

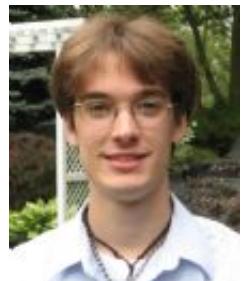
# Watermark 2006-07 Journal

**Date:** 9/16/2006

**Submitted by:** James Brandt

**Journal Entry:**

An 'o' with a slash through it? How in the world do you pronounce that?? Wow, so I'm James and I'm on the Watermark team to Denmark. We just finished our first month of training and are heading out on the road. But at training, one of the many things we had to learn was a bit of Danish. Now for those of us who speak English and studied Latin in High School (OK, so like me), all of the Romance languages (that's Spanish, French, Italian, etc.) aren't too hard to guess at pronunciations. But Danish is totally different! We gathered at rehearsals many times armed with a recording of a song and a basic pronunciation guide and tried to make heads or tails of some of these songs! It was very hard for me (I am not very good at picking up new languages). Regardless of these challenges, we have learned two Danish songs thus far!!



**James Brandt**

Let me back up for a minute and tell you a bit about me. I'm from Yorktown, Virginia, the middle child with two older sisters and one younger sister. Born into a military family, I am very used to moving around. In 2004-2005, I was on a national Youth Encounter team, Captive Free East Lakes. So here I am, on my second year of team ministry--this year, internationally!!

Being an alum has been an interesting experience. For starters, I definitely absorbed more information from our thirty some classes than I did my first year (helps when you know some of it before hand). Our company president, Larry Johnson, teaches this session informally called Circles and Squares. I was very happy to not only just understand it this time, but to understand it well enough to use it in conversations and have it influence my life. For all those who have no idea what I'm talking about, Circles and Squares deals with the idea of a Christian world-view. In developing that world-view, you as a person have to come to grips with the two current world-views that most of society fit into: Spiritual Dualism or Material Dualism. These two views are the "Square" views and hinder a person's ability to live in a "Circle" world, or the Christian world-view. The Square worlds are opposites that either say, "Materials are bad, and things non-material are the only good things (Spiritual Dualism), or Spiritual/non-material things are bad, and having material possessions is the way to go (Material Dualism)." But neither way relates to why God really created the world or how He intended us to treat it. The "Circle" world states that all things are good, and it's how we treat the thing that makes it good. In other words, proper use of something is good, while misuse of it is bad. Pretty neat, huh?

Other stuff is good too! My team is awesome--we communicate well together, have fun together, and work well together! I'm so excited to see what this year brings!

We had a GREAT first booking out on the road at Rally Day (September 9). We were in Luck, WI at West Denmark Lutheran Church. As you drive up to the church, you are first greeted by this amazingly beautiful building that's nestled in a forest/garden setting with a lake behind it. Talk about amazing, eh? The people there were really great--some even spoke Danish! So, I'm not really big on "trying new things" when it comes to food, but at the potluck, I took a chance and tried this orange soup which turned out to be carrot soup. It was incredible! I'm glad I stepped out of my food comfort zone and gave it a try!! We got to meet a cool group of guys nicknamed the "Backseat Boys" for their musical abilities and preference for the back row! They came up and sang with us on a song and were STELLAR!! Hanging out and playing with them was just great!

Anyways, I pray that you are blessed! Thanks for reading!

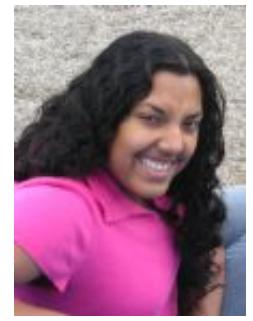
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**Date:** 9/19/2006

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

I AM BACK IN THE HOUSE!!!



Hello everyone,

How was your summer? For me, the break went quickly and now I am back on team. We (Watermark) have finished training for the first part and have traveled for a week now. Yeah. Yesterday, we had a day off in Chicago. Amazing. Gary and I hung out there for eight hours and saw so much more. We went to the Art Institute and walked around for four hours. That was so cool to see history and art designs. I really loved the mythology part of paintings. I have a really big interest in that.

**Melika Mindemann**

Tuesday, we headed to Fort Wayne, IN. Before we arrived, we picked up Jim, our on the road trainer, at the airport. It was nice to have another YE staff with us especially when we hung out with them for awhile. When Jim got in the van with us, it felt as if he never left. He is such a hoot. We arrived in Fort Wayne and went out with host homes. Danny, James, Bethany, and I went to Applebee's with our host homes. That was really cool to hang out, relax with housing ministry and learn more about Fort Wayne. This place is where Johnny Appleseed is buried. Cool. Besides that we are enjoying everything, especially on the road sessions with Jim. Thanks, Jim, for everything. May God bless you all and have a wonderful day. Peace out and take luck.

Melika

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**Date:** 9/29/2006

**Submitted by:** Bethany Paul

**Journal Entry:**



Well, it happened.

Hi, by the way! This is Bethany, and I'm REALLY excited to be writing a journal today. Team is AWESOME, and God is really doing some amazing things through us. Only recently have we experienced a massive hurdle--our van broke down. Yes, the vehicle that is our home for the next YEAR has broken. It was pretty funny, actually. We put the van into drive, and drove what was probably fifty feet over to the McDonald's to pick up Gary, who was on the phone. (At this time, we were two hours away from both our previous and upcoming booking.) Once Gary got in the car, Danny tried to put the van into drive...and the shifter stick wouldn't move.

**Bethany Paul**

Danny's face was just priceless. Imagine, having seven people in a van in the middle of Pennsylvania, and the gear shifter will NOT BUDGE. Now, my first thought was that people would get frustrated and it would ruin the whole day. But through God's grace, that was NOT the case. After spending some time trying to fix it ourselves, we eventually called AAA and had someone show us how to drive it. I am happy to say that while we were waiting, we had a BLAST!! Team members paired up to spend some time with one another, and within a few hours, we were happily back on the road.

To further the story, we found a mechanic who fixed the van quickly and cheaply. Hahaha, and to our surprise, about halfway through our trip to Scranton, the van broke AGAIN. But do you think we were let down or discouraged? No way. After some prayer, we temporarily fixed the van, laughed a whole bunch, and got back on the road.

It's really amazing to me how strongly the Spirit is here with us, protecting us. When things happen--like our home/transportation breaking--I'm very happy to say that our first inclination is to turn to God and pray. And you know what? It TOTALLY WORKS. Our spirits are still high, and God is still working through us.

To use our theme verse: "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to RESCUE us from the PRESENT EVIL AGE...." We, as a team, are still being rescued so that we may go out and let others know about the amazing gift that God gave us.

God's grace to you all!

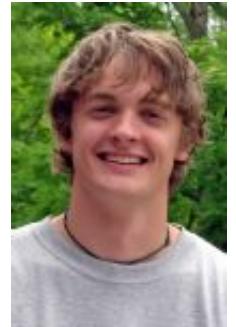
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**Date:** 10/2/2006

**Submitted by:** Danny Bennett

**Journal Entry:**

Hey everyone! Danny here! Just wanted everyone who reads this to know that team is great! And the things that we learn every day are just amazing, whether they are small or big things. I can't even think of where to begin on how things are going. As you might know, our van has "broke down" three times now...due to the same thing. But being the "Vehicle Safety Dude," I had to unhook our gear cable from the trans. And now every time we need to shift into or out of gear, I have to crawl under the van and shift it manually! Pretty fun! But through all of this, things are looking up. Things are looking up because we are holding our heads toward God; only through him can we find patience! Thanks everyone! And God bless you!



**Danny Bennett**

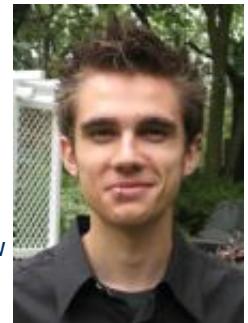
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**Date:** 10/2/2006

**Submitted by:** Nick Maier

**Journal Entry:**

Hej! In case you don't know Danish, that means "Hi," which is about the extent of the team's Danish skills. We are, of course, still doing quite well (aside from "tickling" the van into gear every time we stop) and having a great time in Deer Park, New York. I can't believe we've traveled all the way out here already. There have been so many new places and people that it has seemed much longer than two weeks since we started on the road. So many things to think about!



**Nick Maier**

We just had our very first lock-in AND SURVIVED! The kids were great, and we had tons of fun...not to mention the Banana Cram. And can you believe we have the second place Banana Cram Champion on our team?! Yes, Gary is quite the opponent when it comes to cramming bananas in his face with both hands behind his back. The games, devos, and worship were all quite a hoot in Scranton, PA with all those kids.

And speaking of kids...I have never seen more kids in one place than at our last program. It was really cool to see so many young-uns singing and dancing with so much enthusiasm. I had a lot of fun being able to play with such an energetic group of people. Today, on our day off, some of us went into New York City, and boy, is it big. I was way excited to get to come here because I have never been to New York before. I could spend weeks there and not see all the sights. We all had a nice day of exploring and relaxing, I think. Sarah Jane and I heard cool music in a park and saw a cool break-dance troupe perform.

There has been a lot God has shown me in this short time: how vast His creation is, how abounding His gifts can be, how intricate His people are, and how His love can bring us all together in His glory.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father,

Nick

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**Date:** 10/6/2006

**Submitted by:** Sarah Jane Nordhaugen

**Journal Entry:**

Hello world!!!

Everything is going great on team! From four weeks of training at camp to the first few weeks on the road. What a life changing experience.

We have definitely had our ups and downs in travel issues with the van and such, but other than that life is great. I never would have expected team to be such a learning experience. Every time that we head to a new church or elsewhere to work with a congregation, I learn and grow even more than I could ever imagine.

I never cease to be amazed by how God provides. For example, a few weeks ago I needed a toothbrush and, not kidding, in that very day our team was given eight. Same thing with haircuts; we were blessed with a hairstylist as a host mom.

**Sarah Jane Nordhaugen**



Host families have been awesome...I stayed with one couple who were awesome at Scrabble, which is one of my favorite games, and I even scored second...however, they may have "helped" me a bit. I am looking forward to an excellent year ahead!

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**Date:** 10/10/2006

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

Hello everyone,

It is early for me and we are waiting to have a wonderful breakfast prepared by the men's Bible study group. We are in Severna Park, MD. and heading to NJ today.



**Melika Mindemann**

A lot has happened in the last couple of days. For Tuesday, we arrived here in Severna Park with just housing. For our team, we were able to hang out with each other and have fun one last time before our teammate Gary leaves on Wednesday due to health reasons. We had a blast roaming the church and playing music, having our own personal time, eating lasagna for dinner, and setting up for games for our team outing at the church. We played a card game with chocolate. Gary and I beat everyone out of the game. He won and I came in second after learning from the team. We all had a late night just hanging out with laughs. Earlier that week Nick and I wrote a song for Gary and I sang and played the piano for him and the group. The tune goes to "The One Thing" by Phil Coleman.

"Good-Bye Gary" by Melika and Nick

Your smile fills our day,  
We travel from church to church and play;  
As we lose one from seven to six,  
Ingredients of our recipe just won't mix.

Gary, hold on. Gary, hold on.

Keeping us healthy with fruits and vegetables,  
Our life is encouraged, our death is preventable;  
You feed us more than just physical food,  
Your witty one liners are just as good "Hey dude!"

Gary, hold on. Gary, hold on.

Gary, thanks a bunch,  
We'll miss you very much;  
Relax and don't get too sick,  
With love from Mika and Nick.

Gary, hold on. Gary, hold.

Wednesday...another productive day. We sent Gary to the airport and hung out with him until we

said good-bye. It was sad to see him, but we will see him in December. God bless you, Gary. We came back to the church and put on a chapel for pre-school kids. Later we hung out with the senior high and ate pizza with them, shared testimonies, and sang songs. Shortly after that we hung out with kids and sang more songs, had a puppet show, and went to a worship service. This time we were able to sit and listen and not lead the service. It was nice to enjoy after all that we have been through as a team from van troubles to Gary leaving that morning. God has been there tremendously for us. It has been a praise for us to travel and not get in a wreck, getting our van fixed, and coping with Gary gone. Later that night, I was able to hang out with my former teammate from East Lakes, Dan, last night. It was wonderful to see a familiar face here and chill with a coffee in hand. Also, I had a slumber for the first time after 15 years. That was a big high for me to enjoy with Dan. May God bless you all. Have a fantastic day. Take luck.

Melika

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**Date:** 11/14/2006

**Submitted by:** Danny Bennett

**Journal Entry:**

Hey everyone! So I have a very serious question to ask you all... and I need you to really take it in.... Have you ever had the chance to eat about 7 LBS of food? Well I'm asking you this because I had this beautiful chance to eat that much. So my team and I went out to eat at this little pub place. They gave us the menu to look and while I was looking at the menu I saw in big letters "#2 Coal Miners Meal" and then in itty bitty letters underneath it said, "If you can eat all of it, you can eat for free." So I got very excited. So you know what I did? I said, "BRING IT ON!" They told me that this meal was a huge two-pound burger. And the waitress said that it came with a lot of fries. So when they brought of the meal, my mouth just fell to the floor! This burger was gigantic! And the french fry pile was the biggest pile of fries that I have ever seen in my whole entire life! They said that there was about two pounds of fries on the plate! WOW! But wait! THAT'S NOT ALL! After I had consumed most of this horribly painful meal, they brought out this huge brownie and on top of the brownie was a scoop of ice cream that was even bigger the the brownie itself!

