Submitted by: Caroline Moore

Journal Entry:

We did a youth night program this week and it was uplifting for me. A group of Lutheran Churches are trying to build there youth groups so they are getting together and planning events. We played for this event. They had a large turn out for the youth night. It was nice to see the youth interacting with the other youth groups that came. They had four different churches represented with around 50 kids that came out. It was great to see them come together. I really like the fact that the churches are coming together with each other and supporting the youth. This is a great encouragement for me to see this happening.



Caroline Moore

Date: 11/9/2004

Submitted by: Rachel Russell

Journal Entry:

Yesterday was so awesome! It was our day off and we all went with our host mom, Jan, to this little island in Willmington, North Carolina to go shelling. The beach was absolutely beautiful and no one was there but us. I wound up walking down the beach for about two miles just singing worship songs and looking for some good sea shells before I realized how far I had gone. I turned around and was shocked at the distance that I had covered, in what hadn't seemed like a very large amount of time, and decided that since it was getting rather windy and the clouds were starting to roll in that I had better turn around and go back.



Rachel Russell

I was a little bit discouraged because no matter what beach I'm on, or how carefully I look, I can never seem to find the shells I'm looking for. Yet it always seems like there's a plethora of everything else. Well on my way back I decided to quit looking because I was tired and out of luck and kind of in a hurry anyway. So I started back and was focused more on singing and praying to God rather than looking for the perfect shell.

The funny thing was that all along the way back I seemed to keep finding all of the things that I had been looking so hard for before. I would just be on my way and then there they would be, right in front of me, in the middle of my path. I thought that it was really kind of neat that when I finally gave up focusing on the task at hand and turned to God he handed me exactly what I had been looking for all along.

P.S. If you walk in sand barefoot for two miles you will no longer have callused feet, you'll have raw ones. Ouch! ;)

Date: 11/11/2004

Submitted by: Andrew Johnson

Journal Entry:

We got to do something different and exciting yesterday! We were back at Redeemer in Savannah, GA for a housing only. They have group there of kindergarten through second grade kids that meet once in a while. Their parents come as well, so the kids and the parents all get to know each other, thus strengthening their relationships as the kids grow older. We sang a couple of songs and ate supper, which wasn't that different or exciting. That part came after supper: we got to decorate boxes with a autumn/Thanksgiving theme. At first when I saw all the pumpkins and autumn leaf cutouts we were going to use for decorating, I was slightly confused, because I had forgotten that Thanksgiving was at the end of November. In Canada it is in October, and after Halloween all the autumn/pumpkin stuff goes away and, not too long after, the Christmas stuff starts coming out. The boxes were then filled with food and are going to be sent to families on the Air Force base in Savannah, most of who have family members currently in Iraq. It was a very cool idea.



Andrew Johnson

Date: 11/23/2004

Submitted by: Kristen Corr

Journal Entry:

We have definitely been keeping busy! Saturday we did a Youth Day, where we hung out with the kids from a church in North Carolina. We spent the morning playing and singing with the younger kids and the afternoon with the older kids. It was a very full day, but they were so much fun—so enthusiastic and excited about whatever we had them do at the moment! That night we did a Family Night Program at the church, and it was fun to see so many faces of youth that we already recognized from earlier in the day.

Sunday night we did a family night program in South Carolina, with another hugely enthusiastic group of people. It was wonderful to be able to feed off their energy. One of the pastors at the church has lots of connections with the ELCA seminary in nearby Columbia, South Carolina. She arranged it so that on our day off, Caroline, Andrew, and I got to take a tour of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. It was wonderful, and everyone we met was very welcoming and excited to learn about what we were doing. I even met other people from Iowa there! Hooray for Iowa! What a wonderful place to be from.J



Kristen Corr

Date: 11/28/2004

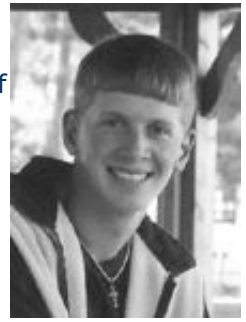
Submitted by: Andy Adams

Journal Entry:

Recently we have been privileged to work with many retirement and nursing facilities. These places, while not being the most upbeat and lively crowds, house congregations that hold many surprises. Some of these surprises come deep within a person's heart, and not many find the key to releasing them. While many nursing homes can quickly become a place where an elderly family member might taken to live out the rest of his

or her life, they can also become a place where the residents "sit and think about when they will be taken to meet God," as one resident put it. We have a key to unlocking some happiness inside the residents, even if for just a half an hour. By singing for a half an hour and perhaps talking with the residents for just ten minutes, we can be a beacon of light into a person's life. We have the power to make a difference, even if we never see it. This difference isn't only in the lives of the residents and the staff of the nursing facility, but it's a difference I've noticed in my own heart, and it's a difference that I like, a surprise that had been waiting for me, and now is in the light.

Andy
Ephesians 6:10



Andy Adams

Date: 12/30/2004
Submitted by: Kristen Corr
Journal Entry:

Last night we did a program at the Bible camp I've worked at for the past several summers, Camp EWALU in Strawberry Point, Iowa. That was a lot of fun, because a lot of the folks who were summer staff with me--along with some of the full-time staff, some campers, other supporters of the camp, and my family--came to see us. Everybody at camp really enjoyed seeing what this strange thing is that I am doing this year, and my team and I really enjoyed showing them. I was especially excited to sing our second sing-along song, "Mighty Lord," because the Outdoor Education Director at Camp EWALU, Paul Frantsen (who also happens to be my personal hero in life), wrote that song. He was really excited to see us use it, too!



