

Watermark 2004-05 Journal

Date: 10/12/2004

Submitted by: Rikki Dold

Journal Entry:

Change! These past few weeks have been weeks of change and more change. I was thinking of this as I was laying bed last night. We are in Maryland today. The leaves are changing and the weather is great! But the leaves changing are only one thing that has changed. There are four of us on team this year that are alumni and the change into a new team has been strange. There are still times when I turn around in the van and expect to see my WL team. The change is crazy and there are some days that I wish I was back home working and going to school. I know that God has called me to team for a reason this year and I am really excited about that. I just think that for us as humans change is hard, we get used to the ways things are or were and the changing of those things can wear us down.

Our team has had the opportunity to do many cool things already and I am very excited to see what God has in store for us the rest of the year. We have already had the chance to stop at some of the churches I was at on my WL year and it was great to catch up with them. We were at a detention center a few nights ago and we all had a great time worshiping with the youth there. Last night we even had the chance to help a youth group with their big youth kick off. We had an outdoor show and had the chance to hangout and play games. It was great fun for all that were there.

In His Grip <><
Rikki



Rikki Dold

Date: 10/16/2004

Submitted by: Seth Malmgren

Journal Entry:

Having struggles with things while on the road can be rather stressful, but by putting things in God's hands is something that I have learned to do best the last couple of days. I am so so so grateful that God sent his only son to die on the cross for me so I can cast all of my burdens to him. Things the last couple of days have been somewhat stressful because we have not done all that many programs. You might be wondering "What? Are you crazy? No programs would be so nice at times." For me that is what keeps my faith growing and moving to a higher level with Jesus. I pray that we would have more programs this week and that God can reveal this to me that I am just wanting to see so bad. I know that he will show what I am wanting to see when the time is right for me but I just desire to see those things soon. I guess I will need to be patient which is something more that God is showing me everyday.



Seth Malmgren

Date: 10/19/2004

Submitted by: Mary Bull

Journal Entry:

Humbleness seems to be key word in my life these days. It is so easy to get used to hearing how wonderful you are everywhere we go, it seems people compliment us to no end. It is also very easy to be more sensitive to little things when they don't seem to be going well. The last few days I have been getting irritated at the littlest things. For example when we are asked to do an acoustic set up even though we are an electric team or when a cord is not wrapped correctly. Little things like this can cause tension where there shouldn't be any. It is sometimes easy to forget *WHO* I am here to serve this year.

This weekend we were in Norfolk, Virginia. It was such an awesome weekend! We helped lead music for a senior high retreat. The youth planned and led the entire weekend and in ways seemed to minister to us more than we did to them. I was very humbled while I was there.

Last night, I opened my Bible to Job. As I read the first chapter, I felt God reassuring me of having to be still and remember he is God. I was reminded how Job lost all of his possessions and his family and still he did not curse God. It was a great thing to know as I continue through this year I will continue to be humbled.



Mary Bull

Date: 10/19/2004

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

Rock on Norfolk Virginia and the "Be Still" Youth Retreat. It was such an awesome weekend I was so blessed by this group of young adults. Praise God for their receptiveness towards us and our message. Again any of you all from the retreat who may read this...YOU GUYS ROCK!!!

The past few weeks have been adventuresome. Mary just had her b-day this past week and Matt's B-day was this past weekend. I was so pumped about celebrating his b-day because we were so close to my home and the beach. We got to go the beach, wade through the ocean and get sand on our toes. Oh what an amazing blessing to receive. My whole team was so awesome about being interested in the culture and area that I grew up in. The beach holds so many splendors. I know it was the first time for a few of my team mates to ever see dolphins that were not in captivity and to see whales on the horizon. God made it such an amazing experience for me to be able to share with my teammates. THANKS BE TO GOD!



Adam Costenbader

Date: 10/20/2004

Submitted by: Rikki Dold

Journal Entry:

Hey guys! How are things going? Things are going great here. We are on the East Coast having a great time! As Adam said we are near the beach and the weather has been GREAT! Today was a good day we had the chance to do a full set up this morning at a school the kids were tons of fun. The full set up was just what our team needed we have been moving around a lot but we have had a lot of housing only. Which don't get me wrong HOST HOMES ROCK!!!! But it was nice to drag out our stuff and play again. We were able to stay with a great host family last night the Torbits. Their son was on team with Adam, Matt, Seth, and I two years ago so it was great to meet them and to see Pat again. There was also a great surprise when Sam stopped in to say Hi he was also on team with us. So as you can imagine it was a great reunion. So even though bookings have been slow things are going pretty well. We are back in Maryland and are headed North to New York! Yeah! That is going to be a lot of fun! There are a few of us that have never been and we are all very excited about that. Thanks again to all of you that are reading these journals and keeping up with us on the road your support means a ton to us. Thanks for your prayers and thoughts. Please pray for health for our team, as we all seem to be getting sick. God Bless and have a super Week!



Rikki Dold

In His Grip <><

Date: 10/22/2004

Submitted by: Ebony Chapman

Journal Entry:

Greetings from the east coast! It's hard to believe it's the end of October already! Time is flying by and we have been blessed with many different experiences. I am continually overwhelmed by the hospitality of the people we meet.

Last weekend we were in Norfolk, Virginia at a retreat with some AMAZING youth! (you guys rock!!) I was so impressed and encouraged to see the youth really stepping into leadership and sharing what God is doing in their lives. It was such a blessing to feel that I was a participant in the retreat. It seems to be a common theme that the "missionary" is the one who is really ministered to. The weekend was planned and led by the youth with a theme of "Be Still". How important it is to be still and know that God is God (Psalm 46). Especially as the only introvert on my team! Sometimes life on the road is so busy it's tough to find time alone with God. I grasp on to those moments with great joy. But He is with us in the midst of all the crazy times too and He is slowly teaching me to recognize Him more.

Another highlight was swimming in the Atlantic and seeing the dolphins playing, as Adam mentioned in another journal entry. The two dolphins that are captive at West Edmonton Mall always made me so sad. I was amazed to see the natural beauty of the dolphins playing with one another and jumping around just for fun. God's creation never ceases to amaze me – it cries out of His glory. Not to mention that I simply couldn't believe I was at the beach in a tank top in the middle of October... Sorry to all of you folks at home who are under a foot of snow! Ha!

God's peace & joy be with each of you.

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12



Ebony Chapman

Date: 10/24/2004

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

Gods grace is sufficient.

One of my favorite bible verses is as simple as "Be still and know I AM GOD..." I know so often in my life I run around in a manner of chaos because I'm trying to do life as I would do it and not as the Lord see's fit for me. Today I recieved an email from a friend who I hadn't heard from in a while and it's truely amazing to see how God works even in that. In the email they shared with me how God has been working in their life and just how truely amazing it is that He does work in our lives. You know it is so easy for me to be able to forget why it is I'm out here traveling in a relational youth ministry band. Praise God for gentle reminders on what we are doing and that without Jesus none of this would be possible. I challenge all who may be reading this to take a moment out of your day and to just **stop**...try to think of what God is doing in your day, even in this very moment.

May God's blessing be revealed to you always through each and every day that comes to pass. Peace be with you all.



Adam Costenbader

Date: 11/1/2004

Submitted by: Bodil Christoffersen

Journal Entry:

Guds fred til alle!

Since I have now been on the road for quite a long time, without writing these journals, I thought it would be about time! I have been truly blessed with my team! I know that being a foreigner in a group of people often can be hard! But from the very beginning they have all been very encouraging to me, and very eager to learn Danish.

Lately I have also been very blessed with host homes! People have been really nice and interested in my culture and my perception of the United States! It is really great to learn how God is giving us particularly what we need when we need it! Lately I stayed with a Danish family in Landisville! This really was a blessing! I had the opportunity to talk Danish to their two wonderful kids; which was really great! Also I got to really relax and have some Danish hygge and lakridskonfekt. (This is a kind of Danish candy!) I am really excited about going to New York; it will be really great to see a part of USA that I have heard so much about! Actually I have really been blessed to see a lot of the big "famous" cities! I am sure my team has had a lot of fun with my excitement every time we drove by something new! I just want to end this in the same way I started it only in English: God's peace to you all!



Bodil Christoffersen

Date: 11/10/2004

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

HELLO...HELLO....

We were just in Hudson, NY and I just want to express that it was wonderful there. We all had such a warm welcome and wonderful host homes. While we were there on our day off I had the chance to go into town with my host dad to get some work done on our wonderful van. On the way our host dad pointed out that if we looked over towards that mountains we would see Rip Van Winkle himself. Sure enough I looked over *BAM* the imagination kick into high gear and there he was asleep in those mountains. Our host dad explained the story again to us about how Rip Van Winkle had had himself a jolly ole time then had fallen asleep for twenty years becoming a part of his surroundings.

It really hit me hard how sometimes in our lives we become our own Rip Van Winkle. Sometimes we are having such good times on these amazing spiritual highs where we think we could never come down off of but eventually we do and then we find ourselves falling asleep once again. I know coming out of training and being in such a beautiful God filled atmosphere I was overflowing but as time went on and the wear or being a new place everyday talking to new people but saying the same things everyday started to bring me down off of that high, making me be more like the mountain by not moving then climbing up the mountain to receive the prize. So be careful sometimes you can find yourself falling asleep in your walk and becoming more a part of the mountain you're trying to climb then overcoming that mountain.

God's blessing on you all.
Adam



Adam Costenbader

Date: 11/11/2004

Submitted by: Mary Bull

Journal Entry:

This past week has been totally great! We were in up state New York in a town called Hudson. Saturday evening we did a family night program for the congregation. It was really great because we had again added some new songs to our program. It was a very Spirit-filled evening and will be one I will not soon forget.



Mary Bull

Tuesday we had a twelve hour drive from Hudson to Virginia Beach. This was a great bonding experience for our team. We had a chance to play games, sleep and just chat. Once we arrived in Virginia Beach we were excited to find out that some of our "host homes" were the homes of some fellow teamers. Eb-dawg (ebony), Rick-dawg (Rikki) and I got to stay with Jenny's (from Kindred) parents and Adam and Sethers got to stay with Steve's (from CFSW) parents. It was nice to see where both of them were from.

Wednesday morning we sang some songs with the preschool children at that church. It was such a blessing to have fun with those kids for that brief period of time. In the evening we were able to have dinner with the congregation and do a family night program. There were so many people there; I couldn't believe it! The little kids were sitting on the floor in front right away and kept creeping closer and closer to us throughout the program. By the end, they were practically sitting on my toes. It was really funny. I also had some of my cousins who I had not seen for about ten years come to that and visit with me afterwards. It was really great to catch up with them for a little bit after the evening activities. It reminded me of what a blessing family really is.

We are now in the van headed north again. This evening we will be in Odenton, Maryland to do a family night program. This is a return visit to a church we were housed at about a month ago. I am really looking forward to the rest week as we have 5 programs this week!

Date: 11/21/2004

Submitted by: Seth Malmgren

Journal Entry:

Having God move through you in so many different ways is great, especially when you are doing something that is glorifying him. Today we had quite a bit to do, but it did not seem like all that much. We had a mini program before church, and then we led the church service. After that, we drove for a little while to our next booking and did somewhat of another program for an evening service. But when the day was done, it felt so good to know that I was doing some awesome work for God. While playing the drums during the second program that we had, a great sensation came over me. It was a feeling of being so blessed to be where I was and to be doing what I was doing. It can't get any better than this -- playing the drums for Jesus!!! I am so blessed that God gave me the gift of playing the drums for him.



Seth Malmgren

Date: 11/25/2004

Submitted by: Ebony Chapman

Journal Entry:

One morning we were sitting in a church in Ellington, Connecticut with a bit of time to spare, so I grabbed a Bible and began to read some random Psalms. *"How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! My soul longs and even faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh cry out for the living God.."* I read from Psalm 84 and my own heart cried out. Lately I have been thinking a lot about returning. We have been blessed to return to some places already -- we returned to the beautiful people of the Bronx this past weekend. We look forward to returning to our dear friends in Baltimore for Thanksgiving. We look forward to returning to Minnesota for Mid-Winter Training where we will



Ebony Chapman

be greeted by our beloved Youth Encounter "family" of staff and teamers. We look forward to returning home to family and friends for Christmas. So, I've been thinking that there's something more to all this longing for returning. We long, ultimately, to return to the Lord. He longs for us to turn to him. And life, at least for me, seems to be a never-ending journey of turning again to Him, returning, re-turning...