So if I could say some words of wisdom to you all who read this...DO IT WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE... But first make sure that you don't already have high cholesterol. Ok, everyone. I hope that you all had a great time trying to get this image in your head about this insane amount of food! Have fun everyone and God bless you!

~Dan



**Danny Bennett**

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**Date:** 11/17/2006

**Submitted by:** Bethany Paul

**Journal Entry:**

Helloooooo out there!! I hope and pray that all of you are doing well. Sorry it's been a while since you've heard from us!

God has put us on many different adventures of his since our last few journals. And on those adventures, we've had the opportunity to meet SO many different people. It really is a blessing to run into many people's lives, even if only for a short period of time. Someone that really sticks out in my head is a little boy by the name of Nicodemus.



**Bethany Paul**

Nick, who is four years old, is probably one of the most adorable little boys I have ever met. I got the chance to hang out with him almost all day...throwing snow balls, playing in piles of leaves, and just hanging out. During our program, he was standing right up front, shaking his "instrument" that he had made with us earlier in the day. And the entire time, he had a HUGE smile on his face. He was so elated to be hanging out with us.

Sarah Jane, Mika and I then found out that we got to stay with Nicodemus. I kid you not when I say that he literally jumped up and down and ran in place because he was so excited to have us come over. He kept talking about the "Halloween party" that we were going to have.... And sure enough, he had actually planned the whole thing. As we all sat in the living room and talked,

Nick brought out snacks on a tray, showed us his Halloween decorations, and turned out some of the lights. When his dad insisted that he turn them back on, Nick's response was, "No Dad, it has to be SPOOKY!" Duh, Dad!!

After Nick went to bed, his father told us some more about this special child. Not all that long before our arrival, the family was out raking leaves in the yard. An older woman was slowly walking by the driveway, and Nicodemus approached her and started chatting with her. After a good while, Nick's concerned parents joined the conversation. They quickly found out that this woman's husband had died not all that long ago. She felt very alone, afraid, and sad. After Nick's parents invited the woman to church, she looked straight at Nick and said, "Thank you." She smiled, and went on her way.

Nick's parents, although happy that they had gotten the chance to meet this woman, slightly scolded Nick for talking with her. "You know better than to talk to strangers," they said. "Why did you do it?" Nick's response: **"Because my heart told me to."**

This four-year-old boy had listened to the Spirit, which is in his heart. What a beautiful example for all of us to follow. It is my belief that if we all listened to the Spirit as closely as Nick does, this world would be changed for His glory.

God's Peace, my friends!

~Bethany Paul <'(((<

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**Date:** 12/2/2006

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

Hello everyone,

How are you? It is time for another journal with me. Yippie! Thanksgiving went by, and now we are making our way back to Minnesota. Soon we will all be home for the holiday. We are all excited about it.



**Melika Mindemann**

We are heading to Flanagan, IL. for a program tonight. We have not had a full system program for about two weeks. All looking forward to playing our songs and worshiping God. We arrived early to the town, so we decided to stop and get something to eat. From the directions we had, we went down the snowy country road with sheets of ice from miles ahead. Driving along and all of us with lots of energy and excited. Next thing we know it....we hit an icy patch on the road. Bethany got the van under control, but we ended up in a ditch, facing the other direction we were going. There was silence in the van. We were all okay. We got out to see what we could do, but the front wheel was in the snow and the trailer was still on the road. So we tried and tried to get out, but we had no traction on the tires. We had four people come and help us. A good Samaritan came with the name "Smilie" and helped us out. We unhooked the trailer and backed up and pushed and reversed the van and got it out. Nick and I stayed to help and direct traffic. The others went back to the church to get warm and get ready for us. We made it safely to the church over an hour later. Set-up for the program and did a great job. God and his angels protected us. Praise to you, God, for keeping us safe.

Sunday morning rolled around and we had our worship service and Sunday school. We headed to the Salem Boys Ranch. One of our favorite bookings to go to. We arrived and set up for them. We ate lunch with the boys and had great conversations. Brian (contact) showed us around the grounds. You can definitely smell the poop and outdoors. We loved it. We saw where the boys stayed at, played, and the barn. We were able to ride the horses named Buster and Rusty. I got on Buster and trotted with him. He trusted me and didn't take me for granted or test my abilities. I loved that horse. He was beautiful with a smooth coat of brown. I miss the chances I could ride at camps, the beach, or host homes. I wish I took lessons. We were invited to stay for dinner. We had a blast. These kids stole our hearts and we would love to go back.

We headed to Rockford, IL. next. By the time we met up with Captive Free North East, it was after 9 p.m. This day was fantastic. We helped NE clean up and parted to host homes. I stayed with

family friends in that area. It was so cool to see them again. I had the chance to see them for ten minutes last year with East Lakes at the Gulf Coast program.

Our day off. Whohoo. Relaxing and celebrating Jamie's b-day. (NE) We all had fun and had a calm day. Some of the boys went to the Guitar Center and hung out. Bethany and Sarah and the NE girls dyed hair, went shopping, and played with make-up. I had fun watching movies and getting myself ready for the week. Soon it was time to go out to Chili's for Jamie's b-day. All of us together was so cool to do. We had David (SC 05-06) come down and hang out with us too. With all the laughs, team stories, and food, we were happy and ready to retire. Happy Birthday Jamie!!

Tomorrow we head to Bettendorf, IA. Have a fantastic week. God bless and take luck.

Melika has left the building once more.

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**Date:** 12/7/2006

**Submitted by:** James Brandt

**Journal Entry:**

So we were in Bristol, Indiana staying at the youth house of a church for two nights. The first night we had movie time with the youth group (they rock!) watching "Remember the Titans." The second night we were on our own and decided to go get frozen pizzas to cook at the youth house. So, how often does this happen? I was moving pizzas in and out of the oven (since we had multiple pies and the oven could only hold two) when I got a really important phone call from a friend of mine in Arizona. I was holding the phone with my shoulder against my ear, getting a pie out of the oven when she said something that was rather shocking--and I dropped my phone. \*Plunk\* It hit the ground somewhere under the oven. So I closed the oven, put the pie on the table, and hurried back to my phone (since my friend was probably still waiting for my reaction). I looked around the front of the oven--no phone. I searched under the oven--no phone. Suddenly it dawned on me...my phone was IN the oven! AHH! So I whipped the oven open and there it was--right next to a red hot heat pipe! Without even thinking, I dived my hand in and grabbed it. I was so blessed to not have been burned or even melted my phone--it was only warmed--not damaged in any way!!



**James Brandt**

I think my struggles in ministry are the SAME way. There are people with whom I would love to start discussions about faith with, but they seem to be in a "danger zone" like my phone. And it's my constant struggle to just dive in and grab it. Because, like my phone, I've also noticed that what you thought was dangerous won't burn you, nor will the result be damaged!

Praise God!

In His service,

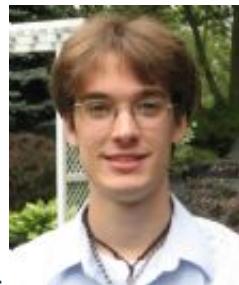
~ James Brandt

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**Date:** 1/15/2007

**Submitted by:** James Brandt  
**Journal Entry:**

On Saturday morning Dan, Melika, and I said goodbye to our host family in Minnesota, loaded the van, and headed out to pick everyone up and head to the Youth Encounter office. It was sad to say goodbye to our host parents Laura and Steven (our two young host brothers were still sleeping). I really enjoyed my time with their family. Our host mother had been on a Watermark team in the past, so I enjoyed hearing stories from her experience. We were all excited, however, because we knew that in four months time we would be back in the same home, sharing our experiences.



**James Brandt**

We regrouped with everyone and set off for the airport. After saying goodbyes to our team director Heather, and the team ministries assistant Amber, we passed through security, boarded our plane and headed to Chicago.

In Chicago, we quickly headed for our gate to insure that we were there early in case anything went wrong. After checking to make sure everything was in order, we set out on a new mission--lunch! We trotted down to the food court area, and all ended up ordering pizzas (well, almost all of us--Bethany had a craving for this messy looking thing called a Chicago Dog--a hot dog pilled with lots of toppings). When we got back to our seats in the waiting area, we saw that Danny, who was guarding our carried on luggage, was in conversation with a man from China. The man, named Paul, was a priest with the Franciscan Order. We had a really good talk over pizzas about the global church and mission field. He was very excited about meeting us and about what we were heading into. He also talked about his own desires to eventually return to his home in China and be able to share the Gospel more openly there.

Boarding calls started, and we said goodbye to Paul, headed for the line, and onto the plane.

After a very long flight from the United States, our team landed in Frankfurt, Germany. I was really excited, not only because we were off the plane, but also because I was back in the city I was born in. My father was stationed in Germany, and so my twin sister and I were born there. However we left Germany when I was very little. I found myself wishing that I could speak the language of my birth country. We passed through security again, and the agent checking my passport must have noticed that "Germany" was listed as my country of birth because he started speaking to me very quickly in German. I felt slightly embarrassed to have tell him that I didn't speak any German. I suppose that is something I can work on for the next time I visit!

After our layover in Germany, we left for Denmark. Having a surface to lean on, being given a window seat this time, I was out in minutes after I boarded. I

slightly awoke to the pilot pulling a slip in the jet! For those who don't fly much, a slip is a maneuver in which you direct the rudder in one direction and the ailerons (the flaps on the wings that move when you move the stick) in the opposite direction. What results is that you almost move sideways in the plane! While this is much more common in smaller aircraft, especially when fighting wind, this is not as common in larger aircraft. The plane was all over the place--we were told there was really bad wind. Thus, I did what many tired people do when faced with a situation that was completely out of my control--I went back to sleep.

About fifteen minutes later, I woke up, grabbed my carry-on luggage, and left the plane. The Kobenhavn (Copenhagen) airport is just architecturally beautiful! Frank Lloyd Wright would be jealous of how elegant the airport is laid out in a manner that shows that you can design a space that is just for "functioning" that is also beautifully formed.

Our team gathered our luggage, and after spending all of two minutes (if that) passing through customs, walked through the double doors that lead out to the public area of the airport. Poul, the music secretary at Indre Mission, was waiting there with a really large grin. He led us to his van, and after a few attempts at packing everything inside, we loaded ourselves inside and were off. In two hours time, we would be at Poul's house on Jutland having lunch and then off to the Bible School where we were sleeping.

However, this was not what happened. The wind that made our landing so interesting also closed the only bridge that leads off the island Copenhagen is on. At first, it was only going to be closed for two hours. After consulting his phone book, Poul announced he had a colleague in the village next to the bridge, and we could go over to his house for coffee and some rest. So we were off to our first host home in Denmark! While we were still breaking bread together, Poul received a call from his wife that the bridge was going to be closed for another four hours--until 18:00! Our hosts were amazing blessings to us by inviting us to stay--and not only just stay, but told us to try and get a nap in (since some of us were yawning). After a very refreshing nap, we joined them in dinner.

Even though our hosts didn't speak English, they were very excited to host us and get to know us a little. Their hospitality reminded me of how parts the body of Christ can so supportive and nurturing to other parts. We were tired, hungry, and in need of some relaxing time and these were all provided. I have been a little worried about this year because we have been told repetitively that we will be crazy busy! I found comfort in this meeting--I felt like I was being told not to worry, but to focus on what I'm here for--the ministry. The unification that we have as Christians is just incredible. I am always amazed at the universality of the church. So many different people, speaking many different languages, but all praising God with their lives and actions!

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**Date:** 1/17/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

**In Danish:**

Hej Enhver,

Hvordan har du det? i dag, onsdag, anden optagelsesdag. Lang, lang, lang, lang. En gang-gå videre hurtig er tak til Martin og Christian. Jeg ver i stand til at lære nye melodier og teknikker på keyboard sejt. Fortsæt venligst med at holde os i dine bønner. Hav en god dag. Gud velsigne dig og tage held.



**Melika Mindemann**

**In English:**

Hi everyone,

How are you? Today is Wednesday, another recording day. Long, long, long, long. The time goes by quickly, thanks to Martin and Christian. I was able to learn new tunes and techniques on the keyboard. Cool. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. Have a great day. God bless and take luck.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 1/18/2007

**Submitted by:** Danny Bennett

**Journal Entry:**

It's amazing how God puts things and people into your life at unexpected times. You could be walking around talking with a friend and then BAM!!! Guess who puts someone in your life? God!

We are now in Denmark, and I have already seen the works of God in my life. It was Wednesday night and it was getting kind of late. (...for me.. which is 9:30-10), so I was just heading off to bed. But as I was heading off to bed, I passed by this man and he said hello and I said the same. Then he proceeded to ask me how everything is going at the boarding school. Then after that short conversation, he asked me to join him and his friend to sit and talk. So I agreed... We walked out of the dorm room area and then back to the main building and to the top of it. He took me into this room with a couple of tables, dim lights and a candle. Then he asked me how Jesus is and how our church is in America, so I told him my opinion. Then the man's friend that was sitting on my other side (of the table) was telling me how he doesn't know how to get the strength as Jesus had. Then I just told him.... "Pray about it. If you ask you will receive." He just paused and then he said, "Wow!" Thank you... And that was it on the topic...