Kristen Corr

It was amazing for me to see two such important parts of my life come together. Working at camp taught me a lot of games, sing-along songs, random facts, and relational skills that I am able to utilize now on Captive Free. God has definitely been using my past experiences to prepare me for Captive Free, and I am certain that God is also using my experiences with Captive Free to prepare me for many amazing things in the future. What a wonderful blessing it is that God continues to teach, shape, and mold us throughout our lives!

Date: 1/9/2005
Submitted by: Kristen Corr
Journal Entry:

Recently, when I have called people from home, they always begin the conversation (after the question "Where are you?") with the question "Are you having good weather?" I never really know how to answer that question. We have recently been through Missouri, Tennessee, and North Carolina, and now we are in South Carolina. Every place we've been seems to be having a random snap of warm weather, so it's been around the mid-60s for us for a long time. Now, to many people, "nice" weather equals "warm" weather, but seeing as how I'm from Iowa and it's January, what I would consider "nice" weather for this time of year would be enough snow on the ground to effectively go sledding and cross-country skiing. We definitely have not been having that here in the Southeast. So I guess "nice" weather depends on who you are asking.



Kristen Corr

The past few days we spent a lot of time with the youth from a church in Lexington, South Carolina. We had a lot of fun playing games, singing songs, and hanging out with them, and doing a program for them and their families last night and church services this morning. One of the families at this church lived in Iowa up until three years ago, so I had a lot of fun talking with those kids about the wonderful state that we are from. We spent some time talking about snow and sledding, since I am not able to do that this January, and now that they live in South Carolina, they are not able to go sledding either. I really appreciated finding such a neat

connection to that family.

Date: 1/18/2005

Submitted by: Caroline Moore

Journal Entry:

Last weekend we spent in Alabama we had some things that went wrong while we are driving to Texas . One of the things that happened was that our trailer had a bearing problem, so we had to fix that. The church that we were staying at had a family that was providing lunch after Sunday worship. They had all of the tools to fix the trailer ,so we brought it with us and worked on it while we were there. It was so much fun; at least, it was to me! It reminded me of back home fixing things in the garage with my brother and my dad. What a blessing that family was to us and getting us back on the road. The father and son of that family reminded me of my own at home. It was wonderful getting to feel like I was back home helping fix some thing.



Caroline Moore

Date: 1/21/2005

Submitted by: Andrew Johnson

Journal Entry:

Hi, this is Bob the puppet. I'm the star of South East's puppet show. I'm from Canada. I've kind of got a bit of an identity crisis... no one is sure whether I am a gopher, a squirrel, or a bear. You'll have to meet me sometime and judge for yourself.

I've been having a pretty good time touring. The other day I had a blast. We were in Maryville, Tennessee. We did our show, which was stellar as always. After the band was done, I was flocked by kids. Through my magnificent performance, I had gained my own fan club. I talked with the kids with a while, took a few pictures, and signed a few autographs before retiring to my trailer.

That's all for now. If I'm feeling generous, I'll grace you my words and presence again the future.

Bob



Andrew Johnson

Date: 1/25/2005

Submitted by: Rachel Russell

Journal Entry:

Well we are headed for Texas today. We're on our way to our first Event!!! It is exciting and yet intimidating all at once. I can't wait to see how God will use us in this new adventure! The past few days have been both busy and yet slow at the same time. I know that sounds funny but it's true. Currently we are in Bossier City, Louisiana at Immanuel Lutheran Church. We got here Thursday night and had an awesome time playing and singing with the pre-schoolers on Friday afternoon. That night was such a blessing. We went to a place called Providence House, which is a shelter for homeless families with children. We ate dinner with them and then we did a short program for them. They had posters all over saying that we were coming, but the biggest thing on the posters was our PUPPET SHOW!!! The kids were all so excited for even just that one part! After the puppet show was over, they were all shouting for another one! :) We've never had an encore for our puppet show before. It was so wonderful to have the opportunity to do something special for those children and their parents. Saturday night we did a Family Night Program at our host church, and then Sunday morning we sang at their services. I suppose it felt like we were busy because we don't usually do



Rachel Russell

so many different things in one city, but still it was all spread out enough that things felt semi-relaxed. Praise the Lord for rest and work!!!

Date: 1/30/2005

Submitted by: Kristen Corr

Journal Entry:

Well, here it is the Sunday afternoon after the Texas Construction Zone. This was our team's first Event of the year, and we were both excited and nervous. But what an amazing weekend! It was so great to see so many high school kids who were excited to gather together to praise and serve God. Feed My Starving Children is an amazing service project, and Rachel and I helped out for a while, heat-sealing the bags that the food gets sent overseas in. That was a really neat experience.



Kristen Corr

By Saturday night of the Zone, I was a bit tired, and I was hoping I wouldn't fall asleep at the worship service. But leave it to God to provide energy when it is needed! Near the end of the worship, we (the Captive Free team) were set as prayer stations around the room, so the youth could come pray with us if they wanted. We had been warned that it might take a while for them to warm up to the idea of coming up to us to pray. However, as soon as the worship musician, Peder Eide, announced where we were, kids immediately came over to us. Right away, two girls sat down at my station. I asked them their names, and then one of them, with her face shining and her eyes damp with tears, said "I think I'm ready to give my life to Christ." I was not expecting to hear something that amazing—I was so excited!

