

# Captive Free North East 2006-07 Journal

**Date:** 9/20/2006

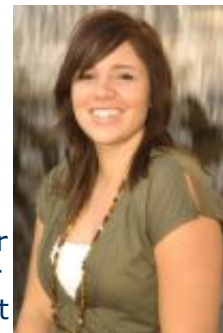
**Submitted by:** Taryn Hoover

**Journal Entry:**

"I will praise the Lord no matter what happens. I will constantly speak of his glories and grace." (Psalm 34:1)

It's pretty crazy how fast you get used to living with five other people and your privacy basically existing only when you're asleep. The part that's even crazier is how fast you learn to love it. How fast you learn the funny little quirks about each other, and how everyone comes together in our ministry.

It's our fourth day on the road, and we already feel like a family. God has been blessing us like crazy with smooth drives, awesome host families, and really great ministry opportunities. We're really trying to focus on dying to self and letting Christ fully live in us. We're just getting more and more excited for our upcoming bookings to further our mission for Christ. Look out, North East!



**Taryn Hoover**

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**Date:** 9/21/2006

**Submitted by:** Brice Dieter

**Journal Entry:**

God is awesome! He has blessed us with so many wonderful people. Everyone that we've met at each of the bookings has been great. One thing that I noticed is that our host families absolutely love to show off their homes. It's cool to see how excited they get when we get "home" and they show us around. Each of our host families has been such a blessing and very generous.

Praise God for servant hearts!

In Him,  
Brice



**Brice Dieter**

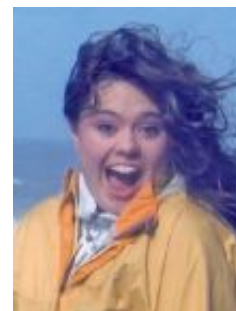
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**Date:** 9/28/2006

**Submitted by:** Koral Aakre

**Journal Entry:**

We had our third XP (experiential worship service), and it was so awesome! We started to feel the music and worship the second and third time through. The first XP was disappointing to us because it was so technical that that's all we were worrying about. We didn't have fun with it or anything, but the second XP, we got a feel for it. Then the third XP was so much fun, and we got this amazing energy from it!!! I can't wait for our next one.



**Koral Aakre**

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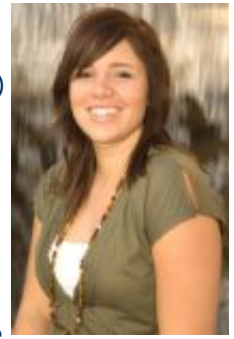
**Date:** 10/5/2006

**Submitted by:** Taryn Hoover

**Journal Entry:**

Today's been one of the more crazy days we've had so far on tour. It included but was not limited to: tired, grumpy teamers, wrong turns, Chipotle burritos, 50% discounts at Starbucks, and intense rehearsal. We were pretty much ready for our XP (experiential) worship service tonight after a long day. During our first song, who else walks in but Watermark Denmark and Captive Free alumni Dan Dean! They surprised us!! All of us exchanged huge grins as we opened our set. It was so comforting and exciting to see people we actually knew! Seeing our friends definitely brought our spirits up and made playing tonight that much more meaningful and fun.

Other than that, we're doing really well. We've been learning new material already and have been really excited about it! And luckily we loaded up the trailer tonight right before it started pouring. Our spirits are lifted up as our Awesome God keeps blessing our group.



**Taryn Hoover**

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**Date:** 10/13/2006

**Submitted by:** Andrew Salokar

**Journal Entry:**

Family of God Lutheran Church is amazing! Not only are our host homes extremely hospitable *and* Taryn got a new snare drum *and* we got a very productive rehearsal in, but our XP (experiential worship) service went great. We had a pretty good turnout, and Scott (our contact) took lots of great pictures. We really rocked it out for God tonight. We added in *Awesome God* to flow out of *The Stand*, and it sounded great. During *These Hands*, I was playing so hard that my strap broke! It was pretty crazy.