**Danny Bennett**

But the moral is, God will put people or things into your life even if you are about to go to bed or ready to fall asleep. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

So that is the story. Now act on it. Take 1-2 minutes of your time now and grab the person next to you (if there is someone with you) and pray with them. Ask God for things, give him thanks and praise. I just pray that you all will see the unexpected blessings from God when they happen! God bless you all!

**Date:** 1/21/2007

**Submitted by:** Nick Maier

**Journal Entry:**

Boy, it has been a busy week for us. Lots of orientation, culture and etiquette lessons (usually when we do something wrong), recording, and performing. There have been many long nights-- like at Cafe Genesis where we played two sets and stayed until 2:30 in the morning, or at the studio when I stayed up with Martin (our humble studio man) until 6:30 in the morning and slept on the studio floor underneath the mixer. So as you can tell I've been having a lot of fun, especially getting to know the students at the Bible school we're staying at (although they haven't seen us too much since we're running around everywhere).



**Nick Maier**

I would like to share with you some thoughts I had while on our way to Denmark (oh yeah, that was a long night/day for us as well, considering we lost about seven hours of the night when we would normally be sleeping). To pass the time in the plane, I did a lot of reading as the TV monitors for watching movies were broken. I read a story about an author's childhood memory. He was maybe seven or eight years old and was visiting a horse ranch in the southwest. One morning, he was so excited to ride the horses and couldn't even wait for the trainers to come out, and he took off on one of the horses. He rode for quite some time until he didn't recognize the scenery around him. He didn't know the way back to the ranch and had no idea where he was or which direction to go. So he just stopped. Although quite worried, he let go of the reins and waited. The horse stood for a few moments and ate the grass around it. After a few minutes the horse started moving again in a different direction. Again, it stopped and ate some grass until it started walking again. The author remembers the temptation to grab hold of the reins and take off again but knew this would cause more trouble. This continued for a long time but the horse would walk further and faster each time until finally they were back to a familiar setting and were able to return to the ranch.

The boy was lost and knew he couldn't find his way home. He wanted to take control and ride quickly in one direction or another. But he didn't. He stopped and waited. He waited for the horse to move because the horse surely knew the way to go. But the boy needed patience. He needed to trust that the horse would eventually return them to the ranch. This is the same feeling I had on my way to Denmark. As we were packing the day before and rushing into the airport and through security, there were so many things to think about. There were so many things ahead of us that we could worry about. But when I got on the plane, time stopped. We had all day and night to do nothing, to sit and wait. I was anxious to get there and do our ministry, but we weren't there yet and we had a long time to wait. It was then I was at peace. I knew God was already ahead of us, waiting for us to let go of the reigns and let Him carry us. It is now so important, as it always is, to yield to God's will and not our own. As long as we're doing his work, we need not worry about where we are going or when we'll get there. I am very content to be here right now and excited for what the future will bring because the Holy Spirit knows the way Home and will lead us in a way we do not know yet but must trust with our whole heart. Amen.

Herren velsigne dig (Lord bless you),

Nick

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**Date:** 1/24/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

**In Danish:**

Hej Alle Sammen,

Endnu en ondag med mig. Jeg er lykkelig for at vi er i min tidligere teammate Jonathan's hjemby. (Herning) Det har været en truel dag og det har været det hele værd. Det var flot at se på sne om morgen igen. Gud skabte et smukt land. Vi stod for Morgensang.



**Melika Mindemann**

Desværre var Danny lidt sløj, så Nick ændrede lige set-listen hurtigt og jeg spillede djembe vi

klarede det godt især med at sætte nyt musik sammen i sidste øjeblik. Godt klaret Watermark.

Så delte vi os op i smågrupper sammen med eleverne vi så et nyt par få vand med vandslanger. En dansk tradition for at smide alle hye par i åen. Vi var ikke i nærheden af en å. Danskere er sjove. Vi skulle til at tage afsted do Jonathan's fætter Olav kom len til mig og introducenre sig slev. Det fik mig til at tænke på, hvordan youth encounter verdenen har mange forbindelsen f.eks. Danmark. Indtil nu har jeg mødt mange tolk, som kender andre, jeg måske kender her. Det får mig til at føle mig godt tilpås.

Senere på aftenen havde vi en koncert på Mølstrup optagelseshjem. Det var sjovert på at skifte fra elektrisk til akustisk set-up. Exter vores koncerter vil jeg hange ud med Jonathan indtil vi tager afsted på Søndag. Jeg glader mig til at møde hans familie i morgen. Endelig!!!

### In English:

Hi everyone,

Another Wednesday with me. I am happy that Watermark is in my former teammate Jonathan's town. (Herning, DK) It has been a busy day and well worth it. It was beautiful to look out at the snow in the morning again. God created a gorgeous land.

We led a chapel and worship concertat the boarding school. Sad thing, Danny wasn't feeling well. Nick changed the set list quickly, and I picked up the djembe (hand drum). We did a great job, especially putting music together at the last minute. Great job, Watermark. Then we all split up for question and answer session with the students. We were able to see a new couple get soaked with a hose outside. It is a Danish tradition for any new couple to be thrown into a lake. We were not near a lake so a hose worked instead. Danes are big jokesters. We were about to leave, and Jonathan's cousin Olav came up and introduced himself to me. It made me think about how the Youth Encounter world has many connections like Denmark. So far I've met many people who know others I may know here in Denmark.

Later tonight we had a concert at a rehab place for alcoholics. It was nice to switch up electric to acoustic set-up. I really enjoyed it. After our concerts, I will try to hang out with Jonathan until we leave Sunday. I am looking forward to meeting his family tomorrow. Finally!! Have a great day. God bless you and take luck.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 1/29/2007

**Submitted by:** Bethany Paul

**Journal Entry:**

Hi!

You know, when we first got here to Denmark, we heard a lot about how much we were needed in this country. I listened, but I don't think I truly understood the impact of our ministry here.

This past weekend, we went to a "teen camp." Our day was filled with hanging out with the kids there, running a workshop...but the biggest part of our day was the concert we did in the evening. I can't even begin to explain to you all how much the Spirit filled the room that night. I saw kids--kids who were "too cool for Jesus"--leaning forward in their seats, anxiously waiting for what we were going to say or sing about next.

One girl in particular was a huge inspiration to me. She is about 16 or 17 years old, and during the entire concert, not only did she sing along, but she stood on her own, raised her hand in the air...it was beautiful to see. So many of her peers don't believe in Christ, and yet she had no problem praising our Lord. I pray that all of us are that bold about proclaiming His good news.



**Bethany Paul**

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**Date:** 1/31/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

In Danish:

Hej Alle sammen,

Endnu en onsdag er gået. I dag var en af vores travleste dage. Vi havde tre koncerter fra tidlig morgen til sen aften. Det var en stille morgen og vi talte ikke meget i forhold til hvad vi plejer. Ved vores første morgen koncert, var der tres konfirmander. Det gik **Melika Mindemann** rigtig godt af en morgen-koncert at være.



Frikvarter og tid til en lur.

Vores anden koncert i København var med 10 konfirmander. Det var dejligt ikke at skulle sætte alt det elektriske udsyr op. Stakkels Danny, hans hænder var ved at galde af fordi han havde spillet så maget på en djembe (hånd tromme). Sammenlignet med vores morgen koncert, havde vi meget mere energi at give til konfirmanderne.

En koncert tilbage. Jeg var spændt på at spille i Maria Henriksens (CFNC 06-07) kirke. Kirkens folk er meget hjælpsomme og gav milde. Jeg var træt indtil folk begyndte at dukke op. Efter vores koncert lærte vi en ny sang: "Jeg kører i min lille bil". Bagefter viste vi dem "Dum-dum-dadda-dadda" sangen. Det var sjovt at bytte frollede sange.

Vi nåede det hele. I vores tid i København. Nu er vi klar til vores næste uge på Fyn, DK. Må Gud velsigne jer, og pas godt på jer selv. Hav en god februar.

In English:

Hi everyone,

Another Wednesday has flown by. Today was one of our busiest days. We had three concerts from the crack of dawn until evening. It was an early morning, slow, and not talkative compared to our unusual selves. Our first morning concert had begun with 60 confirmation students. We were great from an early concert.

Break and nap time.

Our second concert was with ten confirmation kids. It was nice not to set up the electric system. Poor Danny, his hands were about to fall off because he played the djembe (hand drum). We left quickly to our last concert. Compared to our first concert, we had more energy at this one.

One more concert left. I am excited to play at Maria Henriksen's (CFNC 06-07) church. The church is very supportive and generous. I was getting tired until the people showed up that night. After our concert, we were taught a new sing along: "Jeg kører I min lille bil". We showed them the "Dum-dum-dadda-dadda" song. That was fun to exchange a couple of silly songs.

We all made it! Now we are ready to go next week to Fyn, DK. May God bless you and take luck. Have a happy February.

In Christ,  
Melika

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**Date:** 2/1/2007

**Submitted by:** Danny Bennett

**Journal Entry:**

So I don't have too much to say, but I will say it. So far we have been playing music every day and about 2-3 times each day. But it is so rewarding. When we play in front of some people, they just look at us and DO NOT MOVE!!! Kind of strange right away, but it's like riding a bike; you get used to it after awhile. In the States, I didn't have to worry about language barriers often or even at all. But here in Denmark, we have to live with it every day; kind of fun and kind of not. When I talk to people here, I can really get an understanding of how the whole culture is. It may sometimes seem like they grew up on a different planet. And if you can't deal with it, it can really break you down as a person. So that's why it is so important to give it up to Jesus. Okay, that's all I had to say... I kind of jump all around, but it's ALL GOOD! God bless you!

-Dan



**Danny Bennett**

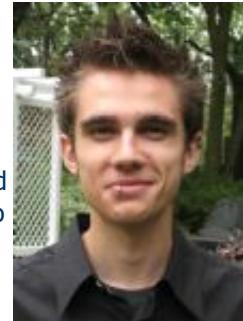
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**Date:** 2/1/2007

**Submitted by:** Nick Maier

**Journal Entry:**

Do you ever feel like you're not alone in the world? That is the feeling I have been experiencing the past few days. Our team went to a men's home in a small village called Timring. When we first arrived, we waited to be seated at dinner while the men came to the cafeteria. We had our own table, and I felt we might seem a little out of place with all these older rugged men around us. After the meal, we played part of a song to a few chuckles and some applause. Maybe a few people would come to see us play. By the middle of our performance, the staff had to stand in the back because there weren't any seats left! There were only about twenty-five seats set up, but the men there were singing and clapping and I saw a few closing their eyes (out of concentration, not boredom). A group of Americans can travel across the world and play for a handful of Danish men that may not even speak English in a small town and still find good fellowship and Christian brotherhood.



**Nick Maier**

My feelings were even more solidified when we came to Copenhagen (where we are now) to play at the International Christian Center in a building called Bethesda. There were probably the same number of people as at the men's home but only four or five Danes; people from Spain, Mexico, Latvia, China, South America and who knows where else. There were so many languages and so many cultures, but we were all there wanting to know more about each one and have Christian fellowship. I said a few words I remembered from high school Spanish class to an old man from Spain and had a long conversation about travelling with a woman from China. "Herren velsigne dig," (The Lord bless you) we said as we left. Who knows if they understood? But we were able to laugh when we did sing-alongs or the puppet show and were able to sing a few words or a melody together. It was a true testimony to Christian solidarity. And a faith that can transcend language and culture.

In John 5, Jesus is at the healing pool and it was named Bethesda, like the building we played in. They have a beautiful reproduction in the lobby of a painting of this scene. Jesus is bending down asking, "Do you want to be made well?" and the old man lying on his mat who had been sick for thirty-eight years is startled at these words and his face is illuminated by Jesus' radiance. Jesus is the one who comes down to us and asks if we want to be made well. At the pool at Bethesda, many sick people from far off places gathered to be healed and Jesus came to them. In the center of Copenhagen, people from far off places gathered to be healed--they gathered to rest, to find refuge with other Christians and "aliens" to this country and to this world--and Jesus came to them. It was a true testimony to Christian solidarity. Amen.

In peace,

--Nick Maier

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**Date:** 2/1/2007

**Submitted by:** Sarah Jane Nordhaugen

**Journal Entry:**

From the moment we landed in Europe, I felt a comfort I haven't experienced in some time. Stepping off the plane in Copenhagen allowed me to breathe a new air, different from any I have ever felt in my lungs before. I knew coming overseas that as a team we would experience many changes and we would be extremely busy, but I was so excited for that.

Now that we have been here in Denmark for a couple of weeks, I still have this same new sensation. Ministry here has been uniting for our team and spiritually uplifting for myself. We have already played near 20 concerts and met probably one thousand people or more. I feel so blessed to have this opportunity and pray that all the other international teams experience something similar.



**Sarah Jane Nordhaugen**

This morning I woke up earlier than everyone else on the team, which is not uncommon seeing as I am the morning person of the six of us. We are all staying together with Maria's family (from North Central) in their lovely home outside of Copenhagen. I was well rested and decided to take a walk. They live not far from the seaside where in the distance you can see Sweden...so COOL! I was walking a few kilometers around this small body of water watching hundreds of ducks catch their breakfast. All of a sudden from behind the weeds, I saw the most beautiful swan. On the whole body of water, it was the only swan that I could see. It was so graceful, and it was obvious that everyone else walking the trails noticed this same beautiful swan.

God has blessed me with an opportunity not so different from living like that swan. It is great to be living as an example with so many watching you because for some reason you stand out from the rest. But it is difficult as well. I am a big white swan that stands out in everything I do. Please pray for all of us in this ministry that we remain strong examples every day.