We could definitely feel the presence of the Holy Spirit working through that Construction Zone. What a blessing it was to be able to be a part of it.

Date: 1/31/2005

Submitted by: Andy Adams

Journal Entry:

WOW! What an experience! We just finished with our first weekend Event, the Texas Construction Zone. I had never been to a Youth Encounter Event before, or any Event like this. Peder Eide was the worship leader and Bob Lenz was the speaker, and the two of them did a wonderful job at impacting the lives of everyone there. I think a large part of the reason this weekend was so awesome for me was I was behind the scenes and was able to do so much that those attending wouldn't notice. There is so much prep work that goes into something like a weekend event, it can serve as a good reminder to us about ourselves. If it takes so much work, effort, planning, and love to plan a weekend event, imagine how much work, planning, effort, and love went into God planning us and our whole lives. God's Word tells us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. We are wonderful works of God, and just as the Texas Construction Zone was inspiring and moving, so much more so can be the life of just a single human being.



Andy Adams

Date: 2/2/2005

Submitted by: Andrew Johnson

Journal Entry:

Everyone else on our team is writing a journal on the Construction Zone, so I thought I would share my perspective. I spent the entire weekend backstage running the computer. I got to see a lot of the back of leader's head, which I found very inspiring. But seriously, it was neat to see an Event from a different perspective. Having the Zone first was good for me, because I could get a feeling for how Youth Encounter Events are run. So even though Quakes will be different, I think I have a better understanding of how things will be when I am looking over the Quake schedule.



Andrew Johnson

I asked Dani, our Event director, how the Zone went. (Because I couldn't really tell from backstage.) She said the kids were going deeper than they had at any other Zone she had been at. Even the kids in the back row were doing actions. Bob Lenz (the speaker) and Peder Eide (worship leader) definitely deserve credit. Hearing how good everything went makes working hard behind the scenes totally worth it.

Date: 2/3/2005

Submitted by: Andy Adams

Journal Entry:

So much of team life is uncertain. What type of congregation will we be worshipping with, what kind of bed will I be sleeping on, will we even have somewhere other than a hotel to go to next Tuesday (which we do). There are so many things in our day-to-day life that we have no control over, and life on team takes things one step further to where we are dependant on God working through other people for almost everything we need. When God says in the Bible not to worry since He will be providing for us, He means every word of it and so much more. On a day-to-day basis I don't know what I'll be eating, where I'll be sleeping, or what God has in store for us from place to place, but in all three cases I do know something. I have never gone hungry on team; the opposite has been the case on several occasions where I have had more food than I could eat. I have never slept out in the cold. In the past five months, I have slept on every type of bed imaginable, from futons to king-sized beds and everything in between. Wherever we go, whatever we are doing, God has something in store for us. Whether it is us teaching and impacting the lives of others or if it is others impacting and teaching us, God has worked in so many innumerable ways, of which I don't understand many and probably never will. In all three cases, God has provided, just as He promised He would.

IHS<><
Andy



Andy Adams

Date: 2/14/2005

Submitted by: Kristen Corr

Journal Entry:

Happy Valentine's Day! We just had an awesome Quake in Memphis, TN. The musician, Shawn Smith, was amazing, and not only did we get to hang out with him at the Quake, but he also did a concert yesterday (Sunday) evening at a church in Memphis where one of his friends is a pastor! I really felt blessed to be able to go to that to see more of Shawn and also to see more of the kids we had just hung out with at the Quake. They were so much fun and had so much energy and enthusiasm! They even went up front to help Shawn do actions!



Kristen Corr

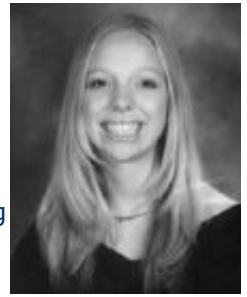
We have now been in Memphis for a week, going to different churches every couple of days. It's kind of nice to be in a place long enough to become familiar with the locations, and fun to get to know people a little more, sometimes seeing them again at different venues in the same town. I also had a really great time this past Wednesday, Ash Wednesday. It was my birthday and my boyfriend drove from Iowa to visit me! We all went bowling for our team outing, and I got the highest score in both of the games we played. That night we went to the Ash Wednesday service at the church we were staying at, and afterwards we ate a wonderful cake that Caroline had made. What a wonderful day in the midst of a wonderful week!

Date: 2/14/2005

Submitted by: Rachel Russell

Journal Entry:

Happy Valentine's Day y'all!!! So, we just had our first Quake this weekend, and it was rockin'! We had about 140 people at the Quake, and at the next one, we are expecting between four and six hundred people! I was extremely grateful, to say the least, that our first group was so (relatively) small. It helped me feel a lot more comfortable about being a total goober in front of a bunch of kids! :) Not that I'm not weird normally, I just struggle to continue my weirdness on stage. It's for sure a growing point. It helped that our Event director, Jeff, gave us ideas on how to kill dead space and whatnot during Event training. I do have to say that he helped us follow through with the goofiness factor by making faces at us from the back of the room while we were on stage. I don't know if anyone who saw him doing that didn't at least crack a grin!



Rachel Russell

We had Bill Yonker as our speaker and Shawn Smith as our featured musician and they were both so great. It was wonderful to see over one hundred kids, junior highers no less, singing in worship to our Lord or listening attentively to Bill. Kudos to God for making Bill and Shawn! We had so much fun making up new actions for some of the songs and getting the kids to be all kinds of silly, along with being all kinds of silly ourselves.