**Andrew Salokar**

After the XP, we hung out with the kids for their lock-in, and that was really fun. Then we led a "campfire" in the sanctuary. We pretty much improvised the whole thing, but it ended up working pretty well.

Though I'll be sad to leave, we have a big weekend ahead of us, and that's exciting. To those of you at Family of God, we can't wait to see ya'll again.

God's Peace,

Andrew J. Salokar

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**Date:** 10/13/2006

**Submitted by:** Brice Dieter

**Journal Entry:**

I'm doing pretty good here on the road...So, I was in Guitar Center a few days ago and I bought a wireless guitar system and the guy at the counter wanted to know where I lived for some data, and I didn't really know what to say. I live in a van...with five other people. I thought that was kinda funny...he didn't really get it. But we told him what we were doing, and he thought that was pretty sweet!



**Brice Dieter**

So, this one time we were traveling from Towson, Maryland to Troy, NY, and it should have been about 7.5 hours travel time... It ended up being around 13 because of Mapquest's awful, unclear directions...we ended up traveling through NYC on Friday night through rush hour...that means we were going an average of 4 miles an hour in a 15 passenger van with a 2 ton 8'x10' trailer trying to weave through traffic. Jamie accidentally drove through an Easypass toll, so instead of having to pay 4 dollars for the toll Jamie now has to cover the fine...25 dollars. How fun!?

It still doesn't really feel real yet. I don't know why but it doesn't feel like I really doing

anything all that special...all that different. \*shrug\* Maybe sometime down the road, I'll be able to wrap my head around this whole idea. I think that I'll start to grasp it when Event season rolls around. I think it will be really cool to see people that I met when we were at their church and I get to see them again at an Event...We'll get to hang out a little more and really get to water the seeds that we've planted before and encourage them to really get into their faith.

Let me tell you, sleeping at a different place every night is rockin' sweet. It's really cool to hang out with different people every night. We get to share our mission and hear of these people's faith stories and neat stuff like that. It's really cool to hang out with host brothers and sisters and really get them thinking about their faith.

Peace out all!  
Your Bro in Christ  
Brice

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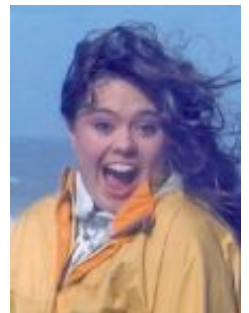
**Date:** 10/23/2006  
**Submitted by:** Koral Aakre  
**Journal Entry:**

So...I don't really know what I can say from the last time I wrote a journal because we have been so busy!!! Sometimes I feel like I'm just going to faint because we are somewhere new every day and doing new things all the time...but then again, I always have a rush of energy right before we go on, and that makes the program really fun!!! You can totally see God at work!!!! He pulls us through!

We are really busy, but everything is really fun! We have been to so many awesome places! Some people from one youth group came and saw us for a second time, and it was fun to catch up with them. It's always nice to see a familiar face. Umm....one of you youth directors from one place is going to come to see us soon, so I'm really excited about that!

So...I really didn't have time to go home to get my clothes for XP (our experiential worship service), so I went to Target to get a top real quick, and the clothes were by the maternity section, and Taryn was like, "Don't get any maternity clothes," and I looked at the tag on my shirt, and it said "maternity" and I said, "Too late!!!" And I got it! It's a really cute shirt!

Koral!!!!



**Koral Aakre**

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**Date:** 10/25/2006  
**Submitted by:** Andrew Salokar  
**Journal Entry:**

I've been thinking about what I want to do next year. I've considered doing another year of team, probably a Community Based Team. Jamie and I discussed the idea of some of us sticking together and still playing, maybe going around Australia. I'm also praying that God might open some doors for me this year.

I just finished a book the other day called *Blue Like Jazz* by Donald Miller. It's made me rethink Christian spirituality in a lot of good ways. But what it has really done to me is make me long for an unconventional life. I'm leading one this year on team, and sure, maybe another year after that, but what about when I'm done? I don't want to just go back home and fall back into the old routine. I want something more out of life. I've seen how God can affect people in just a few weeks and I'm going to see more of it this year. So, how can I not keep doing ministry?