Peace and Joy,

Sarah Jane

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**Date:** 2/1/2007

**Submitted by:** Bethany Paul

**Journal Entry:**

Amazing what the power of music can do.

Yesterday, we had an impromptu concert for a slightly younger crowd. Here in Denmark, most of our ministry is geared towards teenagers and young adults...but last night, we did a one hour "concert" for kids ages 10-14. The entire concert had to be translated, and I know that most of them did not understand much of what we were singing.



**Bethany Paul**

The most amazing part, however, was right after our concert. Through the translator, some of the giggly girls announced that they wanted to teach US a Danish song with actions. The song was about some kind of small car that only had three doors and didn't go very far...something like that. It was so amazing! Even through the language barrier, we were smiling and laughing. Well, really, the kids were laughing at us. Hahaha...they finally had a chance to turn the tables, I guess.

I really enjoyed the fellowship last night. A strong language barrier is not something we really experience very often...most Danes we speak with have at least some English under their belts. Yet, after our concert, God still used us to be examples of His love. He is good!

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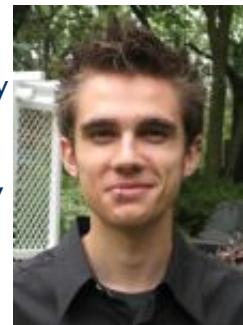
**Date:** 2/2/2007

**Submitted by:** Nick Maier

**Journal Entry:**

On our day off this week the Henriksens (Maria's family from North Central) brought us to Roskilde to see the Roskilde Cathedral, where we came face to face with Danish

history. The first thing we saw when coming up the steps was Frederick IX's sarcophagus outside of the church. Entering through the back of the sanctuary, I was taken aback by the beautiful architecture and huge altarpiece. It stands probably twenty feet high and its two wings spread just as far with amazing wooden reliefs depicting Jesus and other Biblical stories. Just behind is the sarcophagus of Margrete I, who was queen until 1412. My highlight, however, was seeing Harold Bluetooth (Harald Blåtand), a united Denmark's first king and son of Gorm the Old. I've been waiting a long time to finally meet a real Viking, but I found out that he didn't actually have a bluetooth (I wasn't able to see for myself, though). "Blå" and "tand" probably meant "the dark-skinned great one." He conquered much of Scandinavia and was, I think, Denmark's first Christian king (kind of weird for a Viking). But I was glad to meet him along with all of the other Danish royalty. There is so much history in this country that I can't wait to learn more about. A break from our crazy schedule was nice, but I am excited for this next week of ministry because the last three have been so great.



**Nick Maier**

God's peace,

Nick Maier

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**Date:** 2/7/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

In Danish:

Hej Alle Sammen,

I dag er det onsdag. En dag ti afslapning. Jeg er ophidset og nervøs rejse at Nyborg Statsfængsel. Jeg besøge ikke det fængsel. Hvor jeg tænke om det fængsel minde mig om film en.



**Melika Mindemann**

Høre jeg er hændelse. Vi skulle vise vores adgangstegn ot lade ved port. En stor fængsel der være 300 folk i en fængsel. Aflade et ekvipering med sikkerhedspoliti vagt på de side.

Jeg var vores først koncert for mand hvem være engageret med medicin. Du var mand. Den gå godt.

Vi er anden koncert være kort. Vi eneste af snyde tre mand.

Ved vores tredje koncert, da alle mændene gik ind, blev jeg virkelig nervøs igen. Der var 25 mænd til konerten. Det var ubehageligt at have så mange mænd til at stirrer på os. Efter vi var færdige følte jeg mig snavset og væmmes det. Jeg ønskede at gemme mig væk.

Det var en god erfaring at få, men ubehagelig. I må meget gerne bede for mændene og dem som arbejder der. Må Gud velsigne jer, og pas godt på jer selv.

In English:

Hello everyone,

It is Wednesday today. A sort of a relaxing day. I am excited and nervous to go to Nyborg Statsfængsel (Nyborg State Prison). I have never visited a jail before. When I think of a jail, it reminds me of the movies or the historical ones.

Here we go in. We had to show our passports and drop them at the gate. The jail looked big from the outside. There are 300 prisoners and 100 guards inside. WOW! We unloaded our equipment with our own security guard by our side.

We had our first concert for men who were involved with drugs, etc. It went well.

Our second concert was short with only three men there. With only three men, we were able to talk with them afterwards. That was nice to experience. They weren't afraid to talk to us or tell us their life stories. By that time, my nerves finally went away.

When all the men walked in for our third concert, I got nervous again. We had 25 men there for our last concert. Bethany and I were freaking out. When we had the maximum amount of men there staring at us, we felt uncomfortable. I wanted to hide.

This was a great experience to share the ministry, but uncomfortable at the same time. Please pray for those men and the staff there. May God bless you all. Take luck.

In Christ,  
Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 2/8/2007

**Submitted by:** Sarah Jane Nordhaugen

**Journal Entry:**

We have traveled Denmark for one month now. One whole month and we have three left to go...how exciting!

We are traveling an island of Denmark, Bornholm, just southwest of Sweden. The journey here had us riding on a ferry on the Baltic Sea. It was quite relaxing.



**Sarah Jane Nordhaugen**

Bornholm is an exceptional place. It is different from anywhere I have ever been before in my life. Only about 40,000 people live on the island, and within two hours, you can more than circle around the entire mass of land. It is surrounded by rocky white sand beaches.

We played a program at a teen camp where there were about 60 teenagers. Nick had asked me to do the sharing, and to be quite honest, I had no idea what to say. I have been fighting a cold, and so my mind has been like a balloon floating above my body for the past few days. I was completely uninspired, but I knew that these teens needed to hear something special. The morning of the concert, I woke up and walked along the beach where I found my mind actually became grounded along the shore. I was inspired to share a very personal story with the teens. I prayed that God would give me the words to share. I shared with them an SOS story of my life. A calling that I had for God to Save My Soul. It was really great. It was one of those moments where I stopped talking, and I couldn't even really tell you what I said, but I know that God was using me...through my sickness...through all distractions...PRAISE BE TO GOD!

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**Date:** 2/11/2007

**Submitted by:** Danny Bennett

**Journal Entry:**

Hey everyone!

So once again I am sitting in front of a computer typing another journal. This will be short. FUN!!! It is still very amazing how God can show you things through people. I met a teenaged boy that had a solid heart for Christ! He was telling me a lot of things with his faith and how he knows how God wants him to be an evangelist! He knew with his whole heart that God wanted him to go to people and tell about Jesus through his life and testimony! I like to use him as an example. We as Christians should keep our hearts and minds focused on things above us and listen to what God has to say. It is not easy, but it is easy to



**Danny Bennett**

get caught up in the things here on earth. I know from first hand experience. This way, God can strengthen you in your faith and your daily things as well. But this is all I needed to say; keep praying, loving, sharing, caring for one another. God's blessings on you all!

-Dan

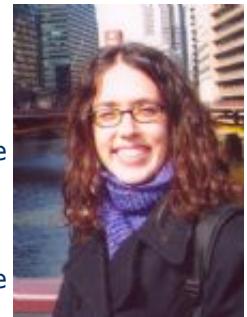
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**Date:** 2/12/2007

**Submitted by:** Bethany Paul

**Journal Entry:**

Wow. What an amazing week!!! This past Monday was my birthday (thanks to everyone for the great wishes!)...what a cool thing to experience in another country. My team came together and got me a really nice gift, which about made me cry. It's so nice to have friends like them. The evening before, our host family, the Henriksens, set out a beautiful table filled with both Danish and American flags, and two AMAZING homemade Danish layer cakes. It was a great celebration, which included a good four or five Danish birthday songs. It is definitely something I will always remember.



**Bethany Paul**

On my actual birthday, we drove to the island of Fyn (say it like someone is punching you in the stomach), where we met our contact Rune. What an amazing person! He truly shines for Christ in a place that has very, very few believers. He had made a pretty intense schedule for our week there...but I'm getting ahead of myself. When I arrived on my birthday, I was surprised to see a past contact, Susanne. Both she and Rune gave me gifts, which still makes me smile to think about. Rune even made me a cake! It's so great to have Christian brothers and sisters here to make me feel so much at home.

So anyway, this past week was extremely busy. I could write about so much...our first time in a prison, a concert for 100 confirmants...but instead, I'll write about our weekend. We got to go to a "teen camp" with the theme of "Holy-wood." Get it? HOLY-wood, like, HOLLY-wood? Hahaha. It was so great. All of the adults and team members made grand entrances...make sure you check out the pictures, because they're great. Watermark did two concerts that evening, one as a program and one as a worship session. It was so nice to be at a camp with believers, because we were able to dive a little deeper into our own Christian faiths.

The next day was filled with fellowship and workshops, all based around the idea of "masks." The teens even made masks of their own faces, and smashed them later that evening to symbolize getting rid of the multiple faces we wear. I think my favorite part of the weekend was the big gala dinner. Everyone got really dressed up--formal dresses and all. The tables were set beautifully, napkins folded on the plates, a menu in French. There was even a paparazzi group walking around taking photos. Rune's table broke out into song every once in a while with songs from our program. It was just such a special time.

At the end of the dinner, we had to leave to come back to Børkop, our home base, for a few days off. So before we left, we sang "Herren Velsigne Dig," which is the traditional church blessing. (May the Lord bless you and keep you....) I cried, along with a few of the teens. We just really felt the Spirit with us for the entire weekend, and it was beautiful. As the van was pulling out, the teens called out to us, "We'll see you in heaven!" Beautiful children of God.

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**Date:** 2/15/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

In Danish:

Hej Alle Sammen,

I dag er det onsdag. Vi havde tre koncerter i dag. Den første koncert, var på en skole. Det var hårdt at få studenterne til at deltage især når Bethany ikke var der. Vi



gjorde det.

Melika Mindemann

Vores anden kocert var med konfirmander. De var meget indblandet me os. Sarah Jane og jeg snakkede med deres præst senere og vi var lykkelige over at konfirmanderne at lært sandheden om Jesus Kristus fra en troende. Ikke alle præster er troende her. Jeg har det underligt med at gå kirke hvor præsten ikke er troende. Det er trist at se. Efter at vi forlod kirken forstod Sarah Jane og jeg at uden troende præster har Gud, Jesus, bibelen og sandheden ikke lige så stor betydning for at konfirmanderne kan lære sandheden at kende.

Den tredje koncert var endelig her. Jeg for "Gud er God" for først gang. Jeg rodede rundt idet mange gange menneskene grinede ad mid. Tak for den støtte jeg tik fra deres kirke. De tik mig til ah føle mig meget bedre. Den var vores dag.

Må Gud velsigne jer, og pas godt på jer selv.

In English:

Hey everyone,

Happy Valentine's Day. We had three concerts today. The first was at a school. It was hard to get the students involved, especially with Bethany not there to lead them. She took a mental health day. We made it through our first concert without her.

Our second concert was for a confirmation class. They were outgoing and very involved with us. Talking to the pastor afterwards, Sarah Jane and I were happy that the confirmants were learning the truth about Jesus Christ from a believer. Not all pastors here are believers. I have felt weird going into churches where the pastor doesn't believe what he preaches. It is sad to see. After leaving a church with a pastor who is a non-believer, we see how much the confirmants don't know the real meaning of God, Jesus Christ, the Bible, and the truth of being a Christian.

The third concert was finally here. I led "Gud er God" for the first time. I messed up many times, and the people in the church laughed at me. Thanks to the support I got from them, they made me feel much better. That was our busy day.

May God bless you, and take luck.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 2/17/2007

**Submitted by:** Nick Maier

**Journal Entry:**

So we have finally seen our first hill in Denmark! When they say it's flat here, *they mean it's flat*. In the cities, there are more bikes than cars on the road; when you never have to worry about pedaling, why wouldn't you ride a bike? But in Bornholm, there is actually use for a relief map. We arrived to the island after a very early morning with a ferry ride and met with Jesper, our new youth contact. This place is very beautiful. The ocean is a brilliantly clean-looking color of green, almost like the tidal wave of Listerine in the TV commercials. They are very proud of their rocks here, as well. We've been told it's the only place in Denmark with these kind of rocks, and so far, I believe it. One afternoon, we got to see the remains of the Hammershus castle, the oldest castle in northern Europe. That was just amazing, sitting atop cliffs that look over the forested island and the sea. Could the ruins be more beautiful than the original structure? All the history in Denmark makes your mind wander and your imagination take off. If you ever want to be awestruck by God's creation, come to Bornholm.



Nick Maier

We were so lucky this weekend to be right on the beautiful beach (but I suppose most of the island is a beach since it's not very big); the white-grey sand and mouthwash-green water is so serene. We just got back from another amazing teen camp. It has been the biggest one yet with eighty

some kids (give or take a few). There was a lot going on and it was a bit tiring, especially when the table that can squeal the loudest gets to eat first. But we had a really nice concert and worship session with everyone. We got to see many of the same people throughout the week since this is such a small island, which is so nice when doing this kind of ministry. It's often disappointing to try and plant a seed and not see how it may grow. We are only with kids for an hour or two and don't know if we're making a difference, but when we can see kids for longer, we can really get to know them and it gives us a lot of encouragement. I think we all enjoy the teen camps very much because we can have longer relationships with people, and this weekend was definitely one of those times we could see the Holy Spirit working. Although it was a tiring week, a day off and some reflection gives me the determination to keep on going strong. I look forward to our week in northern Jutland.