I think the biggest blessing to me was during Campfire on Saturday night. Shawn was leading worship, which meant that we got to sit with the kids--yay!!! I sometimes really miss being part of the congregation and being led instead of leading. Anyhow, we were all sitting on the floor in front of the stage and Shawn was sitting on the stage, and we were singing some of the older worship/camp songs, like the ones from when I was in junior high. I stopped singing and was just watching all of the kids, and listening to them. I love to do that because I think about how much joy it must bring to God. I realized that those moments, when his children lift their voices to him in unison to sing for his glory and to praise him, those are the moments when we are exactly what he made us for. We are his delight, and he is so in love with us. I don't know if you've ever listened in on those moments, but I can tell you that what God hears is the most beautiful sound from the world, no matter how many of us can't sing on key. It translates into all the right notes when we're singing to him.

Date: 2/15/2005

Submitted by: Andrew Johnson

Journal Entry:

We just did our first Quake in Memphis last weekend, and it was pretty cool! We had our Quake training on Thursday, which went pretty good. Then Friday it was set-up and get ready to rock 'n roll! I spent the whole registration time in the hotel lobby meeting and greeting kids. I'm sure glad I did; I got to talk to tons of them and got a lot of the awkward-I-don't-really-know-you phase out of the way before the Quake even started. Then I led some sessions with the Junior Guides, who are high-schoolers attending the Quake in a leadership role. It was pretty fun; there was a small group, so we all got to know each other pretty good.



Andrew Johnson

The rest of the weekend went well – more hanging out, the speaker Bill Yonker was good, the featured musician Shawn Smith was good. It was nice that it was a smaller Quake for our first; it also was much more of a intimate experience and I got to know kids better than I think I might when there are 600 of them! But I am looking forward to our upcoming Events!

Date: 2/22/2005

Submitted by: Caroline Moore

Journal Entry:

This last weekend we have been at St. Luke's Lutheran Church and School. On Friday night we had a late night event with kids ranging from fifth grade to eighth grade. Some of these kids will be attending the Quake in Austin that we will be at the next weekend.

It was nice to kind of get a chance to get to know some of the kids before the event. So, one of the things that was scheduled for the evening was small group Bible study on the theme verse for this year, Luke 8:24. I was with the fifth graders for this part of the evening. It was exciting because it was a small group of kids, which is nice because everyone can contribute. After everyone read the verse out loud, we paused so that they could each read it and reflect on the content of the verse. We then went on to discuss what they thought that it meant. They all realized the fact that even though we might be scared in a situation, God is always with us. They even had examples from their lives that they were sharing. It was amazing to be there with them as they opened up about their lives with me. Then later that night during the candle light devotion, we got back into our groups and prayed for the things that were going on in their lives. What an amazing experience that God had given me in those moments.



Caroline Moore

Date: 2/27/2005

Submitted by: Kristen Corr

Journal Entry:

Well, we just finished hanging out with approx 640 kids at the Quake in Austin, TX. I must admit, I was nervous for this Quake because while I love hanging out with junior high kids, I usually am not with groups bigger than 40, so 640 seemed overwhelming. However, the Quake went really well- when you have a group that huge, the energy is awesome! I met so many kids who were really fun to hang out with! I have also been very impressed with the Junior Guide program at the Quakes. Before we started doing Events, I didn't really know about the Junior Guide program- I thought it would be just junior high kids and youth leaders. The Junior Guides, though, are high schoolers who come to participate in the Quake fun, but they assume a role of more leadership, helping lead their youth group's activities, being good influences, and simply boosting the energy level with their enthusiasm and excitement. This was the 7th Quake for one of the Junior Guides I met- she had been to the Austin Quake every year since she was in 6th grade!



Kristen Corr

Quakes are also a great opportunity for us to learn from the musicians, speakers, youth leaders, and kids we meet. This weekend, there were several team alumni who were either working at the event, being the musicians, or just hanging out in general, so we had a great time swapping stories. We also got to hang out with the speaker, Bill Yonker- this was our second of three Quakes with him, and he is very fun. I love Quakes!!

Date: 3/2/2005

Submitted by: Andy Adams

Journal Entry:

Hey.

Yesterday was the first time we'd gone back to doing our standard Family Night Program, which was really cool. We'd been doing so many other amazing ministry things for God and the different parts of Texas lately, it was nice to step back into something more familiar. This afternoon we did a chapel for the kids in the school that we were working through; they were amazing. We kinda spaced on how to do the beginning of our puppet show, but that didn't matter to them and I don't think that they really noticed. Tonight we got to just attend a Lenten service at the church. The sermon was on mission work and reaching out to the world, and so they used us as the example. It's weird for me to think that what we're doing is missionary work. I think that all too often we get caught up in thinking that missionaries are just the people who go to Africa or Central America and rebuild impoverished areas. While they are missionaries and the work they do is invaluable, there is still need for mission work and a need for missionaries here in the U.S. and Canada and in our home towns. Tonight was a good reminder for me that we can be missionaries for Christ and be doing things as simple as hanging out with the youth of a school for half an hour.