I continued to read Psalm 84 and was thinking about the challenge that it is to be on the road, in a different home almost every day. Let's be honest, friends, I miss home. I miss having my own bed, my own space. But listen to this!! *"Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you. Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on a pilgrimage."* How blessed am I to spend a year dwelling in all of these houses of worship!! To spend each day praising God and proclaiming His greatness! The house of the Lord is my home. My strength is in Him alone and my heart is on a pilgrimage, ever seeking to know Him more.

Just as I was having this revelation and feeling tremendous JOY in our ministry, Seth and Bodil (who had been jammin' on guitar and piano in the background) began to play "Better Is One Day." This happened at the exact moment that I was reading verse 10, *"Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere."* I practically burst into tears as I ran over to them and read Psalm 84 over the music.

Some people would say this was merely a coincidence. To me, it was *much* more! My Bible has about two thousand pages in it. There are several thousands of worship songs out there... what is the probability of my reading that particular Psalm at the same moment that my teammates were singing it? I thank God for a moment when I truly felt encouraged. I will shout for joy in His house!

"O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you."

Grace & peace & joy!

Ebony

Date: 11/30/2004

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

You know, it's simply amazing to find out the lives you affect when you're in a certain place, even if only for a day. Just recently we've received an email from a person we met on the road, and the email was full of the love of Christ. It's so hard sometimes to see the true beauty behind this ministry that we are involved in, but emails from the youth such as the one we just received can be the biggest testimony to us as a team. Leaving a place that you feel like you've made a difference is such a bitter-sweet feeling. You are so happy that God has used you to touch the lives of those people, but then you have to leave, so you don't get to see it grow. But God is faithful to do good things.



Adam Costenbader

You are all amazing children of God (the young and old), and we are all so blessed to be able to be called children of God, so let's REJOICE together with the angels in knowing that. Praise his name for he gives and takes away and he does to the best of his will. Thank you to all who remind us of the fruits of our ministry and thank you to the youth such as: Gretchen, Dave, Chris, Joey, Allie, Josh, Trent, Lizz, Cathy, David, Brianna, Anna, Matthew, and so so so many others out there. There are so many more of you out there that have made a huge difference and impact in our ministry, and for you I say THANKS.

Date: 1/20/2005

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

DENMARK! WOW! Hi everyone. It is truly an amazing experience to have the ability to write to and for you all here in Børkop, Denmark. Well, we all arrived safely in Copenhagen, where we met our contact Poul, then went straight to work. We've been recording our CD this past week, and what an experience that has been. It has been ups and downs, as I'm sure you can all imagine, but it's been great 'cause God has taught us a lot so far.



Adam Costenbader

It always seems to me that when I get myself tied up in frustration or anxiousness about anything, whether it's about missing a note or messing up on my instrument, that he sends me something to remind me to just STOP. The other day I was really struggling with my voice, especially on a Danish song that I wasn't too comfortable with my wording (Christian & Anders, you know what I'm talking about) but when I was in Poul's office doing some work on his computer, I looked outside and God really gave me just what I needed. Outside the window were all of these beautiful puffy coastal clouds; being from the coast, that made me feel right at home. There wasn't only that--as if to be a racer's finishing line, there was a bright rainbow that crossed the whole sky. Sometimes God just reminds me that no matter how cluttered or crazy our life can be, there is still so much to rejoice in and so much to give thanks for. God is GOOD.

I can't wait to be able to share more and more with you all as our time progresses here in Denmark. TAK FOR JER!!! (Thanks for YOU!!!)

Date: 1/23/2005
Submitted by: Mary Bull
Journal Entry:

What an amazing first week in Denmark! This week has been filled mostly with recording our CD and doing odds-and-ends jobs to get ready for touring here in DK. Friday night we did our first program at a place called Cafe Genesis. The people in the cafe go out each night and invite people in to talk about Christ. This particular night we had the opportunity to sing and share about our faith with the people in the cafe. It was a very small place but very comfortable as well.



Mary Bull

The other thing that happened that night was that I got flowers from one of the guys who helped record our CD. He had been joking all week that he would marry me. (This all started after I recorded vocals for one of the songs.) Apparently he thought it would be fun to embarrass me by giving me flowers in the middle of the cafe in front of everyone. It was a good time had by all, I think.

Saturday night we did a concert for the students at the Bible school we have been staying at this past week. This was a great experience to be able to express our thanks for the hospitality we have been shown all week. At the end of the program we sang one of our Danish songs and all of the sudden everyone started singing along. It became so loud we almost didn't even need to sing. In the past four months in the United States, that never happened. It really hit the seven of us that we are actually here in Denmark! It was such a worshipful experience for me. God has such an amazing way of speaking to us in any language.

Sunday we had a day off and the chance to go to Bodil's house. I was so excited for her to return to her home after five months of being in the States. She was so giddy as we crossed into the city limits of her town. After arriving we were treated to one of Bo's favorite Danish meals (usually one she gets at Christmas). For dessert we got red berries and cream! The Danish phrase for this is one of the hardest to pronounce and, frankly, one I can't even attempt to spell. =) We have been hearing about it and have been practicing saying it for the last four months. It was great to finally get to try it! It was certainly worth the wait! After lunch we took a walk and watched one of Bo's favorite videos of a Danish comedian. That evening we attended a youth church service in Aarhus, where Bodil usually goes when she is home. We met up with Elisabeth from last year's Watermark. This was really great for me to meet her. She also was kind enough to translate much of the service as she sat next to me.

I have really enjoyed being immersed in the culture of Denmark this last week. I have never been abroad before, so everything is very new. I am learning more and more that God can speak to you in many different ways. There is nothing more beautiful than hearing the Lord's prayer in Danish and knowing exactly what is being said. I am very excited to see what other experiences God has in store for myself and the rest of my team.

God's peace,
Mary

Date: 1/26/2005

Submitted by: Ebony Chapman

Journal Entry:

Mojn!

Ah, Denmark... The land of bread and cheese and cake and bread and cake and tea...mmm :) We are presently in southern Jutland--that is the southern part of the main peninsula of Denmark, on the northern border of Germany. We are learning the local lingo here including the Danish equivalent of "aloha" which is "mojn" (rhymes with coin) and can be used as a hello or goodbye.



Ebony Chapman

Our contact Tonny is extraordinary!! He has quickly become a part of our team and loves to sing to wake up the puppets. "I'm not cool, that's okay... my God loves me anyway!"

We are very busy with three programs each day here, but we are re-energized by the "hygge" - frequent coffee breaks including bread and cheese or cake or other yumminess. We have had some awesome experiences playing in public schools. Witnessing to all the students making out in the halls. Good times. Seriously though, God is awesome and we have met many Danes who have shown His love to us--we hope they will see Christ in us as well.

Guds fred! (God's peace!)

Mojn!!

Ebony

Date: 1/26/2005

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

Hello all! Wow, crazy times in Denmark. So, for the past week we've been getting done with all programming/packing/driving by 11:30 pm/12 am, and then getting up at 6am each morning. It's great! I'm a little tired, but we get an afternoon off this tomorrow so YEAH FOR THAT! We've been having three programs a day, starting with the first around 8 am, the second around 11:30 am, and the final around 7 pm. It's amazing the amount of people that we meet--and more so, their willingness to listen to a bunch of Americans who've invaded their church or school.



Adam Costenbader

Sometimes we have a hard time getting these kids to open up to us at first. Most youth start taking English around the third or fourth grade, so most teens are VERY good at their English. Even though most of them don't believe that they are good so it takes a little coaxing for them to finally start to talk. Usually after we do our program they open up to us a lot more.

I can't begin to express how wonderful, yet challenging, this experience is. I wish that everyone could be as blessed as I have been to be able to experience things such as these. I pray that you all see God's blessings in your days. He is so AMAZING! Keep your eyes on the goal set before you.

Adam

Date: 1/27/2005

Submitted by: Bodil Christoffersen

Journal Entry:

Möjn! So here we are in Denmark! My lovely country! It has basically been wet since we got here...started out as rain and has turned into snow now, which is funny since we just came from the UP, and let's face it--they get a lot of snow. So even though it snows all day here, there is about one centimeter...some places maybe two...OK, granted!!!

It has been good coming home to familiar food, and my cell phone! But there has been difficulties too! E.g. the language, since I talk to both Danes and Americans (and a Canadian!!!) I sometimes find it hard to change between the two. Like today, Mary and I was walking into a room we were supposed to meet, as the two first, and I say to her, "Wauw... well at least we are on time!!!" She asked me to repeat that, which I did, only to see her face grow even more confused. She looked at me and said, "Bodil, I don't understand Danish!?" I cracked up laughing since I realized I had told her the exact same thing.....twice.....in Danish.....

It is a huge blessing to me to have a Danish contact with us, so I am not the only Dane speaking English, and this week's contact, Tonny, and I often find ourselves speaking English with each other, even though none of my teammates are listening... sometimes even around.....

God is faithful, and he never lets His kids alone!!!!

Guds fred:-) Bodil



Bodil Christoffersen

Date: 1/28/2005

Submitted by: Seth Malmgren

Journal Entry:

(Job 8:21) "He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy."

It is amazing how God can move through a group when you least expect it. Today we had a total of three programs--two acoustic and one full set up. At our first acoustic program, I had the opportunity to give my sharing to about 25 kids at a Christian school. The kids seem to enjoy it a lot because I used our translator Tonny who is our contact for the week as a tree and got to put toilet paper all over him. At our second acoustic program, God was definitely moving through our group and the boarding school we were at. I felt that God gave us just the right thing to witness to the young adults that were living there. At our third program, which was a full set up, God blessed our team with laughter and energy. It all started at the puppet show behind the curtain. I decided to mess up Mary's hair really bad before she popped up to do her part in the puppet show. So when she popped up she looked like she had just been zapped with about 1,000 volts of electricity. I could not stop laughing. Then everyone else started laughing, and we almost lost control of the whole puppet show. After the puppet show was all done, it was time for the girls to sing their song. Watching from the back, I decided to do the Sting dance and a little bit of interpretive dancing to



Seth Malmgren

get the girls smiling a little bit more. Well, that was a mistake. I pretty much got them to laugh so hard they almost could not sing the song. When it came time for the guys to sing, Mary thought that she could get me back by doing a little bit of her own interpretive dancing. It didn't work too well at first, but after a while of trying really hard, she finally got me laughing. When it came time to do our skit, all I could do was laugh. It is a somewhat serious skit, and it turned out being a skit full of laughter. The rest of the night went really well for me.

It is great how God gives you laughter when you least expect it. It is something that just comes over you out of nowhere. Another blessing is that God gave me laughter at the right place. Instead of being in front of 200 people, it was in front of something like 15 people who were filled with the joy of Christ.

Date: 1/29/2005

Submitted by: Rikki Dold

Journal Entry:

Hello!!!! Wow we are in the DK! What can I say we have been here for about 13 days and the time is flying by. This week has been very busy and full of good times. Today was our day off for this week. We had the chance to get out a bit. We went to Germany for part of the afternoon and for dinner. It was a good chance to just play together after a long week of work. I am kinda sad that we are only going to be here a few more days until we head to another part of Denmark. Our contact here has been great. Our team has many good laughs and times with Tonny. We have even asked him to join our team.....He said that he would if there was not the little fact his wife is going to be having their third child in a month or so. So yeah thats about all thats new here with our team. Take care!

In His Grip,
<><
Rikki



Rikki Dold

Date: 1/30/2005

Submitted by: Matt Mouzakis

Journal Entry:

Mojn!!!! I've had a wonderful week so far in southern Denmark. we have an awesome contact named Tonny. it's crazy that we've only been in Denmark for 2 weeks and already how much God has blessed us. We have had a very busy schedule all week playing up to 3 programs a day and yet i'm amazed I have energy to go on the next day and the rest of the week.

the people of Denmark are so amazing and giving, i've been ministered to so much just by being with people and talking with them. We went to this older ladies house for dinner last night and she stated to us that she didn't speak good english and yet attempted to talk to us even though it was not something she was comfortable doing, she still did it to make us feel welcome. Her effort to do that really touched me and reminded me how we are all one body in Christ even though we have many different languages.