Grace and peace to you in Christ,  
Nick Maier

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**Date:** 2/21/2007

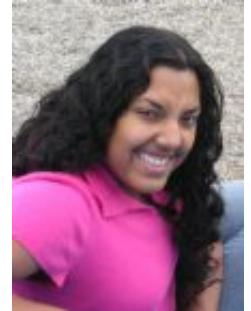
**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

In Danish:

Hej Allesammen!

En smuk dag med sne. Så ren og hvid. Jeg elsker, sådan som snefnuggene daler ned. Det er et ridunderligt syn. Jeg nød virkelig at have morgenens fri. Det var dejligt og afslappende.



**Melika Mindemann**

Senere den eftermiddag tog vi hen på soldaterhjemmet i Skive. Vi spillede spil og pool og hang ud med hinanden. Vores kontaktperson Peter var fantastisk at hænge ud med den dag og resten af ugen.

Vi havde en vidunderlig koncert. Dette er et sted, jeg aldrig vil glemme. Det er sikkert. Forestil jer soldater, der synger med på sangene og griner ad vores dukker. Det var virkelig noget for dem! De var også gode at snakke med.

Efter koncerten ørede jeg mit dansk med min vartsbror og -søster Michael og Christina. Jeg nød det, fordi de var så tålmodige til at hjælpe og undervise mig. Det var mi dag.

Hav en god dag. Herren velsigne jer. Pars godt på jer selv.

In English:

Hi everyone,

A beautiful day with snow, so pure and white. I love how the snowflakes fall down. It was a wonderful sight to see. I really enjoyed having the morning off. It was nice and relaxing.

Later that afternoon, we went to the soldier's home in Skive. We played games and pool, and hung out with each other there. Our contact Peter was awesome to hang out with that day and the rest of the week.

We had a wonderful concert. This is a place I will never forget. That's for sure. Just imagine military men participating in songs and laughing with our puppets. Well, that was them. They were nice men to talk to.

After the concert, I practiced my Danish with my host brother and sister, Michael and Christina. I enjoyed it because they had so much patience to help and teach me. That was our day.

Have a great day. God bless and take luck.

In Christ,

**Date:** 2/21/2007

**Submitted by:** Nick Maier

**Journal Entry:**

Yesterday was quite a day. Unfortunately, Danny was too sick to be with us. James and Sarah Jane had to be serious and talk to a class about alcohol and drugs in the U.S. while Bethany, Mika and I teamed together to teach a music class and goof around all afternoon. We had no idea what we were doing! Without a lesson plan or any idea how to actually teach, we were pretty nervous. Once the students came, though, it was a lot of fun. We taught them how to play one of our program songs "Awesome Is the Lord." We started out playing the song with only the three of us. Playing as quietly as we could and with only keys, guitar and vocals, it was a little funny sounding and embarrassing. But the students did not laugh too much, and by the end of class, they got so into it they could have taken our jobs on stage. There were maybe five vocalists that traded off between lead vocals and auxiliary instruments, two drummers, an acoustic guitar player, an electric guitar player, a bass player and a keyboard player or two. It was the perfect combination of musicians. They were all good enough we hardly needed to teach. We just gave support and coached them on how to sound better. I think Poul, the actual music teacher, was not as impressed as we were with their skills because he kicked the drummer off the set for the last run-through and played it himself!



**Nick Maier**

Later that afternoon the team came back together to practice for the program in the evening because we did not have a drummer. I did what I could behind the set but, to be honest, it was terrible. The music teacher, Poul, was laughing at us, so remembering his anxiousness to play drums, I told him to do better. *And he did!* He did so well, we taught him five or six songs in maybe an hour and he actually played with us for the program. It was almost unbelievable! I had to yell back to him during the whole concert: "Chorus! Now do that cymbal thingy! End it here! No, not yet! Okay, now!" It was way sweet. I had a lot of fun yesterday. I still get e-mails from some of the boys in the music class who are going to start a band called "WaterRockz" in our honor. I think their only number will be "Awesome Is the Lord," though.

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**Date:** 2/22/2007

**Submitted by:** Sarah Jane Nordhaugen

**Journal Entry:**

SNOW DAY!!!

We are travling in Skive, northern Denmark, and it has snowed quite a bit here. Our confirmation class this morning was cancelled, and we are not going to be able to travel the 30km to our evening program due to weather, as well. It is kind of disappointing, but the snow sure is beautiful. This is the first time that it has really snowed since we have arrived. It is a bit of a taste of home for me, and I think God knew that I needed that today.



**Sarah Jane Nordhaugen**

Some of the team members have decided to go outside and play. We are staying with a very kind family who live across the street from an excellent playground with a zip line....James is exceptionally excited about that. How fun to be 19 years and older and still run and play in the snow on this, our God-given snow day.

Last night we played a concert at a soldiers' home, which was very enjoyable. There were about 30 people in and out of the home throughout the night. We played more cafe-style, as we were playing in their food court area. It was quite a high energy night, maybe because that is when the storm began and we were all cooped up inside. I definitely don't mind high energy concerts; they are great. And a few of our friends that we met a couple of weeks ago came to visit us from Fyn. That was really nice to see familiar faces.

Please pray that the weather will clear and leave us rested for tomorrow.

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**Date:** 2/24/2007

**Submitted by:** Danny Bennett

**Journal Entry:**

Hey all!

It's a good day today! Just got some good rest the night before and listened to one of my new favorite artists. This man plays the acoustic guitar like a man breathes. When he plays his music, it's like he is just speaking through the instrument. That's something that I look for in a musician. I look for truth and pure love for music. This man is above anything that I have heard or even seen. His name is Tommy Emmanuel, he plays the acoustic guitar, classical and also blues. Not much singing at all, just pure music.



**Danny Bennett**

So if you are a MUSIC lover like myself, you should check him out and relax to the soothing tones... Wow! I sound like I am a person working for him to promote his name and work! Well, I'm NOT!! Just a strong lover of music! Boo ya! Have fun, y'all, and God bless!

-Dan

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**Date:** 2/28/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

In Danish:

Hej Allesammen,  
Det er næsten marts. Halvanden måned er fløjet forbi. Wow! Vi rejste fra Maribo, Lolland til Slagelse, Vestsjælland. Vi havde en delt uge to steder, og vender tilbage hertil om en måned. Det var en solrig og smuk dag, da vi ankom og spiste frokost i pigernes værtshjem. Vi mødte vores kontakt, Maja, og tog til Dianalund.



**Melika Mindemann**

En behagelig køretur blev til en vanskelig tur. Vi vendte om igen og igen. Vi var meget forvirrede over hvordan vi skulle komme frem. Da vi ankom, sagde Maja at vi skulle parkere ved det gule hus. Et gult hus? Hvilket? Der var altså mange. Maja måtte spore sig frem til os. Sent som sædvanlig for Watermark.

Vi spillede for konfirmanderne. Nogle var stille og nogle ville ikke være stille. ærgeligt. Vi lærte konfirmanderne "Blessed be". Efter vores koncert gik to drenge hurtigt udenfor, og sang "woop woop" foran vinduet. Det var sjovt at se på.

Pigerne havde en dejlig middag med vores værtsfamilie. Sarah Jane hjalp vores værtssøster med hendes hår og make-up til hendes fest på fredag. Hun mindede mig om Kate Winslet. Hun var virkelig smuk. Oh la la! Senere samme aften havde vi sjov med at se Friends I fjernsynet.

Hav en herlig dag. Gud velsigne dig og glædelig marts.

In English:

Hey everyone...

It's almost March. A month and a half has flown by. Wow! We travelled from Maribo, Lolland to Slagelse, West Zealand. We had a split week in two places and will be back here in a month. A sunny and beautiful day, we arrived and ate lunch at the girls' host home. We met our contact, Maja, later and headed to Dianalund.

An easy drive became a difficult drive. We turned around and around. We were really confused on how to get there. When we arrived, Maja told us a yellow building to park at. A yellow building? What one? There were many yellow buildings in this housing complex! Maja had to track us down. Late as usual for WMD.

We played for the confirmants. Some were quiet and others wouldn't be quiet. Annoying. We taught them "Blessed Be". After our concert, two of the boys left quickly and did the "woop woop" outside the window. That was funny to see.

The girls had a wonderful dinner with our host family. Sarah Jane helped our host sister with her hair and make-up for her dance on Friday. She reminded me of Kate Winslet. She was gorgeous—oh la la! Later that night, we had fun watching and laughing at the TV show "Friends."

Have a wonderful day. God bless and take luck. Have a happy March.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 3/7/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

In Danish:

Hej Allesammen,  
I dag er det onsdag. Vi er i Ålborg. Dette er en af de største byer vi har været i siden København. Jim P og Maria bor her.

Vi havde to koncerter i dag. Tidligt om morgen på en skole. Det var hårdt at få eleverne til at deltage. Når jeg så på menneskemængden et særligt øjeblik så jeg nogen synge eller smile stort.



**Melika Mindemann**

Vi tog til et missionshus og hang ud med børnene fra skolen. De viste os omkring i byen. Det var fint at se. Vi havde vores koncert der. Den gik meget godt. Det var en lang dag. Vi ankom til Bethesda missionshus hvor vi skal bo resten af ugen. Jeg glæder mig til at udforske Ålborg.

Hav en herlig dag. Gud velsigne dig. Pars godt på jef slev.

In English:

Hey everyone.

Today is Wednesday. We are in Ålborg, DK. This is one of the biggest cities we have been in since København. Jim P and Maria's town. We had two concerts today. An easy morning concert at a public school. It was really hard to get them involved. When I looked in the crowd at a certain moment, I would see someone singing along or smiling big.

We went to the mission house and hung out with some kids from the school. They showed us around the town. That was nice to do. We had our concert there. It went pretty well. It was a long day. We arrived at Bethesda mission house where we will be staying for the rest of the week. I'm really excited to explore Ålborg.

Have a great day. God bless and take luck.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 3/11/2007

**Submitted by:** Nick Maier

**Journal Entry:**

*Tillykke med fødselsdagen til mig!*

Aside from the time Darth Vader came to my birthday party, this will probably be my most memorable birthday. Our contact Brian took some of the team on a great sightseeing tour. All five of us packed into his sedan and made the hour-and-a-half journey from Aalborg to Skagen, the northern tip of Denmark. On the way, we stopped at an old castle that was closed for the winter.



**Nick Maier**

Now this reminds me of a theory I have. My theory is that all Danes are friends. Even if they do not know one another, they are still friends. Do not ask me how it works, but I have witnessed this strange phenomena many times. In the present example, Brian started walking around the grounds of the castle and around a side house, knocking on all the doors and looking in all the windows. It seemed like no one was home until a disheveled old man poked his head out the door. He had paint-speckled coveralls, thick glasses, and hair that looked like he had just woken up from a year-long nap. And instead of being annoyed by five strangers creeping around his house (four of which could not speak Danish), he had what seemed like a pleasant conversation with Brian and offered to open the castle and give us a guided tour. So an old groundskeeper we had never met gave us an hour-long personal tour of the huge castle! Maybe it is because you cannot own a gun, so no one is scared of each other, or maybe it is because they pay so many taxes and support each other's health care; for whatever reason, there are a lot of generous people in Denmark.

The next thing we did on our adventure up the coast was walk on top of a church. Do not worry; it is not in use any more. Most of it is covered with sand, so it is better to say we walked on a sand dune with a church underneath it. Then we finally made it to the north tip of Denmark. After a long stretch of sand and wind, we at long last could see it. The Skagerrak and Kattegat meet beautifully at the northernmost point in Denmark. You can physically witness the meeting of the seas with a mighty clash of opposing tides. James and I, of course, ran up ahead of everyone else and threw our shoes off. Now we can say we have straddled two oceans at once. I cannot actually verify that I was in the water, though, because I lost feeling in my feet almost immediately. The colors of the two oceans were amazing, too. On the east, the water was distinctly green (the Listerine sort of color I mentioned in a previous journal), and on the west, the water was murkier and brown. You can see where one ocean stops and the other begins by the color of the water. In the middle, the waves unite the two massive bodies together to make a wonderful new creation that is neither the one nor the other.

As I think about this, I realize I am in that ocean right now. It's true--I am not a teenager anymore. Does that make me an adult? I would say this year on team is an apt introduction to the adult life. I am growing up in a lot of ways, but I do not feel anything like an adult. Paul said, "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me....Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known." (1 Cor. 13: 11-12) He uses this example to describe the kind of love Christ gives us. We are reconciled to God by faith and redemption--through Jesus all of our imperfections shall be taken away, like the chaff of the wheat that John the Baptist preached about (Luke 3:17). Twenty is a lot older than nineteen. And I do not want to be an adult. I am straddling both worlds and am fickle. Like the meeting of the seas, putting to death our old sinful self is violent and, similarly, I know there is a level of hostility moving me into adulthood. I can only pray that I will make it through the transition gracefully and by God's will. Just before Paul talks about love in 1 Corinthians, he mentions the body of Christ: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (12:27) The two oceans become one. With Christ we can be one in God. We just need to make the choice to go forward and give up some part of our identity, whatever it may be that is holding us back.

All-in-all I had a pretty good birthday. And I did not even mention the two birthday cakes....

