

Mosaic Racine 2007-08 Journal

Date: 10/14/2007

Submitted by: Julia Perkins

Journal Entry:



Julia Perkins

Today I went with Anthony to his home church. He had mentioned a few people that I was glad to meet, but the one person that really took me & didn't let go, seriously, was Pastor Reggie. Pastor Reggie is a pastor at a camp in WI so he doesn't get to preach at the church very often, but everybody loves it when he does.

Anthony walks up to Pastor Reggie & they greet each other with a hug and telling each other how good it is to see one another & then Anthony promptly introduces me. Yes, I was the mysterious friend this morning that some thought I was his girlfriend, others didn't have a clue, & we joked that I was his wife. We thought the last one would really throw people for a surprise loop since he hadn't been to church there since last Easter! He introduced me as his teammate, Julia, and Pastor Reggie & I shook hands & then kept shaking hands & still Pastor Reggie didn't let go of my hand & a few minutes later he still didn't let go, but we all kept on talking. At one point in the convo he mentioned to me that he was praying for me & that is why he was still holding on & was going to continue to do so until I told him to stop.

This blew me away. The man had just met me & knew nothing about me, but he was praying for me. He was Jesus with skin on amongst many other people that I met today. Pastor Reggie took my hand as God does in our lives on a constant basis and wouldn't let go. Like I said, it took me a minute to realize what he actually meant since he was carrying on a conversation with Anthony & I at the same time. I didn't want to tell him to stop, prayer is needed & much appreciated always & knowing that a complete stranger was doing it on the spot was so obvious that God was there with us & surrounding & protecting each & every one of us.

After Pastor Reggie let go of my hand & Anthony went on to talk with a few other friends that had approached us, Pastor Reggie turns to me & says, " You have ministry written ALL over you child! I saw it the moment I turned around & saw you walk in. It was like you were leaving little foot prints of Jesus every where you stepped!"

wow! seriously, for somebody to just point out that they see Jesus in your being, wow! I thanked him for the encouragement & prayers & told him he didn't know how much it was needed or it meant. How often in our lives do we stop & pray for somebody we just met on the spot and hold on to them to let them know we're there for them & so is God? Some yall might, but I'm a Lutheran, so you know that's over stepping some sort of boundary right? Ha! Yes, I am breaking out of my Lutheran shell, I have been for a while, but it's been a very slow process & I'm constantly excited to learn what God has in store for all that surrounds me. God is present & real in all of our lives, even if we don't acknowledge it & that takes my breath away.

I hope that yall have people in your life like Pastor Reggie & realize that you are Jesus with skin on too, so use it!

Date: 10/19/2007

Submitted by: Hannah Peters

Journal Entry:

so me and my teammates definitely just slid down the stairs in sleeping bags and on a mattress! it was SOOO MUCH FUN! haha i felt like a little kid again. and it made my night! which brings me to

a point. childlike faith. i long to have it but i can never quite get it. (if that makes sense) but tonight i felt like i had it. i mean i had to have enough faith in the mattress at the end of the stairs to catch me so i owuldn't hit the cabinet right in front of me. lol bad analogy but you get my point right? well just in case you dont... my point is you have to have childlike faith in god carefree faith no doubts that the mattress will catch you. and no doubts that God will catch you! this is a great lesson that i just learned! god works in such mysterious ways. this also reminds me of the song like a child by jars of clay! so if you havent heard it listen to it.

They say that I can move the mountains
and send them crashing to the sea
they say that i can walk on water if i
would follow and believe WITH FAITH LIKE A CHILD



Hannah Peters

Date: 10/31/2007
Submitted by: Julia Perkins
Journal Entry:

For just over a year if not much longer I have had practically nothing to do on my Monday's. Last year during school, both semesters, I had evening classes so I wasn't busy till 6pm & I believe before that I didn't have anything on Mondays. I worked occasionally, but my hours with admissions weren't always consistant because you never know when somebody needs a tour of campus.