Andy Adams

Oh, happy birthday Brian and Brett (my older brothers)

Date: 3/3/2005
Submitted by: Kristen Corr
Journal Entry:

We just left the wonderful small town of Taylor, TX after spending two great days there. On Tuesday, March 1, we did our first regular Family Night Program in a long time. We did a lot of new music we have been working on but haven't yet had an opportunity to put into the program, and it was the first Captive Free program ever for the church we were at, so there was a lot of energy and excitement in the room. Many of the youth and even some of the adults were dancing in the aisles of the sanctuary! The next day, we did a chapel service for the kids at the church's elementary school. They were so excited to have us there. They were scrounging around trying to find things for us to sign- we felt like celebrities! What wonderful opportunities we have been given this year!



Kristen Corr

Date: 3/9/2005
Submitted by: Andy Adams
Journal Entry:

La Grange, TX. There is a town in Wyoming named La Grange, and it isn't too far from Cheyenne, so this is kinda a nice reminder of home. We're at a camp, which is a cool reminder of my days working at a Cub Scout camp in Colorado when I was a little younger. We were at Camp Lutherhill, and while there weren't any campers running around, there was still a large amount of work going on. We were privileged to work with a group called Mission Builders. They are a group of retired couples who were at the camp helping them to build a new chapel. They had us clean out a storage room that hadn't been cleaned for a good few years; it was good and dirty. As a team we hadn't done this kind of work before, so it was a welcome addition to our memories of team life. The work we did won't be as visible to the youth who come to Camp Lutherhill this summer as the work that the Mission Builders were doing, but it was still very gratifying and I knew that we had spent the day working for God. All in all, our time here at Lutherhill has been awesome, and I pray that the youth who come into this camp would have a very growing experience.

IHS,
Andy



Andy Adams

Date: 3/15/2005
Submitted by: Kristen Corr
Journal Entry:

Wow, we had so much fun at the Houston Quake this past weekend! The speaker was Bill Yonker, and this was our third Event with him, so of course he was great to see again. The band was Daniel's Window, and this was our second Event with them, so it was also great to hang out with them as well. (Jesse, the drummer on Daniel's Window, has a really nice drum set that I got to play, and now I wish I could play his more instead of our YE drum set. I got so spoiled!) I was really inspired by the hairstyle of Alby, the guitar player for Daniel's Window- he wears his hair in lots of little braids all over his head, which looks especially cool because his hair is really long. Because of this inspiration, I braided Andy's hair (although his isn't nearly as long as Alby's), and one of the kids who saw it thought it was really cool and asked me to braid his. He had really bushy hair that covered his eyes, and his youth leaders loved the braids because they kept his hair out of his face. Braids became more and more cool over the course of the weekend, and I ended up also braiding my own hair and the hair of two junior high girls who were there. It was great to see how contagious the braiding fun was. Braids are also great to rock out to all the fun Christian music at the Quake!! Thanks for the braid inspiration, Alby. What a fun weekend!



Kristen Corr

Date: 3/17/2005
Submitted by: Andy Adams
Journal Entry:

Welcome to Mississippi ... Welcome to Alabama ... Welcome to Florida ... Welcome to the Eastern Time zone ... Welcome to Gainesville, FL. Wow, we had a long day in the van today. We left Slidell, LA this morning, drove almost 500 miles and now we're in Gainesville, FL. Who knew that sitting around in a car listening to music, reading a good book, and navigating could be so tiring. Well, I guess now I do. We managed to make better time than we thought we would on the way here, which was nice. Our slightly earlier arrival time gave us the opportunity to hang out with a group of college-aged missionaries from Iowa (Kristen was excited to get to hang out with fellow Iowans) who were down in Gainesville on their yearly mission work trip. It was their last day here in Gainesville, so Abiding Savior Lutheran Church had a dinner for them, which was really cool. After the dinner we played a good few rounds of Romans and Christians and overall just had a fun relational time with both our peers from Iowa and the youth of the Abiding Savior

IHS,
Andy



Andy Adams

Date: 4/8/2005
Submitted by: Kristen Corr
Journal Entry:

Foosball is fun! Back in January, Andy and I decided to have an ongoing foosball tournament--we'd play whenever we found a place with a foosball table. We realized that we were at about the same skill level--meaning that neither of us are any good at it--so it'd be fun to play with each other because it'd be a pretty fair match.

Well, before today we had played eight games total, of which I had won five and he had won three. Today, however, we played three games at our host home, and I won ALL of them! Hee hee hee--the match now has a score of 8-3! Maybe I really am better than Andy at foosball... or maybe I'm just lucky.

Team life is fun in the opportunities it gives you--what else could you do that would let you travel around (so far we've been in 16 different states) and still have an ongoing foosball tournament lasting for four months and counting? :-)



Kristen Corr

Date: 4/9/2005
Submitted by: Kristen Corr
Journal Entry:

You know, I think that it's rather interesting that our theme this year is "Calm the Storm," because I think thunderstorms are really exciting. My first reaction when I see a lightning bolt streak across the sky is "Excellent!" Maybe that's kind of weird and anti-thematic, but I guess that's who I am. Speaking of storms...

We are in Columbia, South Carolina, and last night's program was scheduled for 6:30 p.m. However, someone got to the church around 5:45 and announced that there was a severe thunderstorm warning for the area we were in for the time of our program. So we hung out in the church, hoping for people to show up, watching the storm come in, smelling the fresh storm air, seeing the lightning and listening to the thunder. It started raining pretty hard, and the lights in the fellowship hall were blinking with the lightning; we were wondering if the electricity would go out and we'd have to do our program acoustically in the dark. Wouldn't that be an interesting challenge!