It's a simple question with a simple answer. I will keep making an impact on the world in Jesus'



**Andrew Salokar**

name in the way that He calls me. That's my prayer, God. Show me what you want me to do with my life. I give it to you.

Amen.

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**Date:** 10/30/2006

**Submitted by:** Jamie Hepner

**Journal Entry:**

Hiiiiii,

Well here it goes, my first journal. We have been flat out like a lizard drinkin here in the US of A. Doing lots of programs, leading heaps of worship. It's been great. We had a retreat this weekend. That's like a weekend camp for a couple of churches, about 50 kids. It was really good; the teenagers really got into it and were really receptive.

Things have been a little tough with me being homesick. Miss the boys back home and family a lot. But God really has been getting me through. He has been providing for me so much. I set the challenge of lasting a whole month on \$25. But just when i got \$1 left someone would give me some money (like a host family). God really has been providing. We met a woman in the laundromat today when I was doing my laundry, and she just gave us some money to support.

The opportunities for evangelism and ministry are amazing. It's so awesome that when you have a willing heart and let God use you, then he does. (lol funny that) He is so awesome. And though I'm having some really hard times sometimes, there is absolutely only one thing I need to know this year. That all I need is God.

Well, I'm off.

peace out

Jamie



**Jamie Hepner**

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**Date:** 11/3/2006

**Submitted by:** Brice Dieter

**Journal Entry:**

Hey there everyone! I just got back on the road from visiting my home church. (We hopped into East Lakes region for a couple days, hehehe) It was so good to see my church family. We arrived on Wednesday, nice and early, had a great set up/sound check. We played some games with the Southwestern Conference youth, and we got to tell them all about what we were doing. Most of them knew a little bit about it from before I went on team, but it was nice to give the perspective of actually being on team. We then did an XP (experiential worship service), which was So Much Fun. Not only was it for my home church, the building was packed, people really got into it, and we, as a band, were very tight, very solid! The Holy Spirit REALLY came in and filled that sanctuary! It felt so good to share this ministry with the people that I know and love.

I miss them dearly already but it's only six weeks until I get to go back home for Christmas break.

My pastor wants me to start up a Saturday night service when I get back from team. I've been doing a LOT of reading, and praying, and reading, and praying.... It feels like God is really going to work good and strong through me and the other staff that will join together to create this seeker service. I'm so excited. This excitement most surely fuels my energy and excitement for this year's ministry. It's a wonderful cycle. I get ideas during this year, which gets me excited, which in turn gets me to put more into the programs. Ahh, I'm excited!



**Brice Dieter**

Thanks for all your prayers and love

In Him,

Brice

Rom.8:14-17

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**Date:** 11/13/2006

**Submitted by:** Chrissy Salser

**Journal Entry:**

So I was thinking about it this morning and it is already almost halfway through November. Wow. Time seems to be flying. Well, things are going pretty well. Some days seem to get pretty interesting, and others seem like, "I feel like I have done this before." This week was pretty cool. We had a program every night, we met some pretty cool people, we traveled back and forth between Maryland and Pennsylvania, we actually didn't get lost, and we had fun.



**Chrissy Salser**

We have our first Event next weekend, the Pennsylvania Zone, which is pretty cool and stressful at the same time. With this being our first Event, we really don't know what to expect. I am just excited for it. I'm pretty excited to hear Poor Man's Riches, Rahfah, and Aaron Currin. I know it is going to be lots of fun. I remember going to events (not Youth Encounter) when I was in junior high and high school and was like, "I can't wait to work an event like this." And wow, I am less than a week away from helping with an Event. I think it is going to be pretty cool and I can't wait.