Julia Perkins

This morning I was woken up at 4:30am by my silly teammate who often speaks in her sleep quite clearly & loudly & also occasionally does other funny things, such as wake up & think it's about 12 hours later than it actually is. This morning was one of those sleep walking times that I had not experienced before. She came to my room to wake me up because she needed to get her van to the shop down town & she thought she had missed her appointment be a couple hours. I had to tell her what time it was about 3 times before she realized that it was still dark out & that she was sleep walking. I chuckled at her & went back to sleep. This was only a continuation of a very silly day, just several hours after we had gone to bed.

When it was actually time to get up I reluctantly did so because if I had not lead her to the auto shop so she had a ride home I could have slept for another hour or more. I got up though & as I was driving I realized how I've felt a bit captive lately. I know it seems silly because I've been able to go visit friends randomly in the area & the next 3 weekends I'm traveling to a different place each time. I love variety in my day, but I also like waking up, making myself presentable, & going out with a purpose. Right now our mornings are very laid back, but I think I'm going to start getting up certain mornings & going out to just be up & ready for the day. All this makes me wonder how frustrated God gets with us some times when we just simply stray away from our faith.

There is always going to be silly things distracting our days & faith. Some times even at weird hours of the morning! These things may distract me & make me question different aspects of my faith, but God is the only true & constant thing that has ever been in my life. It is because of God that I have been blessed with each breath, with each friend, with each adventure and even though I squirm most when he's holding me still in one place I think that's when I'm reminded me most to just stop & be & acknowledge my breathing. "Be still & know that I am God" is one of my favorite verses from the Bible, it's not about building us up as wonderful people who are loved beyond comprehension or all the sins we commit each day. It is about simply acknowledging God who will never give you more than you can handle.

Date: 11/20/2007
Submitted by: Anthony Eder

Journal Entry:

“Community”

Love/Blessed/Fellowship/JOY/Faith

Thoughts from the random mind of Anthony Eder (Mosaic Team Member)



Anthony Eder

Lately in my life, I have noticed how important it is to be part of a community. Whether it is a community of friends from school or from work, a community of people with the same interests as you like bowling, knitting, cooking, etc., or whether it may be a community of people heading over to a coffee shop just to talk about life. No matter what community you are involved in, as long as it is a community in which you are being loved and cared for, supported, encouraged, and most importantly, in a Christian atmosphere, then that is what should be important. There are times in our lives where we all struggle and have these “storms” we go through and wonder, “How am I going to get through this?” I know in my life when something is not going the way I expected it to go, I freak out. I think “How can this happen?” “Why is this happening?” Then I realize I am not alone. I know I can trust in God to provide people to help me get through the hard times and also rejoice in the happy times.

Being part of a Community-Based team, I realize the true meaning of community. Sometimes when I work, I like to work alone. At times it is easier to concentrate and easier to get things done the way I like it. But in reality, two is better than one. Well, in my case, that really makes sense. I have two AWESOME teammates Hannah and Julia who I love working and laughing with. Sometimes we always can’t do it by ourselves; we need people to be there to do it with us.

We have been here in Racine for two and a half months, and let me tell you that I haven’t felt so loved in a long time. The people in this community have been so giving, loving, always providing, encouraging, and they make me smile. It is great to be in fellowship with ones I love, and God has really showed me his LOVE through them. It makes me appreciate what I have and that I am so blessed. God is GOOD!! We are finally starting pick up on more ministry opportunities here at the churches we are working at. It’s good but also can feel overwhelming, too. I know I can do it with the help and encouragement of my teammates and, most importantly, with the help of God. Joshua 1:9 says, **“This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”** I love being reminded of that.

So now, may you be encouraged to get involved. Be involved in a community of people that you love and who love you back. Get involve with a ministry at your church or a group in your community. Make that difference and make that change in some ones life. You will be AMAZED how God can work through you and reveal himself in many ways. Remember you are not alone. It says in Matthew 18:20 (NLT), **“For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”** Psalm 16:8 (NLT) says, **“I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.”** May God bless you and give you His JOY and peace.

