

Mosaic Crown Point 2007-08 Journal

Date: 10/29/2007

Submitted by: Danny Bennett

Journal Entry:

Hello again everyone! Well for those who know me! I am honored to be the first one to do a journal! So anyways, how about i let you in on a little bit on how team in one place is! Well as for me, being in one place for a whole year sounds and feels GREAT! Traveling for a whole year was enough for me as of now. Staying in this town Crown Point is fun, but interesting! The people (though it's not a small town) act as though it is. They treat you as if they know you, and for me thats great because im from a pretty small town in Wisconsin. I'm almost home... HAHA. Ummm ok so im waayyy too hyped up on caffeine! Ok so there ya go everyone! Have fun using your imagination to fill in the rest! Life is good and God is much Better!!!!!!

-Dan



Danny Bennett

Date: 12/5/2007

Submitted by: Laura Toland

Journal Entry:

Greetings from Trinity Lutheran Church in Crown Point, Indiana! As of tomorrow, December 6, my team and I have been here for three months! It's hard to believe that three months ago, I came here and didn't know anyone, and now the people of this church have welcomed us in so many ways. I am so thankful for that! My favorite memories have been the times when we are just hanging out with the youth, the times they pop in to see us after they get out of school. We usually hang out and listen to music for a while. The youth at this church have been so much fun to get to know, and I can tell how important their faith is in their lives. I'm looking forward to many more memories this year and more fun with everyone here!!



Laura Toland

Date: 2/4/2008

Submitted by: Laura Toland

Journal Entry:

I attended Chicago Quake I with 35ish other people from Trinity Lutheran Church in Crown Point, IN, the church I will be at til mid-August with two other people as part of YE's community-based team. Our time so far has mostly focused on the high schoolers, and I was really looking forward to hanging out with the junior high this weekend. I have been attending Quakes for eight years now, and I seem to get just as much out of them as the kids do. Jumping around and dancing crazy, listening to the speakers, walking back and forth to our room (which was far away from the main ballroom area), and just hanging out, I feel like I really made a connection with these youth.

If I could capture one moment from the weekend and keep it in my heart forever, it would be all the smiles I got from Amanda, one of the junior high girls who was at the event for the first time. Amanda's been through a lot in her life, but she's a fighter and such a sweetie. For the three days that we were there, I never heard a complaint come out of her mouth, but instead I heard "I'm having so much fun!" and "I'm so glad I'm here this weekend!" After the last Celebration, she pulled me into a big hug and said, "Thanks for being with me this weekend; it was the best weekend of my life." That made everything worth it.

These weekends always made me feel so close to God. It was during the Quake last year where I live, where I decided to apply for a Youth Encounter team. Through all the applications, interviews and paperwork, I ended up here in Crown Point at Trinity. We arrived here on September 6 and though the time has gone fast and I've had a lot of fun, there have been times where I ask myself



Laura Toland

"Why am I here? Am I reaching anyone?" I've even considered going home a few times, but one thing always makes me stay: there is a reason I'm here. There's a reason I was put at this church, with my teammates and all the people we've met. I may never know the reason, but God does and he's taking care of me.

I've been really emotional the last few weeks. Well, I'm always an emotional person, but lately it seems like I've been more. My great-uncle Bob passed away a few weeks ago, and I wasn't able to go home for his funeral. I have many great memories with my uncle Bob and I will miss him very much. The last time I saw him was a picnic we were at before I came here. When I got ready to leave, he hugged me and told me good luck and that he'd see me when I came back. I know I'll see him again someday, and for now he's keeping my dad company in Heaven. During a rather emotional conversation I had this weekend, my wonderful "boss" at YE (a.k.a., my Mama Lisa) gave me some wonderful advice. She told me to "choose joy" in my life. In everything I do, choose joy. When I'm having a bad day, when I'm not feeling good, etc...choose joy. She also reminded me that I am here in Crown Point for a reason. Yes, I do believe that, and I will try to do a better job of telling myself that.

These weekends always make me think. The three days go so fast, and I'm never ready to leave...I want it to last forever! It's so hard, even after only three days, to go back "into the real world." It's so amazing to be around 700+ people who share my faith and believe in what I believe in. Thanks for a wonderful weekend, Youth Encounter, all the staff who were there and the ones praying for us, Captive Free, Jacob's Road, Wes and everyone else...it was a great time!