So last night, we were supposed to arrive at four. I called the contact at 3:30 and said it looks like we are right on schedule. At 4:15 we're like, it doesn't seem like we are going to be on time. So I called the contact and was like, it doesn't look like we are going to be there anytime soon. We had no idea what exit we were by since we were moving so slow. So I told him I would keep him informed. Well, 5:00 rolls around and we still don't seem to be moving much and we are like, are we ever going to make it? Well, we finally got through the construction and at 5:30 we arrived at the church. We unloaded in 15 minutes (which it normally takes from 30-45 minutes), and set up in like 40 minutes. We did a concert and it was pretty cool. I was very excited following it because I felt I finally mastered MediaShout and I feel very comfortable with sound. I was very happy with the sound last night which since I am so new at it, I have trouble sometimes but it has been getting a lot better lately.

I think that is all for now. Things are going well, and I am pumped for the rest of this month. GOD IS AWESOME!!!!

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**Date:** 11/13/2006

**Submitted by:** Jamie Hepner

**Journal Entry:**

Hi everyone.

Well, we have been soooo busy. Even more busy than my last entry. But that's good. Been really stretched. But I have found that when I have absolutely nothing left, God has been working so much more; he carries me. I love it. We have had a variety of programs with the majority of them being XP worship (experiential worship). It is a more intense form of worship which is almost concert based. Very powerful. But have also had a few concerts (just music) and chapel (school services); they are both also fun. We have our first Event this weekend, which is a huge gathering for high school students from



**Jamie Hepner**

all over this particular state (Pennsylvania). It is exciting. It's on a very big scale, and there will be hundreds of people there. Can't wait.

Have been experiencing a fair bit of homesickness.... miss everyone back home. But that is a part of it. My birthday is in a couple weeks; that will be hard without friends and family. But I will be ok.

Well, thanks for reading.

Bye bye

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**Date:** 1/23/2007

**Submitted by:** Chrissy Salser

**Journal Entry:**

**God is such an awesome God.** So much has happened since hitting the road. There have been so many firsts for me. Right after we hit the road, our first XP back, I gave the sharing. And like, I didn't have much time to prepare myself. Which normally would make me go crazy, but God kept me calm and said, "You can do this," and for only being my second full sharing since I hit the road, I think I did good. And then the next weekend was an even bigger first for me--I was at my very first Quake ever in my life, and man, there were over six hundred kids there, and they were really rocking. God opened my eyes. I was so nervous going into because I was doing so many things I have never done and God's like, "I got it, everything will be okay." And on that Saturday, I led my very first Trek (a breakout session) with Koral, which was crazy because I'm leading something and I had never even been to a "Trek." But by the end of that day, it felt like we were pros at it, we did three back to back with 60-80 kids in each. Then on Sunday, closing celebration was just about start and Jamie comes to me and says, "Well, you haven't come up on stage, would you like to give the benediction?" I was like, sure, I can do that, (really I'm like, I don't do so well in front of so many people). But I did it. By the end of the celebration, I basically memorized the benediction and right before the last song, I was up on that stage. I was so nervous, I think it was the lights that did it, but by the time I got off that stage, I was shaking. But it was so crazy and amazing. This last weekend, we did our third Event, and things are getting so much easier, and I am slowly getting more comfortable with many things. I think one of my favorite parts of the Quakes is getting to know the youth and hearing that they are learning something and enjoying it. This is it for now. This weekend we have Quake number four, and I am just so excited for these kids that will be coming and enjoying such an awesome experience.



**Chrissy Salser**

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**Date:** 2/7/2007

**Submitted by:** Koral Aakre

**Journal Entry:**

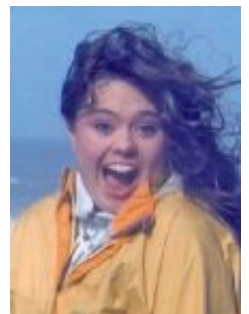
So...long time no talk! It's Taryn and Koral here, hangin' out in Connecticut enjoying the cold weather and snowy days. Here's a recap of what's been going on since we've come back from break:

-We've had five Events in a row: Baltimore Quakes 1 and 2, Harrisburg and New England Quakes, and the first ever Connecticut Zone! All were amazing!! All the late nights and early mornings were totally worth getting to hang out with great people. Captive Free NE has been really blessed with meeting awesome people on the road. It's been cool to meet others who are interested in someday doing Captive Free. Shout out to all of those people! We're prayin' for you guys!