Kristen Corr

Anyway, a few people finally started rolling in around 6:30, and we thought maybe we'd have nine people show up, but we waited a little while to start the program, and more people started coming. Hooray! More and more people came during the course of the program, so that was really great--not only people from the church we were at, but also people from other local churches, from the neighborhood, and from a local group home. It was exciting to see such a diverse audience. The church we are at is an inner city church, and they have a lot of really neat ministries going on to reach out to the people in the area! It is such a blessing for me, an Iowa farm girl raised in a rural church, to see the great inner city ministries of this church! Praise God!

Date: 4/9/2005

Submitted by: Caroline Moore

Journal Entry:

We have been busy since coming back from Easter Break. When we were at one of the churches in North Carolina, one of the host sisters invited us to go see the musical *The Secret Garden*. I really like plays, so I decided to go. It was so much fun--I hadn't been to a high school play in a while. They really had some talented actors and singers. I really enjoyed the actress that played Martha. It was so much fun seeing the play and hanging out with our host sister. It was fun getting to go to a musical.



Caroline Moore

Date: 4/9/2005

Submitted by: Andy Adams

Journal Entry:

Revenge, sweet revenge. Kristen must have gotten a little too excited about how much she was beating me in foosball. Today the mighty titan fell, and like the saying goes, the bigger they are, the harder they fall. Kristen's defensive line was unable to stand up to the monster offence front line as well as a powerhouse of a defensive line. In a three game match, Kristen was unable to take and hold any lead, losing all three games in succession. These humbling games brought down Kristen's lead, which now stands at 8 games to 6 overall. Who will win this epic battle, we will find out in time...



Andy Adams

Date: 4/9/2005

Submitted by: Rachel Russell

Journal Entry:

Ok, living in a van isn't so bad. I really don't mind it at all. That is, I don't mind having about three square feet to keep my stuff in, and I don't mind traveling and not having my own room or bed. The only thing that has bothered me so far about living in the van is the funky smell that took over about three months ago.

It wasn't so bad really until we got back from Easter, but oh, the smell that crawled out when we got back! We had to let the van sit with all the windows and doors open for about thirty minutes before we could stand to get in. I don't think that the current funk is as bad as the one that we had in November. Only because that smell was caused by three day old seafood fettuccine that we forgot to take out of our cooler. Needless to say, we don't have a cooler anymore. We don't try to save food that needs to be refrigerated anymore.

Anyhow, back to our current funk story. So, because the smell has been so much stronger since Easter, we have been trying to find its source. Up until two days ago we were entirely unsuccessful. We looked everywhere! I think we cleaned out the entire van like three times with no luck. We thought it might be some sort of food that had escaped our notice, so we chucked everything that wasn't vacuum sealed and even some things that were. We emptied the garbage and even washed the garbage can.



Rachel Russell

So finally Caroline came up with a theory. See, there is a place underneath the back bench seat that my teammates keep all of the shoes that they aren't currently wearing. Caroline discovered that the smell was much stronger over by our shoe stash. I know! Gross! So she and I came up with a plan that would put an end to the shoe funk that had taken over our van.

That day we went to WalMart (yes, WalMart--I know it's better to shop locally, but we have to go with the low budget factor here!), and we picked up a big Tupperware bin that would fit underneath the back seat and still hold all of the shoes. As well as four of those car deoderizer thingies; our shoes now smell like feet and cool water cologne, and I haven't yet decided if that is good or bad. I think I'm going to invest in some baking soda pretty soon here though.

After we got the tub we immediately moved all of the shoes into it and added a deodorizer. One pair of the shoes, I might add, was so bad that the smell stayed on my hand and I was forced to use hand sanitizer to get the smell off. I am not at liberty to disclose the owner of said shoes. However, if by chance you see us while on the road, and said shoes are still with us, you may smell them and guess who the owner is. I don't recommend that to anyone, just in case you were wondering.

After we had sealed the shoes in the box, we proceded to spray most of the inside of the van and its contents with FeBreeze and then the shoe area with disinfectant spray. Thank you so much to the host parents who have given us these things along the way! You may now have an idea of how valuable they have been to us. :)

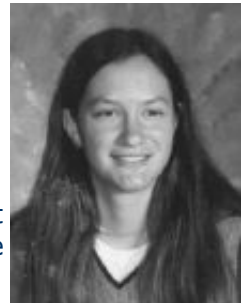
The next morning when we got into the van, 'twas a glorious thing! There was no smell! None at all! We were so excited. I think I even did a mini jig in the parking lot. The only problem is that since then, the funk has returned! Oh sad days! I don't know that we will ever be free of the stench that has taken up residency in our van that we call home. Still, I have faith that through God all things are possible. Blessings! ~ Rachel

Date: 4/17/2005

Submitted by: Kristen Corr

Journal Entry:

Okay, so last week Andy beat me in foosball three times in a row. But I'm still winning the tournament with a score of 8 to 5! We arrived in Florida last Tuesday (April 12) and went to a church where the pastor and his wife were both from Iowa. Not only that, but also they went to Luther College, where I went to college, and their last church was one that sent kids to Camp EWALU, where I've worked for the past several summmers! What a small world! I think that we Northerners brought cold weather to Florida because it's been chilly here the past few days. We tried going to the beach yesterday, but it was cloudy and so windy we felt like we were getting sandblasted, so we spent our time there slowly trickling back to the van to hang out. Oh, well. We'll be in Florida for about a month, so I'm sure we can go to a beach some other time. :-) On Friday night we did a lock-in that began with an ice cream social. What an excellent way to start off the evening--with a huge bowl of ice cream!! Anyway, that was really fun. We met some really great kids whom we will see at the Quake next weekend, so that'll be great. One of the kids is a high schooler who wants to be a pastor--it was so inspiring to hear his story! I am really excited for him.