Jesus elsker dig!

in Christ, Matt



Matt Mouzakis

Date: 1/31/2005
Submitted by: Mary Bull
Journal Entry:

Not too much to report today. We arrived in the city of Veilje today and met up with Bent, our contact for this week. We are pretty excited to be staying at another boarding school and have the chance to have more time with the students here. I am hoping for a relaxing time.

I have been feeling a bit tense lately. I think I might be coming out of the honeymoon stage of culture shock. Don't get me wrong...I really enjoy Denmark, but I am continuing to become more aware of my new surroundings. I am having a hard time, in a sense, taking everything in. I feel very overwhelmed, but I am still excited to see what God has ahead of me.

I miss my friends a lot! I want to say hi to my family, my Mowana kids, my Valpo chums, other teamers, and my Pi Phi ladies...I miss you all and hope you are doing well. Keep in touch!

God Bless,
Mary ><>
2 Cor. 12:9



Mary Bull

Date: 2/2/2005
Submitted by: Ebony Chapman
Journal Entry:

Hello, friends!

Greetings from Veijle, a lovely city here in Denmark. We are at an awesome boarding school right now! The kids are very friendly and excited to get to know us. We are having a great time hanging out with them, playing pool and other games. We were a bit shocked when they invited us to play a round of "Spin the Bottle" with them!! Ack! Were they kidding?!? Youth Encounter policies started running through our heads so that we could excuse ourselves politely. Then we realized that the Danish game is not what we feared, but more like our "Truth or Dare" and reasonably safe to play. :)

We have had some awesome opportunities here to speak with kids in their classes. They are full of questions about living in America (or Canada, as the case may be!), what it's like to be on team, why we do what we do, and other faith issues. It has been awesome to share with them and they seem excited to hear more.

As for me, I am okay. I had a much-needed hour of solitude yesterday and I was able to go for a magnificent ramble in the woods. I hiked up to the top of the hills and had a great view of the valley just as the sun was beginning to set. And I stumbled upon some interesting things... an old brick wall crumbling down with ivy growing on it near a small mound which I was sure must have been a hobbit's dwelling... a pink palace (no joke!) with tire swings in the yard and some statues of a blue man and a pink woman... farmers' fields, soft with new grass... holly growing wild in the bush! It was pretty splendid! Even though I was practically lost half of the time, I was encouraged to feel like a child exploring, excited that I didn't know what was around the corner, comforted that God is with me.

Peace to each of you, in Christ!

Ebony



Ebony Chapman

Date: 2/3/2005

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

This week we've been staying in a boarding school in Vejle. In our two weeks, going on three, that we've been here in Denmark, we've been able to visit several boarding schools and live at two of them. I have to admit that here at this boarding school, because of our more open schedule, we've been able to connect with so many kids. I've enjoyed my time here so much. All of the kids here have been so great to come up to us and ask if we'd like to spend some time with them, like walking into town with a group of them to hang out and go to McDonalds with them or play pool/table Soccer/poker. This week has recharged me so much; it has helped me also to be refocused more on why we are here. Being able to see some of these kids really pour their hearts out to us has shown me again the need that we all have of Christ.

God is so amazing that He would let us have these experiences ,so I challenge you to not let those opportunities pass you by. God uses us for the glory of His kingdom; He uses us to further His kingdom in the hearts of the people we meet.



Adam Costenbader

Date: 2/4/2005

Submitted by: Seth Malmgren

Journal Entry:

Café Genesis... A great place to have a cup of coffee and play some music and get coffee and play some music, and so on. We had the opportunity to play at Café Genesis from about 9:00 p.m. to 3:00 in the morning. It was a late night, but totally worth all that we put into it. The night was pretty slow at the beginning, but by the end of the night, God had brought the people that he wanted to be there. I really enjoy the coffee ministry. The people at the Café go out about every hour or so and find people on the street and give them coupons for a free cup of coffee and talk to them a little bit so they can try and get them through the door. Then once they get through the door, it is time to shine with God's love. I really liked how they went out in the community. Me, sometimes am to scared to even approach someone and tell them what I am doing and where I come from. But I also keep reminding myself that I am not alone and that God is with me on my journey, whether it may be going to find someone to give them a free cup of coffee or travel around for a year with a group of people.



Seth Malmgren

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Date: 2/5/2005
Submitted by: Rikki Dold
Journal Entry:

Saturday! Where should I start? We have had a very long day. Our Saturday started at 12:00 a.m. at a café, where we had been since about 8:00 pm on Friday. Our team was invited to play and do some street ministry with the staff there. I really enjoyed that opportunity to just walk around the beautiful town and talk to people and hand out tickets for free coffee. We did about three acoustic sets and then had the rest of the time to hang out and talk to the people that were in the café. At about 3:30 a.m., we closed down and headed out for the night. We then hit the hay at about 4 a.m. or so to get a few hours of sleep. After about five hours of rest, we were off to a teen camp. There we would spend the rest of the weekend. When we arrived we were welcomed with a very funny greeting that all the kids had learned. We then had sometime to just hang out and chat it up with the kids they all were very friendly and had many great questions for us. After dinner we had a very fun game show that some of the counselors led for the kids. Our very own Adam even had the chance to play the game. I am not sure if it was the kind of game I would want to win because Adam won the opportunity to have soyasovs med havregryan smeared all over his face. Yeah, your guess is as good as mine as to what that was. It smelled very gross and Adam said that the taste was pretty gross. All I know is that he was much braver than I would have been there is no way that I would let them smear smelly brown stuff on my face. The kids loved it. It's all for the ministry. Then at about 10:30 p.m., we were able to share our program with them, which was so much fun. They were all into it and it was great to hear them singing along with us in English and in Danish. Then at about 12 a.m. we were able to head off to our rooms and get some rest. So that was our Saturday. I pray that all is going well for all of you who are following our trip around DK, and thank you again for your support and prayers. In his grip!
<>< Rikki



Rikki Dold

Date: 2/6/2005
Submitted by: Matt Mouzakis
Journal Entry:

Well this weekend we got to play at a teen camp, and it was a ton of fun. Our program on Saturday was one of my favorite programs we've played all year! The youth there were also very cool!

Today we got to go to an English service at a Danish church. We didn't play at it; we just attended. It was very nice to sit back and worship, especially in our own language!!! We've been at a lot of Danish services, and it was good to be able to go to an English one. The pastor was a very nice guy from India. It was really cool to see cultures coming together to worship one God!

Last week we got to stay at a boarding school in Vejle. We told the kids at the school we hoped to see them soon (knowing we'd be back today to spend the night for housing, but they had no idea we were coming). We came back this afternoon and surprised them! It was a lot of fun and good to see some familiar faces.

God bless you!

Matt



Matt Mouzakis

Date: 2/9/2005
Submitted by: Mary Bull
Journal Entry:

Greetings from Herning, Denmark! This week has started off awesome. We left the Veilje area Monday and said goodbye to our contact, Bent. Before that however, he treated us to lunch at his home which consisted of PIZZA! Yay! A few of us have really been craving pizza as we have not had it much at all since we have been in Europe. This was great too...it had things like potatoes and even corn! Denmark ROCKS! Then we headed to Herning and started our first week in Danish host homes! I have really been looking forward to this. I have enjoyed the boarding schools, but nothing says home like, well....a home. Adam, Seth and I are housed together this week, and all I can say is, man...those two crack me up! Their humor never gets old. It has been really great hanging out with our AWESOME host family and enjoying such things as our host brothers' break dancing, drum playing and animal noises! I am really looking forward to the rest of this week in the beautiful area of Herning.



Mary Bull

Until next time...

Mary

verse of the moment- Romans 8:25

Date: 2/10/2005

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

I find it so funny that sometimes I sit down here to write a journal and I think to myself "Hmm...What should I write about?" When really, I'm here in Denmark where, for me, things happen each day that normally wouldn't happen to us in the U.S.



Adam Costenbader

So today was a wonderful day. Why, you may ask? Because today we only had to do a program at 7 p.m. (19:00) which means, instead of waking up at 6:00 a.m., we could sleep in. Well, today definitely was a sleep in day for all of us and we needed it. Some of us have had a little bit of a hard time with an illness that has been going around lately. After we all woke up and got together to do some work, as well as do our devotions/highs and lows, we decided to work on our puppet shows. Which was great because we had an audience of our Danish host family. There is nothing like revealing a new puppet show to a family who has been housing you for days because you know right away that their cameras are coming out and quickly. So after a few incriminating pictures we managed to finish the work on our puppet shows and calm ourselves down from laughing at them.

Later on we had our program in an amazingly beautiful church. The entrance door to the sanctuary was about 10 ft. tall and 5 ft. wide; it was enormous. Inside the sanctuary above where the pastor would speak was an ornate depiction of Jesus on the cross and the two thieves. It was very beautiful as well as very heart touching. Most of the pictures and statues that we may see just show Jesus and often do not show the thieves there too. It was a new one for me to see and I liked it very much.

It truly is amazing to sit down and really think to myself, what is there to write about? I hope that even as you may be reading this in your own home that you don't forget the gift of our days. That God has given us each of them to live, so let's live for Him in each of them. God's blessings on everyone and please keep praying for all of us. It is good to know that our names are being offered up to our God.

In Him,

Adam

Date: 2/10/2005

Submitted by: Bodil Christoffersen

Journal Entry:

Better late than never...

So I was supposed to write last Thursday, but I forgot...sorry! I will write as if I was a week ago! Thursday in last week I was so blessed to have a day off and was able to spend it with a couple of very good friends! It was an amazingly relaxing day! And (with no offense to team-mates) a blessing not to have to speak English an entire day! We had a very great week on the boarding school we stayed at, and the contact for that week was one of my old friends! We were in a youth group together some what six years ago! So it was really good! He is just as much fun as he was then... so that was great!

God's blessings!



Bodil Christoffersen

Date: 2/10/2005

Submitted by: Bodil Christoffersen

Journal Entry:

Wuhuw for friends!

Today has been a rather relaxing day! We did not have a program until 19.30! So that was nice! We had time to re-rehearse a couple of new puppet shows and skits! So that was good to have the time for that!! Seth and I had a very good one-on-one today! We got a French hot-dog, which is a thing I had been missing a lot in the States! So it is nice to be home to my favourite kinds of food again! Nice! And to be able to share it with my new family is nice too!

I was surprised by a friend of mine that I haven't talked to in a long time tonight, so that was nice to catch up and see what she has been up to!

We have had our first real host home experience this week! And it has been great! We have stayed with a very nice family in Herning since Monday, and sadly we have to say goodbye to them tomorrow! So that is sad! This weekend is our first weekend off! And I will have the great opportunity to go to visit my two best friends! Which I really look forward to! But you will have to wait till my next journal to read about that! So.....to be continued... in a week!

Guds fred!



Bodil Christoffersen

Date: 2/11/2005

Submitted by: Seth Malmgren

Journal Entry:

Learning about a new culture other than the culture I am in is really cool. Today the best part of the day was talking to a person who is from China and having Chinese tea with him. I had about four cups of the tea, so I am now pretty much ready to fall asleep. But having him share a part of his culture with me was really cool. We watched "50 First Dates" while we drank our tea. Another high was also being rewarded this morning. We played at a school for about 40 kids. But before that I was signing autographs left and right I got swarmed by about 30 kids. It made me feel really good, because the kids saw me and thought I was someone famous in there eyes which gave me the feeling that I had their attention and they would listen to whatever I had to say. I just wished that they knew that I was not famous and that in God's



Seth Malmgren

eyes they were just as famous as I was. Later on in the evening I palayed badminton with Adam, Rikki, Bodil and I. Adam and I played Rikki and Bodil and lost. Then I played Bodil and got demolished. She is good. I stink. Oh well... Tomorrow I am got to be going to the Delirious concert with Rikki, Matt, and Ebony. I am really looking forward to that so I can just sit back and worship and not have to lead it. It will be nice to be filled. Well, I am off to make some phone calls and head to bed.

Date: 2/13/2005

Submitted by: Matt Mouzakis

Journal Entry:

We've had this past weekend off so far ,and that means we're back at the Bible School in Børkop! It's really neat to see all the students here again since it was our first host home during our "get to know Denmark week" at the beginning of our overseas tour.