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**Date:** 3/11/2007

**Submitted by:** Sarah Jane Nordhaugen

**Journal Entry:**

Jim and Maria, past teamers, visited us today in Aalborg and shared with us a devotion. It was very nice to have them come and share with us some of God's word. They are great people, and sometimes on the road, especially overseas, I find myself needing someone to come and share the message with me to help fill me up. Many pastors and youth consulates here have been so kind in sharing devotions with us...PRAISE GOD for fellow believers and the encouragement we can give on another!



**Sarah Jane Nordhaugen**

It was Nick's birthday yesterday, and we experienced some really fun Danish traditions. We had dinner at Jim's apartment where he had fixed for us the legendary human cake...haha. It is a Danish tradition to make a cake shaped like a boy or girl and cover it in candy, then when the birthday songs have been sung the birthday person cuts off the head of the cake, and everyone screams as loud as they can. I don't know exactly how this tradition began, but it is quite hilarious and we had a great time with it. My birthday will be coming in two days, and I am hoping to have a chance to experience this child's tradition, as well.

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**Date:** 3/12/2007

**Submitted by:** Danny Bennett

**Journal Entry:**



A new day as you look into the clouds with the sun shining on your face is such a great start to a day. Especially when you don't see too much sun. So when I woke up this morning, we found out that it was about 26.2 degrees Celsius! Good day! I hope that you can see that Jesus will shine on you and in your life when you need it!! Bye!!

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**Date:** 3/14/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**



**Danny Bennett**

In Danish:

Hej alle sammen,

I dag er det onsdag i Ålestrup, Danmark. Vi har to koncerter i dag.  
Denne uge var fuld af tidlige morgener og sene koncerter.

Vores første koncert var på en kummuneskole. Tidspunktet hvor vi skulle starte var gjort tidligere så vi var nødt til at skynde os med at stille op. Vi fik næsten alting ordnet bortset fra projektoren. Det gav os mindre tid som sædvanligt. Dumme projektor! Hvor ville jeg bare gerne smide den ned på jorden. Der var mange børn dér. Jeg nød virkelig at komme ind på en af disse skoler, og fortælle dem om Kristus. Efter det, så jeg eleverne lave akrobatiske ting som pyramider og sådan noget hvor de bruger deres kroppe. Det var spændende at se.

Vores sidste koncert var i missions huset i Ålestrup for voksne og for børn det var sjovt specielt at se pigernes værtsbrødre deltage. Jeg lavede sjove ansigter af min værtsbror under koncerthen. Vi ryddede hurtigt op og kørte ud til et hotel i Hadsund så vi ikke vågnede op så tidligt pga. konfirmations-forberedelsen om torsdagen.

Jeg håber at I alle får en vidunderlig dag. Gud velsigne dig.

In English:

Hey everyone,

Today is Wednesday in Aalestrup, DK. We have two concerts today. This week was full of early mornings and late concerts.

Our first concert was at a public school. The time that we would have started was moved back so we had to hurry and set-up. We got mostly everything done except the projector. It gave us a hard time as usual. Dumb projector. How much I wanted to drop kick it. There were a lot of kids there. I really enjoyed go into one of these schools and telling them about Christ. After that, I watched them make pyramids and other shapes using their bodies in the gym. It was fascinating to watch.

Our last concert was at the mission house in Aalestrup for adults and kids. That was fun to do, especially watching the girls' host brothers participate. I made funny faces at my host brother throughout the concert. We cleaned up fast and headed to a hotel in Hadsund so we wouldn't wake up so early for the confirmation class on Thursday.

I hope you all have a wonderful day. God bless and take luck.

In Christ,  
Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 3/17/2007

**Submitted by:** Sarah Jane Nordhaugen

**Journal Entry:**

Yesterday we visited a home called the Blue Cross for recovering alcoholics. Some of the people live in the home and are new to the facility. Others have lived there for up to 30 years and will die there. Some just visit for activites and counseling, but it is a great place for all of the different people within the walls. Most of the people who participate there are middle aged and older, and all suffer from alcohol problems or are related to people with similar problems.



**Sarah Jane Nordhaugen**

Talking to people with alcohol problems is something that for many reason touches me very close to the heart. I really enjoyed our concert there, even though it was acoustic and only about 45 minutes long. I felt alive and on fire with such an overwhelming desire in my heart to share with these people the message of Jesus Christ.

This was very evident to one particular woman who I spent the next hour or so talking with. She was a recovering alcoholic in her mid sixties who was there to visit her close friend she had made during her time living in the home. We talked about her life as well as mine. She shared with me some of her history as a 'junkie' and some stories of her grandchildren and family now. One of the stories was really funny...she told me of a time when she had picked up a hitchiker near her home; he was an American, and she offered him dinner. She and her husband ended up housing him for the next half year. She laughed with joy in her eyes as she shared stories of how he was a musician as well and would play the hand drum as she fixed dinner in the evening.

She was very inspirational to me...I saw hope in her eyes and pray that God will guide her in her life in all that she does. I thank God for the opportunities that we have had to visit such places as Blue Cross and pray that he will continue to use us there.

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**Date:** 3/21/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

In Danish:

FRIDAG!! Yes! Alle, både mig og resten har fri. De to steder hvor vi har været, har ikke været lige så travlt i forhold til de andre uger. Der er ikke meget at sige om i dag bortset fra slappe, sove og nyde vores Sabbat. Vi havde en smuk og nem uge. Foråret er lige rundt om hjørnet og jeg kan ikke vente på det!



Jeg håber at i alle får en dejlig dag. Gud velsigne dig

In English:

DAY OFF!! Yes! It is a day of rest for me and the team. The two places we are at have not been that busy compared to the other weeks we have done. There is not a lot to say about today except rest, sleep, and enjoy our day of Sabbath. We had a beautiful and easy week. Spring is around the corner, and I can't wait for it.

I hope you all have a wonderful day. God bless and take luck.

In Christ,  
Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 3/22/2007

**Submitted by:** Danny Bennett

**Journal Entry:**

John 1:23--"Make straight the way for the Lord." Acts 1:11--"...This same Jesus, who has been taken into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

These Bible verses have been just stuck in my head. I can't imagine what it will be when our Lord Jesus comes back to take us home. Something in my heart has been telling me that the Lord will come again in this day and age. It will not be pretty, but it will show those who have doubted all along that he is real. Not only that, it will show us ALL our maker! But when I think of the coming of the Lord, I get stuck on this verse, John 1:23. "Make straight the way for the Lord." When I think of this, I catch myself asking, What can I do to make the way straight for the Lord? Am I supposed to put up banners everywhere saying, "WELCOME, OH JESUS OUR LORD!" I doubt that. Am I supposed to try to be perfect so that he will see no sin on me? That I doubt as well. Then what am I supposed to do?!



**Danny Bennett**

Than it clicked! Spread the word of the Lord. Let his name be heard from wherever you are. Revelation 2:7--"He who has an ear let him hear..." Delight in knowing that you carry the most valuable and precious gift with you of all time, and that you have the Holy One in your heart. So as far as all of you reading this, DO NOT BE ASHAMED of telling people about Jesus Christ! There is nothing to be ashamed OF! Tell people in a way that when you tell them, they won't just look at you and walk away. SPEAK THE TRUTH!

All of these things I have learned while being on the road with Watermark. And to be honest, it's not easy at all! I still find myself questioning wheather or not I should tell people at a certain time or not. I am not that person that goes out on the street and yells at people. That if they do not believe in Christ our Lord than they will go to hell. I do not do this because I believe that is wrong. Jesus even says in Matthew 6:5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men." So, some more advice for you fellow readers. Speak the truth and nothing but the truth. Let the light of the Lord shine through you, so the people that are around you may see this light. And last but not least. Do not be ashamed of the Lord! Gud velsigne dig!!!

-Dan

If anybody would like to ask me anything please e-mail me or my team at our e-mail address, [watermarkdenmark@youthencounter.org](mailto:watermarkdenmark@youthencounter.org)!

**Date:** 3/24/2007

**Submitted by:** Nick Maier

**Journal Entry:**

There are times I doubt the effectiveness of our ministry. When we play two or three concerts a day and rush from place to place, we cannot see how our programs make a difference to people (if they do at all). I might talk to two people after a program for a couple minutes and then go pack up equipment. Or we might have a confirmation class that runs through the back door before we even have a chance to step off the stage. Was anyone listening? Did anyone even hear the Gospel of Jesus?



**Nick Maier**

In the same way, we have so many chances to see the difference we are making. Yesterday we played for a confirmation class, visited their school, and played a concert at the church down the street. Most of the time I do not expect confirmation students to be interested in us (let us be honest, we are not that cool), but there were quite a few students that came to see us again at the church. One of them even drew us a very sweet picture of us playing. It is very encouraging to see people, especially young people, listening to us.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." Colossians 3:23-24

I have faith that God is using us for His purposes. Even when I cannot see the results of our work, if we are truly Christ's body, then whatever we do in faith is pleasing to God and it is really Christ who is working in their lives, not us. I forget that we cannot bring anyone to Jesus. It is Jesus who is bringing himself (hopefully through our team) to the people of Denmark. It may be hard at times to serve when no one is listening or paying attention to us, but it is really the Lord whom we are serving (and that becomes especially apparent when we only have three people at our concerts).

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**Date:** 3/28/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

In Danish:

Det er den sidste onsdag i marts. Jeg kan bare ikke tro at det næsten er april. Vi er i Sønderjylland med Tonny. Det er vores sidste uge inden den "uofficielle" pause for Youth Encounter. Det betyder at Danmark lukker ned pga. påskens i næste uge. Vi skal ikke spille nogen koncert i den her uge.



**Melika Mindemann**

En ny dag begynder fordi Danny er tilbage. Vi er tilbage i topform. Vi havde en akustisk koncert med konfirmations-børn om morgenen. Der var ikke mange, men det var fedt at få dem med i musikken. Efter koncerten skyndte vi os at rydde op og skyndte os over til skolen.

Vi skyndte os hen til et gymnasium til en akustisk koncert. Det var dejligt at have Danny tilbage til denne koncert. Det var dejligt at spille for elever, som var på alder med os. Det var vores første koncert på et gymnasium, det var fedt at opleve. Det er svært at få et Watermark team til at spille på et gymnasium, men vi gjorde det.

Vi tog til en friskole. Vi slappede af og var sammen om eftermiddagen. Vi spiste aftensmad med eleverne og efter det stillede vi vores udstyr op. Vi mødte en vi kendte der, Christian. Han optog vores CD for os i Fredericia. Det var fantastisk at spille elektrisk musik med Danny! Det var dejligt at have nogle af de gamle sange "back in action". Tonny var endelig fri til at se os spille med hele bandet. Denne skole var et sjovt sted for os at være i de 3 dage, og også fedt at få noget at vide om eleverne der. Jeg vil virkelig gerne tilbage dertil.

In English:

It is our last Wednesday in March. Wow, I can't believe it is almost April. We are in Southern Jutland with Tonny. This is our last week before our "unofficial" break from Youth Encounter. This means

that Denmark shuts down because of Holy Week. For Watermark, we do not have any place to have concerts at.

Another new day to start off because Danny is back. We are back in action. We had an acoustic concert with confirmation kids in the morning. We had a small group, but it was cool to get them involved. After the concert, we hurried, cleaned up, and rushed to the school.

We left right away to a gymnasium for an acoustic concert. It was nice to have Danny back at this one. It was nice to play for students around our own age. This was our first concert at a gymnasium; that was cool to experience. It is hard to get a Watermark team in a gymnasium to perform. Well, we did it.

We left to a private school. We relaxed and hung out in the afternoon. We ate dinner with the students and then set-up equipment. We ran into a familiar face there, Christian. He recorded our CD for us in Fredericia. We had a fantastic time playing electric with Danny. It was nice to have some of the old songs back in live action. Tonny was finally able to see us in action with the full set. Sweet! This school was fun to be around in for those three days, and also cool to get to know the students there, too. I would love to go back there.

Have a wonderful day. God bless and take luck.

In Christ,  
Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 4/10/2007

**Submitted by:** Sarah Jane Nordhaugen

**Journal Entry:**

Back on team!!! We just experienced a most amazing Easter break. In Denmark most of the country 'shuts down' for the week of Easter, and that leaves us with very few places to be able to do ministry. So Indremission gives us the week off. It was very nice to have a break after nearly 90 concerts since January.



Bethany and I decided to take a whirlwind, very inexpensive trip around Europe. We traveled from Denmark to Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria, and Switzerland. We met many great people and were able to share our faith numerous times. It was especially neat to spend Good Friday in Wittenburg, Germany, the town where Martin Luther lived.

**Sarah Jane Nordhaugen**

The whole adventure brought us back rested and excited to meet back with the rest of the team who had all taken the time away, as well. We have been traveling as a team together for so long that even one week apart feels like forever. It was odd to hug my teammates after being apart; it felt a bit like hugging strangers, even though we are so close to one another. It was very nice to return with stories to share with one another...to have new things to laugh about. Sometimes you need a refresh in relationships.

Visiting other parts of Europe also gave me a new appreciation for Denmark...crossing the border back into the country at the end of the week felt like coming 'home'. That was a great feeling. It has been such a blessing to be in this beautiful land, and I am very excited for the weeks to come!

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**Date:** 4/11/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

In Danish:

Hej Allesammen,

I dag er det onsdag. Vi er i gang igen en uges ferie. Jeg havde en herlig uge slappede af, så film, og var sammen med min teammate Jonathan's familie.