-Us girls tried to give up coffee...but we relapsed. Bad. We quickly found out that kicking our caffeine addiction during Event season wasn't paving the most successful path. So, we'll try again during VBS!

-As a team, we got to go go-kart racing and laser tagging last week. It was just really fun to kick back and have a blast as a team. Though Brice and Jamie collectively schooled us all at laser tag, the girls [and Andrew] were good sports. Koral didn't even cry!

-Last month, CFNE got to go to a food pantry warehouse. We had to be there at nine, which made



**Koral Aakre**

us have to leave at six in the morning from the place we had been the night before. Though we had sleepy eyes and bedhead, getting to stack and organize food with the rest of the volunteers was AMAZING. We really felt good after the three hours we spent there. We sang Bon Jovi and made friends with the other volunteers [Hey Frank!], and we really hope we can go back sometime this year.

Some things that we've really enjoyed at our eEvents and during the past month and a half have been getting to go out to eat and Family Times with youth groups. It's the best way we've gotten to know kids, and we get to really feel connected to them. So, if you're headed any of our Events left, ask us to hang out!

Well, we're going to go eat some mac 'n cheese and throw snow at each other.  
-Koral and Taryn

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**Date:** 2/28/2007

**Submitted by:** Taryn Hoover

**Journal Entry:**

As we've been traveling the northeast, CFNE has realized this: IT'S COLD. Yet today, as we drove to Hampton, VA, we experienced something we thought was long gone...a warm day! We cruised from Washington D.C. to Hampton with the windows down in our t-shirts, enjoying every minute of our drive. It was awesome to say the least.

It's funny to think that the smallest thing such as a warm day was taken so much for granted before we experienced this chilly winter. Maybe I'm overexaggerating because I'm from the warmth of Arizona, but it really made me look at other things that I've taken for granted while being on the road. The gift that I take for granted the most [second to Jesus Christ, mind you!] is something so incredibly simple: a hug from my mom.

Consistently inconsistent is how I can describe my relationship with my mother earlier in my life. My mom and I didn't always see eye to eye between my ages of 13-18 and butted heads more often than not. Needless to say, we didn't hug much. However, though they were few and far between, I find myself thinking about her embrace every day. I get teary-eyed every time I hang up the phone with her, and even sitting here writing this is instigating a few drops on my cheek I know being on team is God's will for me and that makes it easier, but being away has actually made me closer to every member of my family. There are aspects in each relationship that I am more thankful now than I ever was before, and I really can't wait to see my family again in April.

So, as cliché as it is, tell your family you care about them today. And tomorrow. And hey, maybe even every day. Show them the appreciation they deserve!

Other than that, we have the Virginia Beach Zone coming up this weekend and we couldn't be any more excited than we already are. If you're coming this weekend, get ready, because it's going to be AWESOME. We're praying for you guys and can't wait to meet you all.

God bless!



**Taryn Hoover**

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**Date:** 3/21/2007

**Submitted by:** Jamie Hepner

**Journal Entry:**

Wow, so it's been an amazing year so far (2007, that is). We started the year with Events. They are huge weekends at hotels around the country. The first one was in Baltimore. Wow, was that an experience. Nearly 700 people, and we were one of the main bands. Quite an experience, considering I really didn't think I could sing a few years ago. (Some would argue I still can't. Hahahahaha) We recorded our CD in December. That was a great experience. We recorded it "live," which means we recorded all parts together but was in a studio. I'm really quite happy with the way it



**Jamie Hepner**

sounds. We have seen so much of the country and have met so many amazing people. I still feel some homesickness, but I get to see my parents in about a week and a half. Yay. Well, I'm out. See ya.

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