Last night some of us (Seth, Rikki, Ebony and I) got to go see the band Delirious! It was amazing! It was once again wonderful to be able to worship in English. A lot of the songs they played really touched me because they spoke a lot about revival in our lands. It made me think a lot about this and the great opportunity we have this year on the road to make a difference; not just in our own land, but in others too. It was such an awesome thing to be able to worship with 700 Danes, 2 other Americans, a Canadian and a band from England! It still amazes me how we are all so different in culture, yet we love and serve the same wonderful God!



Matt Mouzakis

Date: 2/13/2005

Submitted by: Rikki Dold

Journal Entry:

Hey all! Today had been a great day! I had the chance to sleep till about 2:00, which was very needed after a long night of fun. A few of us had the chance to go to a Delirious concert last night; it was a great time of worship. The four of us that went all had a super time. We went with a few students from the Bible School that we are staying at. I think that was a great time for us all to get filled. I know for myself I have really felt overwhelmed by a lot of stuff--mostly the language lately--so to hear them and the fact that they were speaking English was GREAT! Our schedule has also been very busy, and we have met many cool people. One of the things that I thought was kind of funny about last night was the fact that there were so many we knew there, and they were all coming up to us like we were someone famous. It gave us all a laugh. So yeah, that is what is up here. We have a weekend to just get some rest. But we will start again on Monday at 5:00--wow, that is early! I miss you all! I pray you all have a great week!

In His Grip,

<>< Rikki



Rikki Dold

Date: 2/13/2005

Submitted by: Ebony Chapman

Journal Entry:

Well, it's been an eventful week in Denmark. The federal election happened here on Tuesday and the government was re-elected. I don't know too much about politics, but the party that won is 'Venstra' or 'Left.' (I've learned how to say 'left' and 'right' in Danish from driving! Yay!) Denmark is a very liberal place and, as far as I know, many people turn a deaf ear to thoughts on Christian living; many of the Christian Danes that I

have talked to are not too happy about this, but life goes on.

On a more personal note, I have had a rough week. It's hard to explain other than to say that I've been emotionally overwhelmed. Susanne, our contact for the past week, shared a poem that really hit me. It's originally in Danish, but she translated it for us. She said, sometimes in ministry it feels like God is your boss. We try hard to be his servants, but we forget that above being servants, we are his children. It was exactly what I needed to hear this week. I can't fully explain everything that I've been feeling, but I cried like a baby when I heard this. It is so true and beautiful. I thought I would share it with all of you!



Ebony Chapman

CHILD - NOT SERVANT!

Now you shall be allowed to be a child, not a servant.

Now you can be small - not big.

No one asks you what you think or what you mean

It is not you who defends my word.

Now you shall be allowed to rest your arms,

You must not think that you shall carry me!

As if I needed to be held up all the time....

Don't forget that it is I who carries you.

Now you shall be allowed to be weak - put away your strength!

I still live, even when you are dead!

That is the danger, when my word has become your work

You mostly think of all the others you shall feed.

Now you shall be allowed to listen - not speak.

Now you can receive, not give.

You can cry for all the things that went wrong

I will hold you and give you my peace

I shout it again - have tried it so many times.

I love you my child - I LOVE you!

You can be replaced as my servant,

But as my child you are priceless.

Selvi Helen Hopland

The Lord will fight for you: you need only to be still. Exodus, 14:14

May you rest in the knowledge that you are God's child and draw closer to Him today.

Peace,

Ebony

Date: 2/14/2005

Submitted by: Mary Bull

Journal Entry:

Wow-how time flies! It seems like just yesterday I was writing my journal entry for last week! Today was a CRAZY day for us! It started with an early departure from Børkop at 5:15 am. We drove from there to the eastern part of Denmark to cross the border into Sweden. Once in Sweden we drove for a couple more hours to catch a ferry that would take us to the island of Bornholm, Denmark! The ferry ride was one of classic

Watermark fun. It consisted of Seth and Rikki playing cards, Adam and I playing with a bottle cap and chewed gum wrapped in paper and all of us taking a nap at one point. About 45 minutes into the trip we decided to get lunch which ended up being an ordeal because that is when the waves hit. It was impossible to walk without bumping into other people or walls, all while carrying food and water. Most of us didn't even finish the food once we got it because the sea sickness took over. I have never been one to get sick while on a boat, but after getting off I usually feel pretty terrible. I couldn't help but laugh as I thought of our "Calm the Storm" theme this year. Once I was off the ferry I fully expected to be sick; instead I didn't even feel woozy =) This was good news!



Mary Bull

So, that leaves us finally arriving in Bornholm to meet Henrik, our contact for this week. His family welcomed us with coffee and bread (gotta love the Danish traditions). Two of his three daughters and Rikki soon challenged Matt to a snowball fight! Matt will tell you he won but the truth is...it was a clean defeat by the girls! =) Dinner soon followed along with Henrik's daughters singing songs from the musical "Grease." This week has started off wonderfully and I look forward to a great time on this BEAUTIFUL island!

In Him,
Mary <>

Date: 2/15/2005

Submitted by: Ebony Chapman

Journal Entry:

It's funny how God works in little ways to remind us that He cares about us. I think He has a great sense of humour. Some of you may know that the majority of our team LOVES Mexican food. One of our favourite things to do is buy some avacados and have Rikki whip up a batch of her famous guacamole and eat it with nachos. Here in Denmark, we've been eating a lot of bread. Almost every night for dinner we eat dark bread. Not that dark bread is bad, but we have been missing some of the variety we have back home, especially Mexican food. Rikki and Mary were lamenting this fact earlier this morning and today after lunch the boys came to pick us up from our host home. "Guess what our host family made us!" exclaimed Seth, "Tacos!!" Air went out of the room as we all gasped and looked at him to see if he was telling the truth. Of course, he was only joking. We sighed.



Ebony Chapman

Then, a few hours later, we went to have dinner at the home of some people we had never met before. They welcomed us in to a beautiful meal... TACOS! We could hardly believe it! Throughout the entire meal, Mary kept commenting, "This is so surreal!" "I just can't believe I'm eating this!" "God is so good!" Needless to say we were beyond pleased. And dessert was crepes with ice cream and berries! Yum!!

Our God is really so good to us. He does care, even about the

little things. I know it seems silly to think that God's hand was involved in something so simple as tacos in Denmark, but for us it was a Holy Moment! J

Guds fred! (God's peace!)

Ebony

Date: 2/16/2005

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

Hello, Hello! I hope that this journal entry finds you all well. It has been snowing here in Denmark the past few days and well, it's sure made the driving experience here in Denmark quite interesting. Even though the roads have been slippery and we've been on them a lot, God is faithful and has taken good care of us. We haven't had any accidents or really any close calls, just a little slipping and sliding.

This past week here in Bornholm has been quite an interesting one; so far we've made it up early enough each morning to see the sun rise. Actually each morning we've been up early enough to actually have to wait for the sun to rise. Another interesting thing about Bornholm is the people here. We've had such an amazing mix of people. We've had the people who are just ready to be there and to get into the music but we've also had the people who barely look you in the eye and reject your hand when you offer to shake theirs. So it's been a memorable week and it's only been four days.

I hope that you all find great things in your days that you hold onto in your memories like the ones that we are finding here in Denmark. We thank you all for all of your prayers; we feel them so much and they are so great. God's peace go with you all, and may His blessings always be revealed to you.



Adam Costenbader

Date: 2/17/2005

Submitted by: Bodil Christoffersen

Journal Entry:

Welcome to the sunshine island!!!!

So, we are this week the most east we will get in Denmark! We are on a small island that has the reputation of being the sunshine island.... yeah.....I have not seen any sun yet... so I am very disappointed.... no, it is all good! I know we will get it for our day off on Sunday! A couple of days ago right before a program I made a comment to Matt that on this island I will most definitely not meet anyone I know over here! Because the one person I know who lives here, she is in school in Jutland. Two minutes later, a friend I have not seen in a very long time shows up! His parents have become missionaries over here! So it was really nice to be surprised by someone, and surprise him! Because he did not know I am on team! So, yeah for fun!

Today has been our most busy day this week! We had three programs! One electric, one acoustic, and one that was a bit of both! The two first ones were confirmation classes! And they asked really good questions like: When did you become a Christian? Why? Have you ever seen God? How? It was just really great to see that the kids really wanted to know! Then we had our second electric, until about half way through.... then the power left us.... but we did a couple of songs acoustic and then during Ebony's sharing they fixed the power! And it stayed until the very end where we had some question and answer thing again!

We have had our first "stalkers"... since we are on a very small island, some of the same people



Bodil Christoffersen

come to all our programs they can! So it is really nice to see familiar faces! Yeah for groupies/stalkers!

Being here on Bornholm is a great experience to me! I have never been here, so it is great to see a part of my country that is spoken of as the most beautiful part of the country, even though it is pretty I still think Djursland is prettier... (where I am from)....

It is great being in my country! I am having heaps of fun! Only...it is so amazingly hard to be a translating puppet three times a day! I am telling you! By May, my right arm and hand is gonna be so buff! (not sure that is how it is spelled.....but....)

I will end this for now! God's peace to all!

Bodil

Date: 2/18/2005

Submitted by: Seth Malmgren

Journal Entry:

Today I got to see a glimpse of what I might some day want to do with my life. Other than being a chef, I want to open my own Christian skate park. We had the opportunity to play at the Nexø Christian Skate Centre. When I heard we were playing there, I thought it would probably be some little room with a few jumps and ramps and stuff. Well, I was wrong. It was a huge warehouse full of jumps and ramps. They even had this huge half pipe. After the group was all done playing, a few kids came up to me and wanted me to skate with them. So I said sure, and before I knew it, I was on my butt with about four kids laughing at me. But after a while, I got the hang of it; I could go from one end of a really small ramp to the other end without falling. When it was time to leave, I was talking to a few of the kids there who were really good skaters, and they were so glad that we had come that night. They were 15, and they could do all of these tricks and stuff. They had been skating for about four years, they said, but it looked like they have skated for about ten. It is so awesome that God has given them talents to skate and have a good time with it. Ebony gave a glue on how God has given you different talents and one of them can be skating. So when you skate, make every trick and every move for Jesus. That is a really cool way to look at it. It even reminded me to make every move on the drums for Jesus. Well, I guess the only thing I can do is pray to God that he will give me the things I need to start a Christian skate centre.



Seth Malmgren

Date: 2/19/2005

Submitted by: Rikki Dold

Journal Entry:

Another Saturday has come and gone! What can I say? Our Saturday was a great day! I think that one of the best things that happened today was the fact that it was the first day that we were able to sleep past 5:00 a.m.! That in itself will make any day great! Other than a pretty relaxed afternoon with just a few team things, we had an acoustic program that night. The program was great--there were many faces that we had seen before looking back at us as we worshiped together. During our program we left a little time in the middle for some personal testimonies from the people there. I really enjoyed seeing them get up and share, even though I could not understand what they were sharing. I could see in their faces that there were some great stories that meant a lot to them. After a good time of worship we were able to hang out and have coffee, cake, and a time to just chat.



Rikki Dold

Date: 2/20/2005

Submitted by: Matt Mouzakis

Journal Entry:

Today we got to go to a castle on the north coast of the island of Bornholm, DK! It was amazing! We were told it was one of the biggest castles in Europe at one time. It's all in ruins now, but it was an amazing sight to see. It was on the cliffs overlooking the Baltic sea...so beautiful! I wish it was sunny, though, so we could see a little farther, but nonetheless, it was awesome! We went to a cave then and saw some cool spiders and stuff. This is the only cave known in Denmark that has these spiders...it was pretty neat. I had more fun playing in the cave with my host brother than looking at the little spiders! The churches here on Bornholm are very unique because they are round with a huge pillar in the middle of the sanctuary. I would not have minded going to that kind of church; I'd sit in the chairs behind the pillar where the pastor could not see me sleeping. Just kidding! My host dad told me these churches used to be mini-castles that were turned into churches. It was fun to climb to the top and take pictures and stuff. My comments on Mary's last journal. I totally won the snow ball fight against Rikki and two of our contact's daughters...the girls gave up cuz they were cold, and I was not cold and still ready to fight! So the boy wins! Hahahahahah! God bless! Matt



Matt Mouzakis

Date: 2/21/2005

Submitted by: Mary Bull

Journal Entry:

Today has been rough. We woke up early to travel to North Zealand. I have been struggling a lot lately with finding energy to even make it through the day. I have been feeling sick and really missing home...a lot. However, sooner or later, God always kicks me in the butt. I had a really great conversation with one of my teammates that allowed me to see a different perspective on some things, which was really great. The other awesome thing is the boarding school we are staying at. The kids here are SO great! We did a program tonight, and they were totally into it. I couldn't even believe how much energy I was getting from God through them. I can feel God fighting to remind me who is in control!