In Him,
Anthony

P.S.
Choose JOY, Never Stop Praying, and Always Be Thankful.

Date: 12/5/2007
Submitted by: Julia Perkins
Journal Entry:

Life is here and now; it is right in front of you, behind you, all around you, and in you.



Julia Perkins

Each day people are starving, people are homeless, people are being shot at around the world. Today the big news is a shooting in Omaha, Nebraska. I'm sure this isn't a big news report around the world, but maybe it is. These things are only a few things that start to get a person down in spirit.

This isn't the season of low spirits, though. It's Advent, a time where people are awaiting the birth of God's son. The son of God that saved our lives. How could anybody not want to be prepared for that celebration? I know, not everybody believes in God, but I have personally explored other religious beliefs, and Christianity is the only one that makes any bit of sense to me. The funny thing is that it is not the tangible facts that make me believe, it is the unknown and the unexplained. The miracles such as baby Jesus grew up to share, and the simple miracles of people that still believe amid a world of terror and harm. This is a world made of humans who only long to have all the answers so that things may not be horrible in any one person's world, but the thing is that no one human has all the answers to the shootings or the hunger or the homelessness.

Are we prepared for baby Jesus to come? I have a secret that shouldn't be so much of a secret and hopefully it isn't. Baby Jesus, He's here, He's been here, all around, for hundreds of thousands of uncountable years. How crazy cool and confusing is that?! Baby Jesus is the reason we as humans have life, so that life that is here and now and in front of you and behind and all around you and in you, all that is baby Jesus, which in essence is God and the Holy Spirit. So when things start to seem so hard, as they sometimes seem to this time of year more than other times, no matter what you believe, know that there is a HUGE celebration called Christmas ALL over the world celebrated in many different ways for the birth of this baby who left a powerful impact on the world. Know that you are invited to join in just by acknowledging that the life in and around you is yours given to you. It is a gift worth celebrating and giving thanks to Jesus by knowing each day that you've done your best in all you've been involved with no matter what and shared that bit of Jesus with all those you met. Be joyful for all that you have.

My team and I are joyful for all the wonderful people we've been blessed to meet through Youth Encounter, through Racine, in the churches we're working with, and the worship services we've been able to go to. Each day may bring a different challenge, a different hunger, homelessness, shooting, but each day God is with us, breathing into us, giving us reason to be joyful. Be joyful! Be ready!

Date: 2/16/2008
Submitted by: Julia Perkins
Journal Entry:

Mayhem Mania 2008



Julia Perkins

Since the beginning of 2008, my life has been one adventure after the next. I have moved to a host home (GREAT family), the team cell was lost, my wallet got stolen, we got in a car "accident," I'm on my third new cell phone of the year, my car broke down and still isn't fixed 100%. I'm sure there are a few other silly things that I can't think of right now. If this is how the entire 2008 year is going to be, I will be very happy to see 2009. Through it all, though, I know that God is teaching me lessons that I may not see now but will look back on in a week or maybe five years and understand.

Our schedule in this new year on team has been very busy. We have continued on with the usual schedule of after school programs and mid-week worship at the three churches, but we have also added a few new fun ministry opportunities. We have taken one youth group to the Chicago Quake and returned that Sunday just to put together and prep for our first Prayer & Praise with the high schoolers that we're now having at the end of every month. We're also finally getting a step forward in the lunch programs with the different high schools near the churches. Another mid-week after school/worship program started up, too.

Currently, I am visiting seminaries and grad schools to try and figure out my future. I'm in MN this weekend and thankfully able to hang out with some great people that I don't get to see all that often. Next weekend, I'll be in PA and staying with a good friend and possibly seeing a few others I haven't seen in two years. Through all the "mayhem mania," God is still very present and blessing my life daily with people who are encouraging and loving. One big thing in my life right now is that I'm praying about doing a second year of team. I really want the experience of an international team, so I am going to apply and see what God has planned for me. Some days life is very uncertain, most days lately, and my teammate and I have found Isaiah 44:21 comforting in knowing we're not forgotten and that all are loved and chosen by God no matter what happens. "People of Israel, you are my servant, so remember all of this. Israel, I created you, and you are my servant, I won't forget you" (CEV).