Desuden har vi er let køreplan til at forelægge "team life" stilten. Vi havde en konfirmand klasse denne morgen. En stor forsamling at tale til og til få indblandet i vores koncert. Den morgen gik hurtig.

Senere de aften havde vi en koncert på en efterskole. Denne efterskole er en "Kristen" skole den følger en del af det almindelige skole systems regler. Vi har ikke konnet bede så meget til koncerthen fordi det ikke er alle eleverne der er kristne. Det er en ting at eleverne deltager. :-) Jeg håber mindst en person tager budskabet til sig.

Jeg håber at i alle får en dejlig dag. Gud velsigne dig.

In English:

Hey everyone,

Today is Wednesday. We are back in action after a week of vacation. I had a wonderful week relaxing, watching movies, and spending time with my teammate Jonathan's family.

Besides that, we have had an easy schedule to get back into the team lifestyle. We had a confirmation class this morning. A great bunch to talk to and to get involved with during our concert. The morning went by quickly.

Later that night, we had a concert at an efterskole. This was a Christian school that followed a lot of the "public" school system rules. We had to keep it on the downlow with prayers while we were there. The great thing about this school was that the kids participated. I hope at least one person took the message home that night.

I hope you all have a wonderful day. God bless and take luck.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann



**Melika Mindemann**

**Date:** 4/18/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

In Danish:

Hej Allesammen,

Så er det bleret torsdag igen. Vi har kun to uger tilbage, hvor vi laver koncerter. Tid er fløjet af sted og jeg kommer til at savne det. :-(



**Melika Mindemann**

Dagen i dag var stille og rolig. Vi havde kun en koncert. Vi spillede på en efterskole i Nordsjælland, hvor vi skal være fra Torsdag til Mandag morgen. Det er en fantastisk skole. Ved aftensmaden talte jeg med nogle dejlige teenage drenge. De var slet ikke generte ved at tale med mig. Vores koncert var sjov, selvom vores lydudstyr opførst sig dumt. Der var en del at tale med bagefter. Jeg hyggede mig med en gruppe, der hjalp mig med daryke tungevridere. Jeg kan ikke vante med at komme tilbage og lære dem bedre at kende. Jeg ser frem til en god weekend her.

Jeg håber at i alle får en dejlig dag. Gud velsigne dig

In English:

Hey everyone,

Another Wednesday is here again. We only have two more weeks of traveling over here. The time

has flown by and I'm going to miss it here.

Today was a laid back day with only one concert. We played at an efterskole in North Zealand. We'll be staying at this school starting Thursday to Monday morning. This was an amazing school. I talked with some amazing teenage boys at dinner time. They weren't shy to talk to me. Our concert was fun to put on, even though our sound equipment was being stupid. There were a bunch of kids who talked to us afterwards. I hung out with a group that helped me with my Danish and Danish tongue twisters. I can't wait to go back and get to know them better. I'm looking forward to the rest of the week.

I hope you have a wonderful day. God bless and take luck.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 4/18/2007

**Submitted by:** Nick Maier

**Journal Entry:**

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

Our band of six sometimes turns into a band of five. It is hard to always take care of yourself when you are in such an intense servant ministry, and so there are times we all just need a mental or spiritual break. Sadly, last night at the soldier's home in north Sjælland, Watermark was five. I am reminded of Paul's analogy about the body being made up of many parts.



**Nick Maier**

"...there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." 1 Corinthians 12:25-26

When one of us in the band is away, it is like we are missing a part of our body. And it really feels like that at times. It feels like I am playing guitar without an arm. It is tough, not just on the one who is away, but on us who are going on. We have to relearn how to function, not just as a band missing a musician, but as a family missing a brother or sister. It is frustrating and uncomfortable to have to play music that sounds funny because we do not have a band member, but it is infinitely more painful to have a body member that is severed or bleeding (sorry to be graphic). It is not just one person hurting, but the whole of Christ's body bears the pain. At these times, I try not to be selfish and say to myself that I am having such a hard time because I have to plug in more cables and I have to carry more equipment and I have to sell t-shirt all by myself and I have to do everything they are not doing.

"Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory." Romans 8:17

If I complain about these things, I just make myself feel bad and whoever is taking a break feel worse. This is when the little boy who stubs his toe falls over into the fetal position and wails for hours, even forgetting why he started crying. Instead, I should rejoice that I am able to give someone a chance to rest. All I have to do is plug in a few more cables and carry a few more boxes. No problem.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

Our concert was a little rough, of course, but we ended up having a really good time. (Although when we were supposed to play at seven o'clock, there were about three people eating in the dining room and two watching TV. But we just pushed it back a couple hours when more people were off duty and could hear us play.) I find it funny that just about every time we have a concert I think is terrible, someone tells one of us how amazing they thought it was. This is the strongest reminder for me that God can work in all things, and if we were not doing this whole "band thing" for God, we

would be nowhere. All of us had a chance after the show to sit down and talk with the soldiers. They were happy to have us there, and we were overjoyed to be able to share our faith and our music with them. We even got an invitation to go out clubbin'.

I can see it is not so bad to be missing a Watermarker. Do not get me wrong--I do not desire it to happen at all (it is hard to play guitar with one arm), but I know that God's work and His will will be done whether we are feeling good about it or not. We can learn to appreciate each others' gifts when they are away, to see how we depend on one another, and we can feel our inseparable bond as members of Christ's body drawing us back together. Sometimes you need a couple of clouds to appreciate the sun. (And you can bet I am *really* going to appreciate the sun once Denmark gives us a little summer weather).

As one in Christ,

Nick Maier

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**Date:** 4/20/2007

**Submitted by:** Danny Bennett

**Journal Entry:**

This is kind of short, but to the point. So the weather has been really great! We have had some days where I was walking around in shorts and a tee. Than the weather has changed! It got cold and gross outside! It makes me think of my faith in Jesus Christ. Somtimes I can be warm and totally comfortable with what he has to tell me. Then there are the times where I don't feel too comfortable, and I have to put on a coat! But looking back on that, it makes me feel good. Because even though I was cold not only on the outside, I knew that Jesus was right by my side to warm me up with his love and beauty!



**Danny Bennett**

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**Date:** 4/21/2007

**Submitted by:** Sarah Jane Nordhaugen

**Journal Entry:**

**'But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.' Matthew 6:33**

Today I am a new creation as I am everyday in Jesus Christ, praise His name for that! I know that if first in my life I seek the Lord, then I will be cared for. Not by myself but through the Spirit living in me. I will not have to ever worry as everything I will need shall be added unto me and the greatest of all things...ETERNAL LIFE...has already been promised to me through faith alone.



**Sarah Jane Nordhaugen**

Many things have been revealed to me this past week. I have learned how much life in Denmark has truly changed me--through good days and bad days. I will admit, I am by no means the perfect teamer. I have made many mistakes and wasted time here that I could have used in other ways. However, I know that what we do in Denmark is not done by our own hands, but by the Father working through us, and he is able to use us in times of strength and sometimes even greater in times of weakness. Praise GOD!

God---continue to use me...change me...mold me...everyday---

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**Date:** 4/25/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

In Danish:

Hej alle sammen,

Endnu en Onsdag med mig. Vi er i århus. Jeg har hørt så meget om byen, og nu er vi her endeligt. Vi havde en flot morgen og spillede i en kirke. (i våbenhuset) Der var masser af energi i konfirmanderne, og det smittede af. Danny havde det dårligt, så han var ikke med. I stedet fo ham spillede jeg så djembe. Det bedste af det hele var en gruppe med piger. Jeg snakkede rigtigt godt med dem. I sær efter jeg spurte en af pigerne om hun ville tegne et lille tegn ved mit øje ligesom hun havde. Det var en dejlig måde, at fortælle dem om Jesus på. Det nød jeg virkelig.



**Melika Mindemann**

Senere den aften, havde vi en gudstjeneste. Der var meget ekko inde i kirken. Der var nogle folk vi havde set før, som kom forbi. Lisbeth, Ester (West Lakes 05-06), og Jonathan (East Lakes 05-06). Endelig var der tid, til at se Ester efter al den tid i Danmark. Det var dejligt at at se hende igen. Efter gudstjenesten snakkede vi et stykke tid. Ester skal være sammen med os i morgen. Det var min fantastiske dag.

Jeg håber at i alle får en dejlig dag. Gud velsigne dig.

In English:

Hey everyone,

Another Wednesday with me. We are in Aarhus. I have heard so much about the city, and now we are finally here. We had a beautiful morning and played in a big church (room outside the sanctuary). The confirmants had a lot of energy coming in, and so did I. Danny stepped out because he wasn't feeling good. I stepped in playing the djembe. The best part was a group of girls. I connected to them really well, especially after I asked one of the girls to draw a design on my face just like the one she had. It was a nice way to minister to them. I really enjoyed that.

Later that night, we had a church service. The church was echoing a lot. We had some familiar faces come and see us--Lisbeth, Ester (West Lakes 06-06), and Jonathan (East Lakes 05-06). I finally was able to see Ester after this whole time in Denmark. It was great seeing her. We chatted after the service for awhile with everyone we knew. We said our good-byes. Ester is hanging out with us tomorrow. That was my AWESOME day!!

I hope you have a nice day. God bless, and take luck.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 5/2/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

In Danish:

Hej Alle Sammen,

Meget sorgeligt at sige det her, men det er min sidst onsdag her, i Danmark. Vores sidste uge er i Vejle. En kort og travl uge. Vi havde én koncert mere og den skole vi var på. Det var en akustisk koncert. Vi havde det rigtigt sjovt. Vi havde alle sammen en forskellig forbindelse til børnene.



**Melika Mindemann**

Senere kom Susanne for at køre os til vores næste koncert. Hun var der i stedet for Bent, vores ungdomskonsulent. Skolen var for børn som har svært ved at lære, hvilket gjorde det svært at snakke med dem. Deres opmærksomhed værede kort. Det var svært for mig at koncentrere mig. Dem der var der var flinke. Det var rart at have den følelse. Vi tog tilbage og spiste og saged farvel til Susanne, for det var sidste gang vi så hende. :-(

Jeg håber at i alle får en dejlig dag. Gud velsigne dig.

In English:

Hey everyone,

So sad to say, but this is my last Wednesday in Denmark. Our last week is in Vejle. A short and busy week. We had one more concert at the school we were at. This was an acoustic set-up. We had a great time because we all had different connections with the kids.

Later, Susanne came and took us to our next concert. She stood in for Bent, our youth consultant. This school was for kids who have learning disabilities, which made it hard to connect with them. Their attention span was short. For me, it was hard to concentrate and share the ministry. When we had our second concert, which was optional, barely anyone came. Those who were there really cared. It was nice to have that feeling. We got back late, and said good-bye to Susanne because it was our last time seeing her.

I hope you have a nice day. God bless and take luck.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

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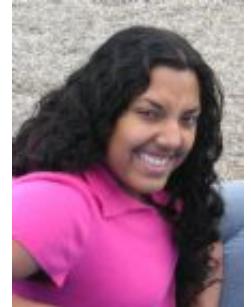
**Date:** 5/16/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

Hi everyone,

WE ARE BACK!! We finally made it to the U.S.A. We had a really long, and I mean long, day. Everything you can imagine went wrong on the way back from Denmark. We flew out on Tuesday, and Nick, Danny, and I almost missed our flight. We had to run to our gate and run to the plane. We made it. We flew to Munich, Germany. We had a delay there and that went well until we made it to Chicago. When we arrived, only my luggage made it and the others didn't. Sad. On our way to Minnesota, I got sick on the last flight back. I got hit with the flu right away. That made the last flight uncomfortable. We made it safely. Thank God.



**Melika Mindemann**

The next day, we had a kind of busy day. In less than 12 hours, we had to be ready to go at our host church. We received some new sound equipment, but after we went through it all, we were missing some equipment. That was the downside about that. We pulled together and played our program at the church and the others led games with the confirmation kids. For me, I made it through the concert and laid down for the rest of the night. I really hate jet lag, sickness, and stress. That was the worst to get coming back to the States. Besides that, it is nice to be home and see familiar faces and talk to people again. Through these two days, God got us through the hard times and brought us safely back to the U.S. I learned to put all my troubles and worries and give them to God. That's what I needed to do at the beginning before I left Denmark.

I hope you all have a wonderful day. God bless and take luck.

In Christ,  
Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 5/23/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

Hi everyone,

Today is Wednesday, and we are at Camp Luther Dell in MN. We are here having training for VBS and a time to catch up with the International Teams after being overseas. I am really excited about today because we have our concert tonight to share with the teams our time in Denmark. We are thrilled to put up our culture table and other things we bought or received, too. We had sessions about VBS all day and other random team stuff. There is a new puppy at camp, a golden retriever. Cute. Her name is Aspen. She followed me all around and hung out with me. I have a new friend who likes biting me.



**Melika Mindemann**

We had a great time sharing our ministry and our stories that night. We had candles all around the room to represent hygge. We played games that night during community time. I learned a new card game called Legretto. I was doing well picking up that game. Later that night, some of us saw the northern lights. Beautiful.

This weekend I will be going to my teammate's Danny's cabin in Wisconsin. We will be hanging out with his parents, Kyle (ND), and two of his friends, Justin and Kyle. I am looking forward to a relaxing weekend and the lake. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend. God bless and take luck.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 5/30/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**



**Melika Mindemann**

Hi everyone,

We are now in Crown Point, Indiana. This is where Danny will be next year on team. Cool beans. We are now adjusting to the hot and humid weather. It is sometimes enjoyable, but not all the time. We arrived in the afternoon so we could put on a chapel there. It was nice to participate in the school's last chapel. We were able to get the kids involved somewhat, but I had fun. I really enjoyed our contact and the school. We hung out the rest of the day at the school and did some team stuff.