Mary Bull

"God will fight for you, you need only be still" -Exodus 14:14

Date: 2/23/2005

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

Rock on for days off and late journals! So today on Feb. 23, Rikki, Seth, Poul (our contact) and I all went on a little adventure. Poul had offered that if we would like that he would take us around to see some of the sights here in North Zealand. Well a few of us were really excited about going, and some were just beat from the past week and wanted some sacred time on their day off to rest. Well Rikki, Seth, Poul and myself all left just after lunch to head to Kronborg Castle, which is located in Hillerød. Where the castle was built is right on the water's edge looking out over the ocean and then just on the other side showing Sweden. When we got there it was one of the most amazing awe inspiring moments to see how HUGE this castle is. A few facts about the castle that Poul shared with us is that it took over 50 years for the castle to be built and to be equipped with cannons. This castle was built in that specific place so that they could tax ships that would pass through there, and if they wouldn't pay, then the cannons would blow them out of the water. Now it took them 50 years to build it, but it only took them six years to fully pay off the cost of the castle just by the taxes they collected from the ships that passed through there.



Adam Costenbader

After Kronborg, Poul took us to see where Prince Frederik and his new wife, Mary, now live. While we were there we saw our first Royal Guard and took a few pictures of him until he seemed to be over our being there watching him and taking pictures of him. As we were leaving there, Poul pointed out that if we were to look towards the water we would see a big red building and in the

HUGE building is where the royal sail boat was docked inside of it.

I have seen palaces, kingdoms and I've seen the house of a queen. It is amazing the things that God gives us to witness. I hope that our witness can be as strong and that we find the beauty, that we find the wonder of God always around us and rejoice in knowing He is Wonderful.

Date: 2/23/2005

Submitted by: Rikki Dold

Journal Entry:

As our week winds down to an end all I can say is, "wow what a great week." I have really enjoyed this week. It has been a good mix of things to do. We had a school, a confirmation class, a soldiers home, classes, sight seeing and now we are ending our week with a camp. Today has been a pretty good day. We arrived here at the camp about a half an hour early which is always a good thing. Then we found out that all we really had to do today was hang out with kids and do a program this evening. I really like it when we just get to spend time with the kids. The camp was really neat. At the beginning, the kids were divided up into groups which they were going to be in for the rest of the weekend. There were 7 groups and 7 of us so it worked out pretty nice. In these groups, there were many different activities that they were challenged to and they had to work together as a team to get points. I had a lot of fun working with my group. Some of the things that we had to do is make a name and paint a picture. I can't remember how to spell or say the name that was picked because I really don't speak Danish. I do know that if you translate what we were called to English it would be something like the watery Jellyfish. I thought that was pretty fun. In the afternoon we went on a hike, it was about 2 miles or so and on the path that we took there were different posts that we stopped at to complete a task. The first was a memory challenge we had to try and see how many things that we could remember after only looking the items for 30 seconds, we did pretty good and we only missed one. Then as we walked, we did things from throwing a boot to shooting an arrow. After a great afternoon with the kids we had a great time finishing the night up with a program and worship. I think that they all had a lot of fun and they seemed to really get into it they even asked for two extra numbers and I am sure that they would have asked for more had the leader not told them it was time to go. So yeah that's what our week was like GREAT GREAT! I hope that you are all doing well! Take care and have a super week!



Rikki Dold

In His Grip,

Rikki <><

Date: 2/25/2005

Submitted by: Seth Malmgren

Journal Entry:

Okay, I am a little behind on my journals. But I remember what all happened on this great day in Denmark. The day started out pretty early with us waking up to head to a teen camp, which is a lot like a retreat for junior high kids. It was for about 45 confirmation kids. Going to teen camps are so much fun because I act about their age. When we got there, we started to mingle with the kids a little bit. The kids were in seven different tables which were seven different groups. I was with group five. They rocked! After lunch we went and did a huge walk with some challenges on the way. There were five different challenge stations. The first challenge station was my favourite. It was a game a lot like "I Spy," but you had to remember all the things that were on a blanket. There were about 30 objects. Our group got about 25 of them.



Seth Malmgren

Station number two was a boot throwing contest, to see who could throw a boot between their legs and see how far you could get it to land in front of you. Station number three was really fun as well. They taped all our legs together, and you had to see how far you could go as a group in 30 seconds. Station number four was archery. Station number five was a wheelbarrow race. All of these obstacles were so bonding for us as a group, and I felt that our group grew to know each other quite a bit more. Later on in the evening, we had a concert for all the kids, and they had so much excitement for us. I have found the more you bond with people, the more they will want to get to know what you are doing and makes it a whole lot easier to tell them about the Gospel. Teen camps rock!!!

Date: 2/28/2005

Submitted by: Mary Bull

Journal Entry:

Greetings from Copenhagen! Today was our first full day in one of Denmark's most famous cities. We started out doing a full program this morning at a grade school, followed by going to classes to talk with the students.

After lunch our hosts gave us a tour around the city where we saw the palace the Queen lives in, walked close to the harbor and even saw the famous mermaid! Even after all this excitement, we came back to our host home to sit down to a delicious Danish meal by candlelight. After dinner our host dad, a Danish carpenter who doesn't speak much English at all, said he would entertain us with his musical skills. That's when he whipped out his saw and started playing it with a cello bow. It was absolutely amazing to hear the melodies coming from his playing. We each took a turn but had trouble even making a sound, let alone beautiful music. We decided that sticking to our primary instruments was probably the best thing...however, don't be surprised if we whip out our own saw on our return tour!

God Bless,

Mary



Mary Bull

Date: 3/2/2005

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

So yesterday was, officially, the first day of spring and of course, as you often see in spring, there is about four inches of snow on the ground here. I kind of find it some what funny though because pretty much all of my team mates come from areas where there is often snow so they are more so ready for it to be gone than I am, since I didn't really grow up with much snow. Also my team mates and my host families are finding it a lot of fun to pick on me about the fact that this year I have managed to do a few firsts such as:

1. I got into my very first snow ball fight with our contact Henrick.
2. I shoveled snow for the first time ever (Today I swept snow for the first time ever)
3. I've learned that when stopping for lights and or stop signs in the snow one must plan ahead.

These are only a few things of the many that I've been able to experience since being on the road this year and even since being here in Denmark. I hope that God is always leading you to areas where you can learn more and more. Gods blessings on all of you.



Adam Costenbader

Date: 3/3/2005

Submitted by: Ebony Chapman

Journal Entry:

Okay, so I keep forgetting to do my journal... better late than never! We are very busy here which is a good thing, but sometimes with an early morning Confirmation class and a late evening program, the journal gets left behind.

We are loving our time here in Copenhagen and have had some great programs this week. Our host family is AMAZING! All seven of us are staying in their home and they are so generous and patient with us, it is outstanding. I continue to be overwhelmed by the love that is extended to us the many ways in which we are ministered to by the people we meet.

Copenhagen is a very interesting place and we have been happy to have a bit of time to be "tourists" as well as working and doing ministry. After a very stressful day of driving on Monday, I am beginning to feel comfortable with the city and the masses of bicycles on the roads, even with a lot of snow here. Of course, I can say that I am comfortable just as we are getting ready to leave the city tomorrow.

We are looking forward to attending "Jesus Fest" this weekend! We get to play one song there and will have a chance to reconnect with some of our new Danish friends. Rock on!

peace in Christ,

ebony



Ebony Chapman

Date: 3/3/2005

Submitted by: Bodil Christoffersen

Journal Entry:

So- since i yet again forgot to write a journal last week, I will now write a very long one!

We have had a splendid day today! It all started out way to early this morning, we got up and went to a school where we did a program for 4th to 9th grade! afterwards we spilt up and went to two classes! So Ebony, Rikki Adam and I went to an 8th grade class! which was really good! At first the kids did not really have a lot of questions! but soon they loosened up a bit and we got some very good questions!

Like: was God in the Tsunami, why did you become a christian, and do you believe you can go to heaven if you don't believe in God!?? So we had some very good conversations there! then we went to the biggest mall in the Nordic countries (Sweden, Norway and Denmark) So we walked around for a couple of hours! Seth, Adam Matt and I walked together, and since we did not have any money any of us, we decided to just have fun in different stores!!! The first "victim" was toy"r"us! that was heaps of fun! we tried every single "try me" button in the store! and finaly, we found karaoke machine, and the guys sang a couple of songs! then we left the store and went to a store called Expert, which deals with electronick things and assesories! such as tv's, stereoes, cd's, dvd's! we found a part of the store that showed movies.. so we had a bit of fun with that!! Then tonight Seth has been cooking for us and our host family! So the whole evening has just been very fun, and has had a lot of laughs!

All in all this week has just been really amazing! The area we are in no longer have a youth worker, so our "contact" has a been an amazing family! we have been so amazingly blessed the whole week! we really feel as a part of the family! Also it has been great to see the capital of my country with my team mates! I have not been here too many times! so it has been nice to experience it with my "family"!

My last words will be to stay strong in the faith! when you think you are the lowest down, God will give you an energy boost through channels you did not think possible!

hope everyone is doing well!



Bodil Christoffersen

Guds fred!

Bodil

Date: 3/6/2005

Submitted by: Matt Mouzakis

Journal Entry:

hey everyone! we're back at borkop bible school for a weekend off! we got to go to Jesusfest yesterday. it was amazing. tonny (our contact our second week over here) was the speaker at this event and he wanted us to come play the song Who Am I because it went with his message he was giving. so the whole time we were there i kept saying i wasn't nervous to try to talk my self out of being nervous because we were about to play in front of about 2,000 people. That is much bigger then our normal family night programs!!!! well we ended up doing fine and i was nervous till we started singing and it turned out to be so much fun and such an awesome evening. suzanne (one of our previous contacts) was nice enough to translate everything for us so that we could understand...we're still struggling through and learning the Danish. but it was such an amazing night. I talked this afternoon with a girl from the bible school about Jesusfest and she said that one of her good friends from highschool was there and accepted Jesus into his life for the first time. it was awesome to hear that and think that we got to be part of this cool event!



Matt Mouzakis

Date: 3/7/2005

Submitted by: Mary Bull

Journal Entry:

I woke up this morning after a restful day off in Borkop and got ready to head to Fyn. I was very excited to meet our new contact, Bodil (we have decided to refer to our teammate as Bo-Bo this week so as to avoid confusion), and see what would be in store for this week.

We arrived at Bodil's apartment mid-morning just in time for coffee and an overview of the week ahead. I was in awe of her apartment. It was decorated with rich rustic colors and lots of natural wood furniture. I also couldn't help but notice the amazing artwork that adorned her shelves and walls. We later found out that they were all her original works...truly beautiful.

After relaxing bit we had lunch and then did our team devotion which was led by Seth today. For that time he had prepared a slide show of our time we have already spent in Denmark. It was to remind us of the people we have met and how God is at work in this country. It was a great way to get us re-energized for the remaining two months. We were able to laugh and pray together as a team, which was a wonderful blessing for today. Soon after that we were invited into the living room for afternoon coffee. =) This was a special treat because Bodil's American neighbor came with a cake for all of us. She has been living in Denmark since October after getting married. She was very excited to talk English with us. We were excited to talk with her as well. It was just one more reminder of how present God is.