Kristen Corr

Date: 4/21/2005

Submitted by: Kristen Corr

Journal Entry:

God is awesome! We recently worked at a retreat at Camp Woodlands in Florida with fifth and sixth graders from a Lutheran school in St. Petersburg. It was so great for me to be back in a camp setting! We provided music for the retreat and joined them for activities such as group games, a challenge course, and canoeing! In the evening we'd do devotions with music before heading to cabins. On the last night, the girls in my cabin were talking about the devotion that had just happened--apparently several people had cried during it. One of the girls asked me, "Why was it that all we were doing



Kristen Corr

was singing, and I wasn't sad and I hate crying, but I was still so moved that there were tears coming down my face?" What an exciting thing to hear! "Well," I told her, "that is because you were moved by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit--it was filling that place and filling your heart, and you could feel that power in your life!"

I hadn't noticed any kids crying during the devotion earlier--I don't think I would have known about it if the kids hadn't been talking about it afterwards. But it is so amazing to know that God used that time, when we were just playing and singing music, to move so powerfully in the lives of the kids we were with! I feel honored to have been there.

Date: 4/25/2005

Submitted by: Andy Adams

Journal Entry:

God is good. All the time. There are so many blessings that we receive as a team while we are out on the road. Most of these blessings are not tangible objects, but every once in a while they are. Wyoming has very few large bodies of water. Over the past few nights, I've had the opportunity to gaze out over the Atlantic Ocean from both Cocoa Beach and Daytona Beach, and wow, does God know how to make things beautiful. I have been to a few beaches before in my limited travels before team, but there isn't anything like staring into the ocean under a starry sky and knowing that everything you see was made just for that moment. All the time. God is good.



Andy Adams

Date: 5/7/2005

Submitted by: Andy Adams

Journal Entry:

Sometimes it seems like we're driving in circles. Well, sort of. Once again we have found ourselves working with a wonderful church in Davie, FL (Gloria Dei). We were here for a lock-in sometime last October for their junior high youth, and now we are back, this time for a lock-in with the senior high youth. Spending every day on the road, in a different place sometimes 5 or 6 times a week, it is nice every once in a while to see a familiar few faces. The past week has been full of that opportunity. Several of the last churches we've been working with were at the Youth Quake we helped out with in Cocoa Beach in the end of April. So, to be able to top off a long week of awesome ministry work with a fun lock-in with some familiar faces has been great. I guess when you're on the road for 8-plus months, the small things in life start to mean much, much more.



Andy Adams

Date: 6/4/2005

Submitted by: Kristen Corr

Journal Entry:

We just finished a half-week of VBS training at a camp in Ohio. I love camps, and having never been to Ohio before, I was pleasantly surprised that much of the flora and fauna are very similar to that of the wilderness in Iowa, so I felt very much at home. I was surprised at how many people on other teams had never seen fireflies before--I loved watching people's reactions to such creatures!

Anyway, the training was great. We got to hang out with the East Lakes, West Lakes, and North East teams, and there was plenty of time for great talks. It's a huge blessing to hear the stories other teams have to share with us--very encouraging! There was also lots of time for individual reflection--one evening God and I got lost in the woods as I kept following a trail even though I didn't know where it was going. That was wonderful. I love praying as I wander through the woods. (I did make it back with no trouble!) I love being in the woods, and it was very refreshing as we geared up for the last leg of our journey, the summer VBS season.



Kristen Corr

We ended our VBS training with a 10 1/2 hour drive to our first VBS site, Cary, NC. I am not a huge fan of really long drive days, but we drove through Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina, through some really cool mountains, so that helped.

Date: 6/6/2005

Submitted by: Andy Adams

Journal Entry:

Hmmmm..... VBS number one. This looks like it might be a tiring week of fun, growth, learning, and fun. Oh, did I mention that this week might be fun? Once again we find ourselves in Cary, NC working with this church for the fourth (I think) time this year. They have been an awesome church to work with, and it has been a blessing to get to know the families and staff of Resurrection LC. This week I'll be working with the Rec staff for the morning VBS and acting as the official photographer for the week as well for both the morning and evening sessions. I like the idea of being able to bounce around and go where I want. It should give me the chance to meet all the kids and work with them in some way or another. If trial by fire is really the best way to learn if we have what it takes to do VBS, this week should let us know. I believe that God will give us what we need to shine this week; we only need to remember to ask Him for everything we need.

Andy<><



Andy Adams

Date: 6/10/2005

Submitted by: Kristen Corr

Journal Entry:

Well, we just finished our first week of VBS, in Cary, North Carolina. They kept us busy with a morning VBS for preschoolers and an evening VBS for grades K-6. I got to be on the Rec Staff in the morning (which meant I played on the playground with the kids), and I was a craft helper in the evening (which meant I got to do fun projects). So basically, I spent the week playing with kids and doing craft projects. (We also did openings and closings with music, skits, and puppet shows.) We spent our free time hanging out with great host families. What an awesome way to start out the summer!