Later, we sang songs, played games, and pool with the youth. The part I enjoy most when hanging out with the kids is teaching them the game Partners, which we learned in Denmark. It is so cool to see their expressions when they learn or how competitive they get playing.

I really enjoyed this church and school because I had so many connections of knowing people here. The best part was that Sarah and I stayed with Joshua's (ROP 05-06) relatives. With the conversations we had, more connections were brought up from Youth Encounter, Valpo, Camp Lutherhaven in IN, and more. It is so weird to think people can be six degrees from knowing someone around the country or world. I like how one small connection can open more doors for ministry. If you haven't tried the small talks or haven't done this, try it. If you already have, this is one part of communication that is great because you are already connected at the hip to spur up a better conversation. Also, this is a fantastic way to remember people.

May God continue to bless you all. Take luck.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 6/4/2007

**Submitted by:** Danny Bennett

**Journal Entry:**

I have been to Europe three times now. But this time with my team was a very, very different experience for me. I have never fallen in love with a country before. This place

has changed my life. When I first got there, I was in awe... And I was in awe for four months! While living in Denmark, I felt so "at home" there. I feel at home when I am home, so this was a little weird for me to have this feeling of being home when I am over four thousand miles away from "home." In a way, I feel as if I can relate with just about all Danes. They are so laid back, they love their families, they get along, and they are very easygoing, like me. God is so amazing for letting me experience all of these things. I know that the things God showed me were things to give me strength for something bigger than anyone can understand! But I'm thankful and glad that God is still using me as I am finding out what He wants.

I pray that you will ask God for strength, peace, and joy-filled hearts! God bless you all!



**Danny Bennett**

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**Date:** 6/6/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**



**Melika Mindemann**

Hey everyone,

Another Wednesday with me. We are in Eldersburg, MD. We have been to this church in the fall and are now back taking Cross Fire's spot. It has been nice to be back and see how the church is doing after their youth leader left to get married. Many people have stepped up and took over certain roles. We pretty much arrived early and did some team stuff. We hung out with host families and shared our ministry with them. Sarah and I went out with our host mom to Panera Bread and hung out with our host brother. I really enjoyed the relaxation and ministry.

The best part about this place is that we got to see familiar faces and catch up with people we haven't seen. Nick's host family went to a carnival. His host dad won a black and white cowboy hat. The bet was for Nick to wear it during our program. Well, I saw it and wanted to wear it. Guess what? I did. After our program the dad let me take it with the little penguin he won, too. Every time I wear it, I remember them. Thanks for the cool hat. It works well with the VBS theme Avalanche Ranch.

Have a great day. God bless and take luck.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

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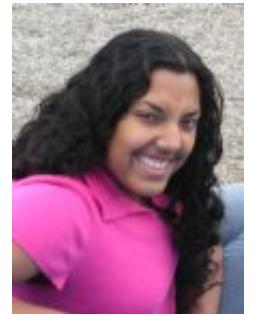
**Date:** 6/13/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

Hey everyone,

Another Wednesday with me. This time, it is our first VBS. We are in Cincinnati, Ohio. We have had a great week with the people at this church and the kids. Nick and I have been leading games all week. We really enjoyed seeing the same faces and the energy the kids brought when they showed up to our session. We played many familiar games like toilet tag; run, scream, die; duck, duck, goose; last minute beach ball games, and more. The combined boys' classes were really aggressive. I loved that group because that is my way of playing any kid's sports. I love the aggressiveness. With Nick and me leading games, we were able to keep ourselves busy. This VBS was a smaller group with many helpers. Wandering around with nothing to do would be boring to me. I am glad I could keep myself busy.



**Melika Mindemann**

Later that night, a family hosted us for dinner and a swimming party. We had fun hanging out with each other and splashing around. It was cool to jump in the water after all the VBS kids, talking about swimming or swimming lessons. We all just wanted to go with them and join the party. I really like VBS, and I'm excited to do more this summer.

Have a fantastic day. May God bless and take luck.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

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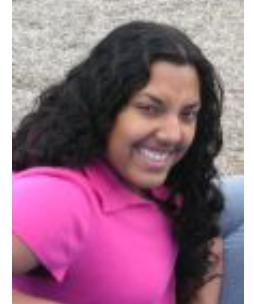
**Date:** 6/20/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

Hi everyone,

This has been a great day for me. I was blessed to go to the U.S. Naval Academy this morning. I was looking for a relative who was buried there. For those who don't know my story from earlier this year, my team and I came to Bowie, MD for a booking. I decided to go with my former teammate and his family, looking for Kenny's grave. We looked high and low. Sad thing is, there were no books listing where someone would be, no one to ask, and it was getting darker by the minute. Finally we gave up. My motivation was to find the site next time I am in Bowie.



**Melika Mindemann**

Today my teammate and her host sister went with me to the Academy. We went from one building to the next asking people. As I was walking down a certain area of the cemetery, I prayed, "God, if this is where you want me to be please give me a sign." From the corner of my eye, I saw stones with pictures on them. Thought to myself, "What if Kenny was over here?" I kept walking and walking and finally I saw his last name. Found it!! That was a great scavenger hunt.

We also had VBS today. We all had a great time. I led the closing. It went well. Later, Nick and I went out with Corine (ND 05-06). We all hung out and caught up about team life. We shared funny, sad, frustrating stories about Danmark. Remembering them brought back memories.

Have a wonderful day. God bless and take luck.

In Christ,  
Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 6/26/2007

**Submitted by:** Danny Bennett

**Journal Entry:**



I was with a host family that brought me to a private military beach with basically no one around on it. It was nice! My host family and I were walking down the shore line letting our feet just sink into the sand and letting the waves just wash away the prints. I stopped and dug a hole that was about a foot deep to see how fast it could be washed away... It washed the hole and made it flat right away! It was so cool. Then I got to thinking about God. It dawned on me as I was looking at the shore line and the ocean... We humans are like the beach, and the holes are like our sin. The ocean is God. The sin can be very easily dug into us, but as soon as we ask God for forgiveness, he washes it away immediately. But no matter what, it WILL be washed away clean! Although you can't ask a wave to come on command, it comes no matter what. That constant flow of the waves is like God's amazing grace. No matter what, it will be washed away! Your sin will be washed away, and you will start out fresh again with no questions asked! The holes will be filled in and washed away clean, leaving behind a beautiful flat surface that can be very easily fixed. If you think of it, you could not make that hole good again. It has to be washed away from the waves to be made new. You can try all you want to make it as good as you want, but it won't be good. God is amazing, and his grace is something that can't be explained by any word. I feel now that God has showed me a little bit about myself and a bit about Him. It truly is amazing! Praise God!

-Dan

**Danny Bennett**

**Date:** 6/27/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**



Hi everyone,

Today is another Wednesday. We have been in Virginia Beach, VA. We had another morning VBS with music. I really have enjoyed our theme this week because you are in space. Sweet. I like how I was able to be a MIB (Men In Black), and the others were in a skit. I bounced around from music and story-telling time. Our team split up each day leading songs with the kids. I was happy to participate during the VBS rather than wandering around. I had something to do, and it made the day go by quickly. I led story time all week for kindergarten kids and fourth graders and up. I really enjoyed hanging out with them and getting to know them through music and stories. I really appreciated having our contact's son's help, too. Thanks to him, my story time went more smoothly. This VBS had more kids than we have had so far. I really enjoy their energy and willingness to learn.

**Melika Mindemann**

Later that night, we had our program. We had a nice potluck dinner and entertained people as they showed up. We played music that they might know and also stories about our time in Denmark. We had a good turnout of people and kids. After the program, a bunch of us went to the beach to hang out. It was beautiful to see what God had created. Seeing the water and feeling the breeze made me really relaxed. I really enjoyed that. What I am looking forward to tomorrow is Busch Gardens. Yippee!!

May you have a wonderful day. God bless and take luck.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

**Date:** 7/4/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

Hi everyone,

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!! I can't believe it is July now. We only have five weeks left, which is sad to say. We are having a music camp "Make a Joyful Noise" in New Rochelle, NY. We have been here before when we had horrible, I mean horrible, van problems. This time we made it safely with no van problems. We have only four days of this camp, so we got Wednesday off for the holiday. The girls packed up and moved to the church where the boys were at for the rest of the week. Sarah Jane and I went out by this plaza and hung out together at Applebees just to relax and talk. That was nice and fun to do, especially when we don't get days off to do stuff together. Sad thing, it started to rain and became really cloudy. I hope it doesn't ruin the rest of our day. We headed to a BBQ/picnic at a house in town. We hung out with a lot of people and sung some music. All of us except Danny headed to downtown New York for the fireworks. I am so excited, and the rain won't stop me. We met up with Jana from Cross Fire 06-07, and watched the fireworks with her at the United Nations. We all got tickets from the pastor's wife for free. Even though it was cloudy and rained off and on, I had a blast. Ha ha...a blast. We went out to a Mexican restaurant and hung out later. It was nice to hear about Jana's experience and see her pictures from Africa. On the way back to the church, we got lost. We didn't arrive there until 2:15 A.M. This was a great day that I will never forget.



**Melika Mindemann**

For a day like this...have you counted your blessings? Here are some things I am thankful for.

Family	Telling others about God
memories	Helping others
Jesus	weather
Religion	Danmark
Troops	Kids
breathing	myself
Freedom	waking up
Friends/ship	smiling
jamming (music)	
U.S.A.	
traveling	
my teammates	

There are so much more that I am thankful for and blessed with. These are some things that I see and take with me every day on the road. I pray that you all will look back and see what God has blessed you on this Forth of July. Have an exciting day. God bless and take luck.

In Christ,  
Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 7/11/2007  
**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann  
**Journal Entry:**

Hi everyone,

We were in Atlantic City, NJ. We had a wonderful time participating in servant projects. The church just moved into a new location, so getting kids for VBS was really hard. We had a great time meeting new people in all different activities. That night we participated in a Spanish service. We were invited by the new pastor to sing and give testimonies. We quickly learned new songs in Spanish. (Calling the Kindred team for ideas!) We had a great time listening to a translator and trying out our Spanish. Their service went long, but it was great just worshiping with each other.



**Melika Mindemann**

After we finished, a couple of girls who were late showed up and missed the whole program. We put on a mini-program for them. We had more people staying and listening. We jammed with each

other and danced in the sanctuary. One cool thing I experienced was the kissing on the cheek (pass the peace). The congregation was small but so welcoming. We had some return Thursday night for our program. This is going to be a great blessing to that community and the church. May God continue to bless you all. Thanks.

Have a wonderful day. Take luck and God bless.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 7/18/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

Hi everyone,

We were in Sunderland, MD where my teammate Brie's church is at. We learned a new VBS. We really enjoyed coming to this church even though it was a short visit. We were able to help out and get to know the youth pretty well there. For me, coming back to this church was a huge blessing. Seeing familiar faces and Brie's family made my week.



**Melika Mindemann**

Today, we had our last full set up opening and closing because we have a long drive tomorrow for PA. We had a great time sharing our ministry with the kids by being spread out helping at each stations. Tonight, we have a youth night which includes games, food, and hanging out. I really enjoyed leading the games and playing Q-tip war. It was also cool to teach the kids a little Danish with the word "hygge". We had a program that night with all adults and kids. It was really hard to say good-bye to people there. We all had a great week with this theme and loved the kids deeply.

Now we are off to Pennsylvania. Goodbye, East Coast. Have a wonderful day. Take luck and God bless.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

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**Date:** 7/25/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

Hi everyone,

This is my second to last journal. We were in Chesterton, IN. We had a Great Bible Reef theme this week. Our team really enjoys this one, too. Pretending to be in the ocean. Cool. Just like the Nemo. We had a really small group. We all helped out together. Danny and I stuck together helping out the two-year-olds. I volunteered to watch them. Oh, they are so adorable. We played with Play-doh, colored, and painted. We tried telling them the story for the week, but their attention span is so short. Anyways, we had a great time with a smalll group and getting to know the kids really well.



**Melika Mindemann**

Have a great day. Take luck and God bless.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann

**Date:** 8/1/2007

**Submitted by:** Melika Mindemann

**Journal Entry:**

Hi everyone,

It is August. WOW. We only have a little over one week left. This will be my last journal. As of right now, we are in Shannon, IL. We have our last Great Bible Reef VBS. I am really sad about that. We are in a small town with wonderful people who are so generous. We are leading different sessions for this VBS. Nick and I are leading games with all the kids. I love making the games up and watching them try the activity out. The kids loved hanging out with us. The kids would stop by and see us every day. Today was a memorable because one of the boys named Ian stayed for my devotion. We had a time of worship and prayer. I am so happy and blessed that the Holy Spirit spoke through me and the rest of my team to this boy. He was supposed to leave and not help out, but instead he begged to stay all week with us. We really enjoyed his company, help, and his passion for the kids.

For this being my last journal I will miss being on team. These two years have been a great ministry opportunity for me and my teams. Thank you to all who have supported us and kept us in their prayers. May God bless you all. Have a wonderful day. Take luck. Melika has finally left the building, and her tour is finally over.

In Christ,

Melika Mindemann



**Melika Mindemann**