This evening we headed to a closed prison here in Denmark. In Denmark there are two kinds of prisons...open and closed. Open prisons are for lesser crimes, whereas closed prisons are for harder crimes such as murder. I started to feel my nerves as we drove up to the gate. It was there that our vehicle was searched by two guards. I had no idea what to expect but as we drove into the complex all I noticed was bars. I couldn't really focus on anything except wondering what type of crimes put these prisoners here. We ended up doing two 45 minute programs for two different groups of prisoners. Each program was absolutely amazing. As soon as the first man walked in the room where we were, I was completely at ease. I knew God would be with us through the evening... and He was. The prisoners sang along and clapped with us. They were excited to be joining in our program. I was very excited to see the smiles on their faces. I was so glad that I had been there and had the experience.

It was just another reminder of how much God does in my life. I read the other day about acknowledging God in our lives. We often find it hard to worship God or thank God when times are



Mary Bull

sad or tough. Yet He is there. God continues to do so much even though He has already done so much just by giving His only Son to die for each and every one of us. If He never did another thing in my life, He would still be worthy of my praise. I am so thankful for that and for the blessings of today.

God Bless you on your journey through this week,

><> Mary <><

Date: 3/8/2005

Submitted by: Ebony Chapman

Journal Entry:

This whole week has been simply amazing! We had the opportunity to do two programs at a high security prison. It was very intimidating to drive through all of the gates and have the vehicle inspected before we could enter and set up. The prisoners were really friendly, and we were able to interact with them much more than anticipated. Some of them even invited us to stay, but we had to be on our way... Ah, but that was on Monday and my journal is supposed to be for Tuesday.



Ebony Chapman

We went to a sailor's school on Tuesday night. I was really pleased when we entered the room and there was one student working carefully with a book and a rope, learning a new knot. How cool! True sailor education! Our program was attended by a mix of local Christians and students from the school. Many good conversations were started as a result, and some students were really seeking to find out more about Jesus. Keep seeking Him!!!

I had an interesting conversation with one of the students there who was astounded that religion is not a part of the regular courses in public schools in North America. He made a good point about how important religion is to every culture and the large role it plays in history. He thought it was important for kids to be presented with, at minimum, an overview of world religions so that they can begin to think about God and decide for themselves what they believe. It is really a drastic difference that we are able to have such open discussions in public schools here in Denmark.

We have been receiving many more intense questions from students (and teachers) lately. It seems that we are being put 'to the fire' much more than we have been in the first two months here. The challenging questions continue to strengthen our faith and remind us of the importance of staying true to the Word. The message we carry is so much greater than we are! And we can really feel the effects of it as conversations are sparked with and among the people we meet. There is no greater message than Christ, no more important conversation. I pray that we will all continue to seek Him. God promises that He will be found by us when we do.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD , "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD , "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations..."

-Jeremiah 29:11-14

The peace of Christ be with you!

Ebony

Date: 3/9/2005

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

Crazy stuff through Gods blessings. So today we were supposed to go to a prison but at the last moment things fell through. To be honest at first I was a little bit sad

that we were not going to be able to go to that prison. We had our first Danish prison experience on Monday and it was a great experience and I believe that being able to be in a place like that and to be able to say the name of Jesus there is awesome. Well I guess that we will always find out that God has a perfect plan for everything and he worked His wonderful grace into the whole day. We started off our day with a confirmation class and the pastors there were so amazingly nice to us. We had a great time just talking with them and having "Hygge," a time to just sit and talk about anything. After that was probably the worst part of the day when we found out that we were supposed to pack a lunch for the day but since things had changed for that day we had not seen that change and had no food for lunch with us so instead we had to go and get food. Well God is great and He provided us with a wonderful place to buy a burger with fries for lunch. After we had eaten we had another program at a school that we were luckily booked at instead of the prison. WOW! This was one of the most amazing schools that we have been to and the kids were so awesome at standing up, clapping and just having an AWESOME time. You guys rock!



Adam Costenbader

For those of you who are struggling with finding a good book to start reading in the Bible, I suggest James. Especially chapters 3 & 4. God's blessings on your day.

Date: 3/9/2005

Submitted by: Bodil Christoffersen

Journal Entry:

God is truly Good!!!!

We spent this day at another island of my beloved country I had not yet been to! So first of all it was nice to see some of that island! We went to a boarding school! Did a program, and had Question- Answer time! the questions were supposed to be about the misconception of Beverly Hills 90210 being the entire USA's behavior and lifestyle! But the last minute the teachers changed it to being questions about Christianity since many of the students had asked for it! so we had about 1 1/2 talk about why Jesus can forgive our sins and why God did not create us without sin! It was amazing and they really had some good questions! later that evening we went to a church that had not had Watermark before! and we did not expect a lot of people there! but all of a sudden a huge group of people came in the door so the church was full! All in all it was an amazing day! with so many blessings! some of the questions we got at the boarding school was maybe meant to make us doubt! But it only made us so much more certain that what we were talking about was the truth and that all we can do is to live off the living grace of God!



Bodil Christoffersen

I enjoy my time in Denmark! although I struggle a bit with the fact that spring is holding off for quite some time!.... it makes me sad! hvorfor kommer sneen pludseligt når alle de små søde blomster er begyndt at springe ud?

Anyway I will end this for this time! Guds fred være med jer alle!

Heb.11:1

Date: 3/13/2005

Submitted by: Matt Mouzakis

Journal Entry:

So, on Friday we were getting ready to sound check before our show that evening and into the church walks none other than my friend Tracy Apps (WM 03/04)! It was great because I was missing the USA, and then I got a part of it here. So now I'm sitting here with her in the computer lab at Børkop Bibelskole, talking about stuff in America like Homestar Runner and Napoleon Dynamite and other great stuff, as well as exchanging music. Good times! She also brought me marshmallow peeps!!!! What is Easter without peeps? lol.



Matt Mouzakis

Date: 3/14/2005
Submitted by: Mary Bull
Journal Entry:

Today we are in Tommerup at a boarding school. Tomorrow we will do a program for the students which I am really pumped about. Today we were at a Danish homeless shelter which was a really great experience. We had the chance to talk to some of the people there as well as play music for them. Not only that, one man borrowed Matt's guitar and played us a song! It was awesome!

This past weekend was also too great not to write about....Tracy Apps from last year's Watermark showed up in Denmark to surprise our team and visit old friends! YAY! It was great to hang out with her for the weekend for sure! I also had one of my sorority sisters, who is studying in Germany come visit me for the day on Sunday. I have been truly blessed with new familiar faces in a foreign land. Tracy and Mingers-you both rock so much....

To everyone else...God Bless! Have a great week!

Mary<><



Mary Bull

Date: 3/15/2005
Submitted by: Ebony Chapman
Journal Entry:

We had an awesome time at Tommerup Efterskole, a boarding school just outside of Odense. The staff and students were all very friendly. We just managed to escape with our puppets after some threats that the students would steal them, and even some offers to purchase them. When we went to pack our van before leaving, it was covered with posters saying, "Give us the puppets!!" Sorry, guys! Thanks for letting us keep them on the road!

Another cool thing at Tommerup was that some of the English classes had been studying Canada! Yay! I was invited to attend a class to speak about Canada and try my best to answer the students' questions. This was great fun for me, especially since I am the only Canadian on our team and I spend most of the year traveling with Americans and talking about the U.S.A. It was great to speak specifically about Canada. Nothing like sharing about the home you love, eh? (Thanks Ronne!)

God has really been blessing us with awesome students who have great questions. We are looking forward to celebrating Easter and having some time to rest.

God's blessing to all of you and you celebrate His love, His passion, and His victory!

In Christ,

Ebony



Ebony Chapman

Date: 3/16/2005
Submitted by: Adam Costenbader
Journal Entry:

I'll start off by saying that we are so blessed. I know that I must write quite a bit about blessings of God but I mean for real there are so many. Today, wednesday 3/16/05, we woke up to having to say good bye to all the new friends we had made at Tommerup Efterskole. Now you'd think "not too much of a blessing there to have to say good bye" but when we went outside to pack our van is when we were given a



sign, actually about 15 signs. Our program, the night before, was GREAT! The students there really liked it as well as got into the music, skits, and puppetry. After our program several of the kids told us that their favorite part was the puppet show and they wanted us to give them our puppet "Rocco." Sadly we said "no" and then had to hear it from them the rest of the night, about how deeply they wanted these puppets. Well the signs we were given were actually taped to the sides, the rear, the front and, yes, even the roof of our van. Now you ask yourself "What kind of signs were these?" Well I'll tell you they were signs the kids had made saying "Give us the puppets!" We all thought it was hilarious but the best part was knowing that God made a strong enough impact on this students through us that they would remember us and the word that we came to share.

Adam Costenbader

I challenge you to look at the gifts/blessings that God gives us. He gives us SO many. He is always wanting to bless you and show you so many new things but also remember they are His to give and His to take away.

Sometimes in life we may feel as if we were a piece of paper starting off new and completely clean but as life goes we begin to be used and sometimes we'll even feel like we've been crumpled up into a small ball to be thrown away. Any peice of paper that is crumpled, then straightend, crumpled, then straightend over and over again will begin to tear and wear out. That's how we may feel in life as a piece of used paper crumpled up into a ball so many times that we begin to tear. I pray that you, through Christ, may be able to see the blessings that God has given you. That we have the gift of eternal life through the cleansing blood of Christ our savior who can make that peice of paper new again and take away your tears.

Ex. 14:14 He will to fight for YOU and can't bare the thought of "with out you"

Date: 3/17/2005

Submitted by: Bodil Christoffersen

Journal Entry:

This week all the youth workers at Indremission is at a conference, so we have more or less been on our own! We are now at a boarding school in west southern Jutland. Since we do not really have a youth worker, we do not have any bookings this week! So we spend most of yesterday rehearsing, which was nice! I am trying to pick up the bass, so it is nice to have patient teammates. But it is a lot of fun! This evening we also had a program for the school, and all of a sudden about 15 minutes before the program, my aunt and uncle came! So that was nice to talk a bit with them. Since this school is only for 8-10th graders, most of them understand English, so I only translated the sharing, but after the puppet show a girl, whom we met at a youth camp some time ago, asked what had happened to the (and I quote) "translating duck!?" I told her it had pneumonia....I don't know if she believed me or not.... anyway, it is nice to be told that it is not a pain to see with a translating puppet, even though you understand English!!!



Bodil Christoffersen

So, tonight Matt and I was watching a cartoon show that is on once a week at 7 p.m. And I was translating for him. There was a lot of kids in the room that also watched it, and what I think to be a student's younger brother is running from the back to the front of the room, and since there was no light he had a little trouble seeing. I don't know how well a three-year-old's night vision is developed... but all of a sudden he falls over Matt, and almost makes a somersault and lands basically on Matt's butt. It was so funny!!! I think the kid thought so too because not so long after he decided to try from the other way and bellyflop on Matt's back (Matt was lying on his stomach!). It was so humorous! I cannot even describe it! I guess you should have been there! But it was pretty cute!

Otherwise there is not much news from this part of the world! Looking forward to Easter break! It will be nice to be able to spend time with family and to beat my dad in card games!!!!
Muhahaha!

Happy Easter to everyone that are reading! Thank you for your support! You rock!!!!

Date: 3/19/2005
Submitted by: Rikki Dold
Journal Entry:

Wow what a week! We are done with another week and we are getting ready for a week of Easter break! Time is flying by here in DK. We only have 5 weeks left after our break. Last night we were able to go to a movie and just spend some time together as a team; it was all so much fun. I must admit I was not able to stay awake through the whole movie. I fell asleep about halfway through, but those of you that know me know that is about normal, so I guess nothing is new there (HA HA HA). We are all heading off to a week off today; most of the team is already gone. Adam and I took Ebony to the train station early this morning and Bo and Mary left around 11:00. The rest of us are leaving later tonight. I pray this finds you all doing well. In his grip <>< Rikki



Rikki Dold

Date: 3/20/2005
Submitted by: Matt Mouzakis
Journal Entry:

Easter break has begun!!!! Some of the team got up early to take Ebony to the train then came back and went to sleep. I was not one of those people that got up early; I'm not a morning person these days. We woke up and the school we were staying at was deserted. It was so quiet, and we didn't know what had happened to all the students; It was like some disaster happened and they forgot to tell us about it. It turns out they went to church in a different city. Then Bodil and Mary got picked up by Bodil's parents. So we (Seth, Adam, Rikki and I) had the building to ourselves all morning; it was very nice. The students eventually came back around 1 p.m., so we got to hang with them for a while. We ended up leaving right before dinner to go to our places for Easter break, so we said our goodbyes to the school, and when we were leaving, they were all clapping and screaming "Extra number, extra number....." Our instruments were already packed, so we booked it outta there as fast as possible to not get mobbed by the students.....hahaha. We decided then that we were pretty hungry since we weren't able to stay for dinner, plus Danes tend to sit and talk a lot after meals, and it would be rude for us to eat and run, so we decided to go for some good old American fast food...MCDONALD'S...it was just Rikki, Seth, Adam and me. So we pulled into McDonald's and decided to throw in all the kroner we had and buy as many burgers as we could with that money and then split them equally...now, you can get one burger for 10 kroner at this McDonald's, so we bought about 17 burgers for the 4 of us (you should have seen the cashier's face and the comments from the kitchen...I didn't understand them 'cause they were in Danish), and yes, we finished them all. Well, mostly Seth did. It was great to get some American food and to eat and run. After that we booked it to Tonny's house (our contact our second week in Denmark) where Adam and I are staying, unloaded our equipment into his garage, then Rikki, Seth and Iversen (another one of our contacts) headed off to Germany. So yeah, that was our whole day! I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did! God Bless!