Date: 4/9/2008

Submitted by: Julia Perkins

Journal Entry:



Julia Perkins

Lifesong is a pretty popular song by Casting Crowns. Some people may think it's overdone or over played, but it has such powerful words. As I recently wrote 2008 has not started off on the right path. Maybe it has been the right path, but it has been a very rough one to follow. It doesn't matter how many great people are in my life helping to support me there is always one person or thing that just continues to try & knock me down. This is true in ministry and life so I know that I am not alone. As a team we just have to remember to have a servant heart as best as we know how.

My team only has 5 weeks left in Racine & then we will be a traveling VBS team for the summer. This was something that was presented to us so we prayed about it & discussed it & then decided that God was putting a great offer in front of us that we shouldn't turn down. It is going to be sad to leave Racine, but it would still be sad if we were leaving in August. This summer we will be joining with Kristen from the OSU Mosaic team & the 3 of us (yes there are 3 again, my long time friend Amber Roeben has joined us) & traveling as far west as Montana and as far East as Indiana (yay hoosierland). We will obviously be spending time in between these states. I'm very anxious to meet new brothers & sisters in Christ & have God's beauty of the world revealed to me even if it's countryside that I've seen many times. Just like the lyrics to Lifesong, it all has a different meaning each time it is heard or seen.

Another fun fact of my life is that I am on my 5th cell phone of the year. I had a small case of toiletphone. Yep, that's right, my phone fell in the toilet. I lost all my numbers so it's been a journey & I actually liked not having a phone for a few days. Amidst that chaos I also received & signed a letter of call to do a second year with Youth Encounter. Starting in August of 2008 I will be serving on YE's international team called New Dawn. My team will be state side for the Fall & up through Christmas & then heading to Asia in January 2009 for around 5 months. More specifically my team will be traveling to Hong Kong, Singapore, & Malaysia. I never thought I'd go to that part of the world so I'm very excited to see what God has to unveil before me this time around. My teammates are in the midst of applying for different ministries and schooling so we just continue to keep each other in prayer as God's plan plays out for our lives. I got accepted to Luther Seminary & plan on attending classes there starting in the Fall of 2009 for a Master of Arts degree focusing in Diaconal Ministry & most likely working with the CYF (I think that's the abbreviation, it's the youth ministry program) program as well. It's very bizarre having a bit of an idea what the next 3 years are to bring even though I know at the same time I have no idea.

Through this all, even though some days just simply are little gray & dreary, while others are so incredible they rock my face right off, I just hope that my lifesong keeps singing for God. Recently I was able to go back to CAP (Capital University where I went for undergraduate studies) for a good friend's wedding & got to hang out with some great friends the entire weekend. I miss those people so much, but know that God has incredible plans for each of us & has blessed me deeply by allowing them to be a part of my life. It's always funny to see where God leads us in life. Through this all though I have found scripture from Ecclesiastes 11 & 12 that seems to be a good reminder on life. "Young people, it's wonderful to be young! Enjoy every minute of it. Do everything you want to do; take it all in. But remember that you must give an account to God for everything you do. So refuse

to worry, and keep your body healthy. But remember that youth, with a whole life before you, is meaningless (Ecc 11:9-10)." This seems a bit harsh, but true. What is the point to living if only for ourselves? Chapter 12 then starts, "Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honor him in your youth before you grow old and say, "Life is not pleasant anymore." (Ecc 12:1)." Life hasn't always been pleasant & my teammates & I have been ready for 2008 to be over since early February because of lots of chaos, but as long as we continue to know that God has a plan through it all & we're doing our best then that's all we can do.