Kristen Corr

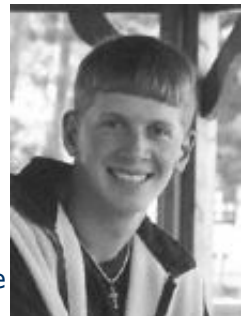
Date: 6/14/2005

Submitted by: Andy Adams

Journal Entry:

VBS number two! Now we find ourselves in Wilmington, NC, at Messiah Lutheran Church. We've made a few stops at this church over the course of our travels, so we know a few of the people pretty well. This week will be a little different than the last in how we split up to help out for the VBS. I'll be working with the same class, the 1st and 2nd graders, all week, helping them out with everything they do. I won't get the chance to know and interact as much with all the kids, but I will get to spend more quality relational time with the ones in my group. After this week, I'll have a better idea if I prefer one or the other. I think it should be an awesome week, and I have a strong feeling that God will bless us through the members of the congregation.

Andy<><



Andy Adams

Date: 6/20/2005

Submitted by: Andy Adams

Journal Entry:

Ahh, the start to VBS number three. We find ourselves now in Columbus, GA, not all that far from Alabama. The VBS kick-off night went really well last night, with awesome weather for our outdoor concert. There was a fairly good turn out from the church, plus five or so clowns and a dancing bear. We're doing the Circus Spectacular VBS program, and so the church is doing what they can to get the youth into the theme, which is really awesome. I think I can safely say that's the first program we've done that had a dancing bear or clowns in attendance. If last night shines any light on how the rest of the week will go, then we should have another awesome week!

Andy<><



Andy Adams

Date: 7/10/2005

Submitted by: Kristen Corr

Journal Entry:

Wow, what a busy day we had yesterday! We were at a church in a suburb of Atlanta, GA that put their Vacation Bible School into a single Saturday, and we got to help with it! It was really fun, except for the heat and humidity. (Remember--drink lots of water!!) We arrived around noon and set up our equipment for the outdoor concert we'd have after supper. All afternoon we helped with their games, crafts, and Bible story time. But when it came close to supper time, several people determined that it looked like it was going to rain. So we hurried to move our sound equipment from outside to inside the sanctuary. Several people helped us, including a 13 year old kid named Sam. While we worked, he told us about why he was there.



Kristen Corr

You see, Sam is from Destin, Florida, a town on the Florida panhandle that was supposed to be in the most direct path of Hurricane Dennis. The only reason Sam was at the church that day was because at 7 p.m. on Friday night, the town had announced mandatory evacuations of the entire town because it was in the path of the hurricane, which was expected to hit with brute force on Sunday night. So Sam and his family drove to the home of his great-grandmother, who lived in the Atlanta area. They arrived at 2 a.m. on Saturday morning, and their great-grandmother sent them to her church to help with this Vacation Bible School so they'd have something to do. But Sam told us that they had no idea when they could go back home, and they had no idea what their home would look like once they got there. Fortunately the family hadn't had too much damage from Hurricane Ivan last September, but there was no telling how much damage this hurricane could do.

Well, the evening closed with supper and then our concert, both of which were fun. When we went back to our host home, we watched the Weather Channel, which was basically only showing coverage of Hurricane Dennis, for about an hour--talking about Sam and wondering what would happen to the town of Destin. My perception of hurricane season is very different this year than it's ever been. Last fall, we spent three weeks in Florida, but most of the places we went hadn't had too much damage. But this spring, we spent more than five weeks there, and many of the places that we went had lots of damage, and we heard firsthand stories about everything that happened. Now when I think about the hurricanes going through, I don't think as much about the weather phenomenon, but I think about all of the people we met in Florida, the stories of Sam and so many others who were hit by the hurricanes last year and now, less than a year later, are already getting hammered again. Let us pray for all who are in the paths of all the hurricanes and tropical storms that have hit and will hit this year.

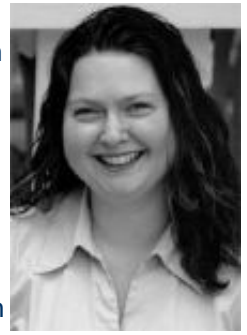
Date: 7/28/2005

Submitted by: Caroline Moore

Journal Entry:

Hey everybody-

I know that it has been a while since you all have heard from me; we have been busy with VBS this summer. It has been an amazing year, and God has blessed us as a team and me with many different ministry opportunities. Last week we had an opportunity to go and do a program for a homeless women's and kids' shelter. It was so much fun; those kids just loved having someone to play with and entertain them. It was fun playing music with them and getting down on our hands and knees playing with all the toys that I remember having when I was that young. We had such a wonderful time sharing our lives with each other. I will remember hanging out with them and watching their faces light up when they were singing with us and seeing the puppet shows. It was great to reach out to these children and have them reach out and touch our lives in such an amazing way. Prayers of peace and love to all.



Caroline Moore

Date: 8/12/2005

Submitted by: Kristen Corr

Journal Entry:

Well, the year is almost at an end. We've spent the past week back in the Twin Cities, MN, with all the other teams, and it's been great to review the year, share stories and renew friendships with people on other teams. Our team has traveled through 24 different states this year, playing some type of music in 20 of them. We've put over 30,000 miles on our van. What a year!

In case anybody has been wondering, Andy and I haven't been able to play foosball in a long time, but I did beat him in air hockey last Saturday.

Also, in case anybody has been wondering, this is our last journal of the year. Thanks for journeying with us this year by reading our journals and sharing our stories. We appreciate all of your thoughts and prayers.

Christ's Peace,

Kristen Corr



Kristen Corr