Matt Mouzakis

Date: 3/21/2005
Submitted by: Mary Bull
Journal Entry:

You have got to love Easter break in Denmark! I have really been looking forward to this week because I am spending it with our Dane in her own home! Bodil's parents picked us up around 11am Sunday morning, and we headed to her aunt and uncle's home for lunch. Now in Denmark, you don't just spend a few hours for lunch....which I love! We spent the entire day there relaxing until almost 6:30 in the evening when we hopped in the car for our 3-hour drive to Bodil's home. Once we pulled in her driveway we had one goal in mind...pajamas and Harry Potter. Of course, I stayed true to my normal habits and was asleep within a half hour of the movie. Bo-Bo always gets mad when we watch movies together because I usually



Mary Bull

fall asleep not long into the show. I mean, what would one expect? I had a down comforter and a comfy chair =).

This morning, I woke up and came down to the kitchen to find my Dane cooking me an American breakfast. I almost started crying. She made me eggs, bacon and toast! I was so excited and I think she really was as well. We then decided to bike to the next town to get some yarn and groceries. Now, Bodil was worried because she thought she might be out of shape since she hasn't biked in the last seven months. HA! I haven't biked in almost seven years. Let me tell you--five km mostly uphill makes me a sore girl right now! But it's fun all at the same time!

I pray that you all have a very blessed Easter!

Romans 15:13

◇◇ Mary ◇◇

Date: 3/23/2005

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

Hello! Today was a beautiful day for me to be able to sleep in. Yeah, I apologize to all of you who did not have that same blessing (i.e., International Teams). The last few days Matt and I have been spending with our contact Tonny and his wonderful family. Well, after lunch today Tonny asked if we would like to go for a walk in a park or at "Dyrehaven," and we said "Sure thing!" We got there and right away Tonny's little daughter, Melissa, wanted to go right to the swings and play, but instead we walked first; then afterwards we headed to the playground.



Adam Costenbader

It was great! The park was so beautiful, although it felt a little like being in Jurassic Park. We walked for less than a minute before we saw deer footprints in the mud, and I mean we saw them EVERYWHERE. I had never seen so many hoofprints in my life; there was also a few other things to let us know that there were deer near, but we won't cover that one. We walked for about fifteen minutes and still didn't see any deer until all of a sudden, just over a hill, we saw almost thirty deer laying down and grazing. It was amazing! Some thing else that was really neat about it was that there were albino deer there, too. We walked for about forty-five minutes, and we had to have seen almost around fifty deer.

God's love is so amazing and so gentle. I couldn't believe it--here we were in a park for a walk, and we saw so many beautiful creations of God there. Tonny told us after we had left that he had never seen so many deer there when he had gone before. God is amazing and His awesome beauty is never ending.

Isaiah 35:1-2

Date: 4/4/2005

Submitted by: Mary Bull

Journal Entry:

Hello from Skjern, Denmark! Today we landed here after a wonderful week in Skive.

I have not been feeling well today at all, which has made programs tough. However, it has been great to meet the people we have met today. We had the opportunity to go to Bodil's gymnasium, which is a school for students ages 16-21. We did an hour program there and had the chance to eat dinner and talk with the students afterwards. I had a few really great conversations about God and how he works in our lives. It was also great to meet so many people who were interested in being on Watermark in the future! That was really exciting! Hopefully it will work out for many of them.



Mary Bull

As for me spiritually, I am doing okay. I am really tired. I miss home and the comforts of familiarity. I know that God is using

me in many ways this year, but it really can be tiring. I am continually praying for strength and guidance. Thank you to those of you who are praying for our team as well...it is a huge encouragement to know that even when we are tired others can send up prayers on our behalf.

Tak for jer (thanks for you),

Mary

Date: 4/5/2005

Submitted by: Ebony Chapman

Journal Entry:

Hello! Greetings from western Jutland! We are having a great time here with our hilarious contact, Iversen. We had one of our busiest days of our entire tour yesterday with three full set-up (electric) programs. By the end of the day, we were all dragging and could not wait to sleep, but there were so many rewarding moments throughout the day.

We did a program at the boarding school where we are currently staying in the afternoon and we sang our "newest" Danish song, "Hvem vil gi' sit liv for en som mig?" and all of the students sang along; it was SO beautiful to just be able to listen to them above us. "Who will give his life for one like me?" We were all singing together in Danish, "I have need for a Saviour in my life... I need you, Jesus, in my life... come brand your name in my heart so all can see that I am yours."

No matter who we are, how old we are, what language we speak, where we live, or whether we realize it or not, we all need Jesus in our lives. It was so powerful to me to cry out to God with the students here, and to know that He hears and responds to us. He carries us through and gives us strength and encouragement right when we need it.

Peace to all of you!

Ebony

"In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence." Ephesians 3:12



Ebony Chapman

Date: 4/6/2005

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

WOW! We are down to our last month here; that is just CRAZY! I can't believe it--time has flown by so quickly, leaving us with so many great memories and new friends. Now the new challenge that lies before us is coming home. I know that must sound somewhat odd, but it will be a whole new world to us in many ways. Denmark shares a lot in common with the States but there are many, many differences along with that. We've been here in DK for three months now, and we're totally going to have to readjust to the culture that we grew up with; there's an odd thought for you. It's weird to think that I'll have to readjust to something that's been in my life for all of my life. God is faithful, though, and he'll teach us so much out of this. He already has shown so much just here in Denmark, through the people, through the praise, through hygge, and so much more. I can't wait to see what we'll learn back in the States with the new perspective that we now hold from our time here in Denmark.

Guds Fred *God's Peace*



Adam Costenbader

Date: 4/7/2005

Submitted by: Bodil Christoffersen

Journal Entry:

West Jutland! The place in Denmark where the trees are shaped after the western wind! It was a very good day today... a bit rainy... but then again that is only because our contact had forgotten his jacket.... so when he gets that back the sun will come out again!

We had two programs today! One for a couple of confirmation classes first, in the biggest church ever!!!! It was kind of hard to do the puppet show, since there was already a huge echo in the room!

In the evening we were in Videbæk! It was really nice! We had dinner at the Pastor's house! And it was really nice! We had a really good program; a lot of kids showed up that had been at a school we played at some what two months ago,so it was nice to see a couple of familiar faces!!!! Our contact for this week did Rikki's part in the puppet show, and of course he forgot that I was translating.... that is the way it is! When you are used to being the one translating... it is easy to forget that things are being translated!!! But it was really funny!!!! And this week has just been a blessing in general! I went to school here for three years, so the wind and the accent is very familiar! So that is nice!!!

Praise God for devotions! Praise God for rich blessing he pours out every day!

In His most Holy Name!



Bodil Christoffersen

Date: 4/10/2005

Submitted by: Matt Mouzakis

Journal Entry:

It was a late night last night. We were out doing street ministry till 4 a.m.--it was a blast! First we started out at a mission house with an amazing dinner, then we had some time to get to know the others we were doing ministry with. We were working with the Indremission cafe bus, which travels around Denmark in a bus, serving coffee and going out on the streets to bring people into the bus and try to spark conversations about faith, Jesus, etc. The guy who ran the cafe bus talked a bit about evangelism and how to prepare for some of the questions we might be asked. Neils, one of the cafe bus workers, was kind enough to translate for me. After the preparation for going out, we led worship for a half hour with the crew, which was very cool; the Spirit was moving there, I could tell! We had some coffee and set out to do night ministry at around 10:15 p.m. I was with a youth named Alan that we had met at a boarding school we stayed and played at earlier this week. It was a fun time walking around with him, talking about Denmark and the U.S.A. and faith while we were passing out flyers in the back of the pubs and dance clubs, inviting the people to come to our concert at 1 a.m. We were in the back of the bar as one of the employees was going to work, so we gave him a flyer and invited him to come to the concert or just to come hang out at the cafe bus. He said he had to work till 4, but he said he'd take a pile of the papers and pass them out in the bar, and maybe he could get off of work early. After we ran out of all our flyers, we went back to the mission house where the concert was to be held. Alan and I jammed a little on our guitars till the concert. We had a pretty decent turn out. People came and went, and we got to share the Gospel. I believe it was a productive night for the kingdom of God. I guess we'll never know till we get to heaven. We ended up getting back to the boarding school at 4:30 a.m. and went right to bed! It was a fun and busy day and a huge blessing to experience!



Matt Mouzakis

Date: 4/11/2005

Submitted by: Mary Bull

Journal Entry:

HAPPY 22nd BIRTHDAY to my teammate Bodil. Last night some of us snuck out to our

van and filled the front seat (where Bodil usually sits) with balloons. It was a great surprise for her this morning when she got inside. She was very excited and very happy that we had done that for her. We proceeded to take a ferry to the next spot on our tour in Denmark. We met up with our contact, Lars. He filled us in on the week and then we headed to the girls' host home for dinner and games.

After dinner, the whole team and our host family and contacts went outside to play a Danish game which I don't know that name of but you basically have to knock over the other teams wood blocks with long sticks. There is also a knight in the middle of the playing field that you have to try and hit after you knock all the other team's wood blocks over. When that is done...you win! I know it sounds a little funny but it was a lot of fun! We then went back inside to play more games....it was a great evening of fun and relaxation with the entire team and our host family. I am looking forward to the week ahead.

I can't believe that in just a little more than three weeks I will be on a plane back to the United States....time flies! I thank you for continuing to pray for our team. God's blessings.....

Romans 8:25

Mary



Mary Bull

Date: 4/12/2005

Submitted by: Ebony Chapman

Journal Entry:

April 12 is a big day for my family--it was my little sister's 24th birthday! Yay, Amber! It's difficult to contact people sometimes because of the time change (8 hours to my home) but I was able to call on Wednesday here and it was still Tuesday night for her. I have been telling almost everyone we meet about my sister because she is busy planning her wedding which will take place on MY birthday, May 14!! I am looking forward to being home for the big day, but it is hard to believe how quickly it is approaching.



Ebony Chapman

My biggest prayer is that I will be able to be fully present in each day that I have here. It is important not to think too much about tomorrow, so that we don't miss out on today. I'm trying my best not to count down too much and to notice all of the beauty of Denmark so that I will return with joy in my heart for this place.

We had a great program on Tuesday night at a church where I really felt a connection to the pastor and his wife and children. After the program was over, the pop and chips consumed, the equipment torn down, and the van packed up, the pastor invited us back into the sanctuary for prayer. He spoke to us about the history of the church, which was over 800 years old... At home, when things are 100 years old, we think that's amazing. I can hardly comprehend 800 years! In that place, the pastor said he felt as if he were standing on the shoulders of the pastors who went before him. Eight hundred years of pastors. There have been countless changes in the world over so much time, but the message remains the same. Praise God for His enduring love and the gift of Christ!

Hebrews 6:19

Love, Ebony

Date: 4/13/2005

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

Let's talk about hygge. For those of you who have missed some journal entries, hygge is a special Danish term that can't be directly translated to English. The best way to describe it is family, the essence of what it should be. Most often in hygge

you'll sit with each other, talk, play a game or two and snack on some goodies. That is the wonderfulness of hygge...

Yesterday we, as Watermark, were totally introduced into the deep meaning of hygge; it was great. This week is a short week because we don't have anything for the weekend, so our contact Lars thought it would be good to have us over, all who wanted, to have a little hygge with him, his wife, Martin (our translator) and his wife. It was great times! It isn't too often that we are blessed with free moments like that where we can just be. I know that may sound odd, but we are always "on" (meaning we are always ready for work, for the relational ministry/host home ministry first...ALWAYS), and that makes it very hard to just have a good time to relax, especially around a group of people. This was just right though, we sat around talking, eating candy and learning more about what young Christians here in Denmark do for hygge. I personally am very thankful for this time because it also gave most of our team the time to just be friends instead of co-workers; again, we are always "on" so that makes it very hard to open up on a nonprofessional way. Often we only think of gifts as something tangible that you can hold on to, but this time, this hygge, was such a blessing and gift to us. Thanks to the families that have given us such amazing memories and friendships to hold onto.

Hyggelit...



Adam Costenbader

Date: 4/14/2005

Submitted by: Bodil Christoffersen

Journal Entry:

May God's blessings be rich and many!

With three weeks left, I have started to look back at our time in Denmark. It has been a truly blessing to be here and our experiences has been many.

We have attended many confirmation classes by now, and they have all been different. Today we also attended one, and it was amazing! At first the kids were a bit shy, but throughout the morning they became more loose, and at the end they were very much into it! And after a good deal of great questions, we played a couple of more songs, and all of a sudden one of the kids reached up his hand, and asked if we would play the first song we played that morning again. So our first request for a song! It was a great moment! After the program six of the kids borrowed money from their pastor and bought our cd!

So tonight we played a soldiers' home! And a bunch of the kids from this morning came; they had asked their pastor to take them, so they had been nine in a five-person car.... and it was very nice to see that they actually wanted to see us, since most of the confirmant students we encounter are less thrilled, and have fun while they are there, but do not make an effort to stay and talk to us! Also there was a couple of girls from an confirmation class from yesterday morning!!! And a couple of people from the youth group we were with on Tuesday! It was really a blessing to have people we had seen before come again! Sadly there was not a lot of soldiers attending, but a few did come! So that was nice!

With a few weeks left here in Denmark, I am starting to get more and more excited to traveling in the great region of North East again! It will be great to meet friends and familiar faces!

God's blessings to you all!



Bodil Christoffersen

Date: 4/16/2005

Submitted by: Rikki Dold

Journal Entry:

Wow! What a day! We had the chance to head off to Legoland. It was such a great day. The weather was

so nice and the day could not have been more perfect. I have never seen anything like this before. There were so many Legos in this park. There were scenes from all over the world there. I saw Mount Rushmore, Beverly Hills, the Capitol building, and so many other things. I can't even begin to tell you what it was like. While we were there, Ebony and I were off to find a drink while the rest of the team was in line for a ride. While we were walking we ran into some girls that we had met our first week on the road here in Denmark. We began talking to them a bit and one of the girls told us that this was an answer to her prayers to meet us. Ebony and I kind of looked at each other and then back to her as she began to tell us that she was going to be going to the US in about two summers for an exchange program where she was going to be studying in the States. She then began to tell us how she was not sure what kind of church she look up and try and attend. It was a great way for us to talk about the American church and help her out a bit. We exchanged e-mails, and it was a great blessing for all of us.

In his grip,
Rikki



Rikki Dold

Date: 4/17/2005
Submitted by: Matt Mouzakis
Journal Entry:

This past week has been great! We were blessed with some cool contacts. Lars and Martin and their families were a huge blessing to me this past week. Lars is a new worker in Indre Mission, and we were his first Watermark team. Martin was just a hilarious guy the same age as me who came along everywhere with us as a roadie. Last week somehow the CD player in our mini bus stopped working, and so we have to entertain ourselves now when we drive. Martin came in handy last week in the entertainment field; he was so much fun. He pretended to be running for Pope and tried to get people's votes; he made me his first cardinal. At the end of the week, we were out on the street playing and advertising for our concert that evening, and Martin bought me a Viking helmet because I commented on how I liked them, so as a good bye gift he bought me the helmet and made me wear it during our Danish songs at the end of the week. We had such a good week laughing and also having some serious spiritual talks too. God has truly blessed us with some amazing contacts here in Denmark; they are probably one of my favorite parts of being here! I'm excited to meet our next three contacts in these last three weeks in Denmark!



Matt Mouzakis

Date: 4/18/2005
Submitted by: Mary Bull
Journal Entry:

Happy Monday everyone! Welcome to Århus! This is the town that Bodil calls home because she lived here almost a year before joining this group called Watermark...you

may have heard of them. =) Anyway, I have been here before when I spent Easter in this area, so I was pretty excited to return to a familiar place. We met our two contacts for this week named Jens and Per. They told us about what the week looked like ahead, we ate a delicious lasagne dinner and were soon off to our first program of the week.

It was at a mission house not far from Jens' home. There we played for about 30 middle school aged kids and a few adults. It was a very fun group, all of whom got very in to the music. During the coffee break, I had a 14-year old boy offer me a chair but I told him it was okay. (I noticed there were already a few of my teammates sitting near him and I didn't want him to seem crowded.) I did, however, ask him his name. Right before that he had taken a bite of cake and instead of finishing his bite, he spit it into his hand to answer me. I was so touched by the somewhat unusual response that I sat down anyway and began a conversation with him. He began to ask me questions about myself, American culture and faith. He said that he loved the English language so much, and it was such a treat to be able to talk to me. I thought it was a huge treat to talk to him! After the concert he came up to me to thank me again for the evening and he looked me right in the eyes and said, "I will pray for you." I was so touched that he said that to me, and I was encouraged for the last three weeks we have here in Denmark. None of us can believe that we have 19 days left of our Danish tour, but we are sure that God will use us in the short time we have left in this country.



Mary Bull

In Him,

Mary

Date: 6/2/2005

Submitted by: Adam Costenbader

Journal Entry:

Today! Yeah for today! We are right now at this moment at Luther Dell camp. WOW! You could ask any person that is in any way involved with Youth Encounter, and I would almost guarantee that they would know about Luther Dell. For all of you out there reading this and wondering, "Hmmm...What is a Luther Dell?", Luther Dell is a camp near Remer, MN, where we start our second week of training at the beginning of the year and stay for the next three weeks.



Adam Costenbader

It's wonderful here! The air isn't hot, but definitely not cold, so it's just right. There are thousands of dragonflies shadowing the sky, as well as the various things they land on, but sadly there are so many because there are also thousands of mosquitoes. I have the bite marks to prove it. We've been able to spend our time here being a part of the LD (Luther Dell) training for their staff. We've helped out with skits, puppets, music, etc. It's been great to feel like, "HEY! It's training all over again." It's kind of fun to be on the other side of the training this time, though.

I can't explain to you how great the flood of memories I have from just being back here in this place. God really has blown me away with a recharge of how great this ministry is just by bring us back to the place where most of our training for what we do started. Even though it's been a great recharge, right now I'm a little tired, so I believe that I will shoot off to bed, but I challenge you that if you're feeling tired and not sure of why you are doing what you are doing, think back to where it started and what brought you THERE. God's peace.

Date: 6/7/2005

Submitted by: Ebony Chapman

Journal Entry:

Well, we're back on the road in the USA. Hooray! It has been fun returning to some familiar places and sharing our experiences of Denmark. We have been able to visit a number of summer camps over the last couple of weeks, which is a joy for me. I love the outdoors and the atmosphere of camp, not to mention the warm weather!

On Tuesday, we were at Camp Lutherhaven in Indiana. We participated in leading Campfire there. The campers, adults with special needs, were extremely enthusiastic and the staff there was great. It was fun to join them for the evening and see how they worked together. A special blessing for our team was that New Dawn (the team to the Philippines) was able to meet up with us that night. Becky Wray (a.k.a. "Boots") of New Dawn is a friend of mine from home, and it was awesome to have time to reconnect with her. I felt like we offered each other a piece of home and connected with our community through each other. This was such a blessing for me!! Within this week we have been able to visit Seth's parents, Rikki's home, and Mary's home! Over the course of the year we will be able to visit the homes of all of my team members, except for my own. It was just cool to be able to "visit home" through Boots.



Ebony Chapman

That night we also shared a magical experience. Neither of us Canadians had ever seen a field full of fireflies, and we experienced for the first time the sparkling wonder of them! We caught them in our hands, laughing like children with fresh excitement that comes when you discover something new-- a type of joy that is so often forgotten in our adult lives. It was really amazing to see the wonder of God's creation with fresh eyes. He has given us so many little blessings if we just keep our eyes open to them.

Peace to you! May your eyes be opened and your hearts filled with a new wonder today as you look for God in the world around you.

Ebony

Date: 6/8/2005

Submitted by: Mary Bull

Journal Entry:

Today has been a really special day for me. We headed to Camp Mowana in Mansfield, Ohio. This is a home away from home for me. I have grown up at Mowana, camping there since the age of nine and then working for five summers on the staff. I was so excited to go back and to share with that community what I have been up to the last ten months. I also was looking forward to sharing with my team the beauty that lies in that place.



Mary Bull

Upon arrival, I was greeted with shouts of excitement and hugs of true friendship. I was eager to merge both my camp life and team life because both are important to me. I decided it would be nice to give a classic Mowana tour to my team, which included a trip to the beautiful waterfall just beyond the outdoor chapel. I was able to share a few stories about the history that is part of the camp as well as the property itself. At dinner this evening we were asked to share the "Canadian" version of a Mowana favorite. It was hilarious to see the reactions of the staff to this traditional camp song.

After dinner came time to set up for our program that was later in the evening. Right before the program, I was talking to a friend who I had worked with the summer before. As we were talking, we were both called over to the middle of the room in the main lodge. I was told that the staff had prepared something for me. My eyes filled with tears as they started singing "Better is One Day." This was a song that I had really enjoyed during staff training last summer. I had told the staff that when I hear that song, I become putty. It touched my heart to know that the returning staff had remembered that from the beginning of last summer and the new staff was willing to sing it as well. I was speechless for one of very few times in my life. It was a moment of ministry to me. I was reminded of true servanthood. They were doing something to give to me, not because they thought they might get something out of it.

During the program, I just had fun! The staff, campers and volunteers just had a really great time. It was evident that we, as a team, were enjoying it as well. It was a great evening to be home. Mowana is referred to as a place "where the light of Christ shines through." That was really true tonight. I am proud to call it my home.

><< Mary

Date: 8/1/2005

Submitted by: Bodil Christoffersen

Journal Entry:



Bodil Christoffersen

Yay for friends and YE-family!

I realize it has been a while since I did my last journal and I apologize for that!!! I am simply lazy...I really do not have a good reason to why this so, I am truly sorry! Anyway, here is a journal! We have today started yet another VBS; though this week is different since East Lakes will take over on Tuesday! But this is a great place! We started out great by being a good hour and a half late, but we went acoustic which turned out to be a great deal better since it is a lot easier to interact with the kids when you don't have a bunch of equipment in between you and the kids! So that turned out great! We had spent the last night at Seth's house, which was great! It is always a blessing for me to see familiar faces over here! And it was really cool to meet a bunch of Seth's friends that we have heard all about all year, and now we finally have a face on them!

I am these next couple of days blessed with being at my favourite host home: Tracy Apps!!! The wonderful girl who put up with me all during the Christmas break! So it is great! And we are having a lot of fun! But she got on my back about not writing any journals! So this one is for you Tracy!

Otherwise life is good! Have been accepted to go to school when I go home! Study English! So that'll be heaps of fun! Read about phonology, morphology and all that jazz! It'll be great! It is nice to finally have a plan for life after team; it will make it easier for me to go home knowing I have a plan. Anyway. I do believe that is all that is happening in my life right now!

God works in mysterious ways! It is not always I understand why He does what He does, but it always makes sense in the long run somehow! Like, we had a booking not so long ago that turned out did not exist, but God placed a previous contact to take care of us and to take us in for two days! It is just amazing to see all the good things God has done this year! And how fast the year has been! It has been flying by!

I want to end with one of my favourite verses: John 15:16. It's a good one!

I Hans store navn!

Bo
