

Watermark/Denmark 2007-08 Journal

Date: 10/2/2007

Submitted by: Camilla Bryld

Journal Entry:

The first weekend on the road: Within 24 hours we got to go to 4 different churches to do our Sunday worship. It has been amazing to meet such a diverse group of people, who come to church to meet and worship the same God.



Camilla Bryld

The first word that pops into my head, when I think about the first weekend is thankfulness. I am taken a back by the way people have opened their homes for us, a group of strangers to them. It makes me think of a passage in the Bible where we are told that who ever gives up anything to serve the Lord will have it back ten fold. I am really experiencing that right now – cause I might have left my home and family, but I have been blessed with so many great homes and families and will continue to be through out the year

Date: 10/2/2007

Submitted by: Bodil Larsen

Journal Entry:

Hey Everybody!

Now my team and I have been on the road for just a couple of days, so we haven't had many possibilities of doing ministry, but when there was a chance it has been seized.

The first month here in the US has been very good to me. I have felt closer to God, an experience I haven't had that clearly before, so training was a great way to connect more with God, this ministry as/well as my team.

Yesterday at my day off, we went shopping in this shoe store, I talked with a girl working there - she asked what had brought a Dane (me) to North Dakota – and I told about the ministry. I hadn't thought it would be that easy to talk with random people.

I am excited about being on the road and hoping to see myself and my team bloom with the love of Jesus!



Bodil Larsen

Date: 10/3/2007

Submitted by: Kristen Elder

Journal Entry:

When I read the Bible, it can be hard for me at times to understand what I read and how to translate what I get out of passages out loud. It was my turn for a devotion for me to share with my team, and I knew this was gonna be a little nerve wrecking. I went directly to Mark 1:38 and started reading about Jesus spreading the Good News in Galilee. Jesus said to Simon and his friends, "Let us go now to the small towns near by. I have to spread the Good News in them also. This is why I have come." The biggest smile on my face appeared, to hear those words, "I have to, this is why I have come," just made me so filled with joy. We are called to be like Jesus and to be the face of love. It was so easy for him because he knew why he was placed here on the earth... to spread the Good News. Why can't it be that easy for us? That is why we are here. To hear Jesus say those words, "That's what I came to do," is so encouraging.



Kristen Elder

It is good to be on the road again, to pray to hear God's voice, and then finally to hear it and to hear him tell me, "I'm doing team again" was hard to hear. But it feels so great to know you're right where he wants you to be. So here I go, off to spread the Good News, that is what we have come to do.

P.S. Thank you so much for all your prayers and support! God Bless and much love.

Kristen.

Date: 10/3/2007

Submitted by: Boe Parker

Journal Entry:

Wow, what a week. We have been traveling a lot. We're gone from Minneapolis to Spokane in a week and a half. It has been very fast paced. Even on our second day off it was quick paced. We went to Yellowstone National park, which I've been to several times, and I wanted to show our team everything that we could see in our short time there, so we were on the go a lot.

But, the best for me has been getting a chance to already see some of the fruits I've sowed, or should I say God sowed by using me. It was actually at our first booking that I got to hear something great. At worship on that Sunday morning, I gave my sharing, which uses John Bunyan's "A Pilgrims' Progress" (great book, I recommend reading it) to share the salvation message. After the service, we were out greeting people as they walked out and a woman came up to me and thanked me for sharing. She said that the message was just for her and just what she needed to hear. Praise God! I'm so overjoyed that God has been able to use me, and event if that lady was the only person that my message will touch this year, I thank God that He was able to use me in that way.

Praise God, for He is good!

Boe



Boe Parker

Date: 10/3/2007

Submitted by: Nels Davig Dovre

Journal Entry:

"In the Beginning God made the seas and the forests filled with trees,
God made the mountains up so high, above it all God placed the sky"

So our team went to Yellowstone National park on our Day off. Before departing we stopped at a pre-school to do a few sing-a-longs and a puppet show. It was great to see these 3-5 year olds singing about God creating the seas and forests and mountains and event the sky. Them to see them acting like a hippopotamus to prove that God likes to have fun. Because I often get car sick when I look at scenery outside of the car I decided it would be smart if I took some anti-motion sickness medicine before we arrived at Yellowstone. Now everything has its good side and its bad side, motion sickness' bad side is that t may cause drowsiness. Every stop at Yellowstone was as bright and vivid as if I had just woken up from a deep slumber. The crazy part is that many of the sights I saw that day might as well have come out of my dreams except that I have not dreamed in the colors or dimensions that I saw at Yellowstone. Some call me creative, but I could not invent a fumarole.

After a day of elk, buffalo, canyons, waterfalls, steam vents, and geysers I felt I had encountered enough for one day. On our trek to the Northern exit of Yellowstone there was a clump of cars stopped in the middle of the road. (usually they take the time to pull off to the side) We thought it might be a bear that they were pulling off to see, so I did the most logical and responsible thing, I grabbed my camcorder and jumped out of the van. Fifty or so feet from the road was a nice sized grizzly munching on some nuts and berries. I was 30 feet from the van when I spotted it. Looking



Nels Davig Dovre

back on the event I realize that I was not very smart, grizzly bears can chase down deer, but in that moment of awe looking at a creature that sits higher on the food chain than myself I couldn't help but look in wonder at God's creation. 1,500 foot canyons, 400 lb. man killing animals, what am I to do in this mind boggling creation?

What will God have me do this year? I probably won't see a hippo, but I'll see the sea, I've been in the forests and mountains. I've seen the Montana skies and I'll be flying in a few months so hip, hip, hooray God Made all of us.

Date: 10/9/2007

Submitted by: Camilla Bryld

Journal Entry:

We just started the third week on the road and we are starting to get used to team life. Van rides are starting to be sleep rides instead of fun rides. Tiredness is starting to set in, so our day off yesterday was a blessing. We got to hang out at a host home and not do anything all day. I got to talk to people from home which gave me a peace of mind, and helped me to not feel as cut off from Denmark. So now I am re-energized and ready for another week of ministry.



Camilla Bryld

Date: 10/9/2007

Submitted by: Bodil Larsen

Journal Entry:

The last week we have had several programs – and it has been nice finally getting started in that way, because I really love the songs in our program and I enjoy singing them even more!

But what I wanted to tell you about are the people we talk to afterwards, it has been mostly older people and when we start the program I fear they might not like the whole electric set-up – drums, electric guitar and so, but every time I find out that I didn't have to think like that because they come and tell how much they loved the program, our voices, the harmonies and how the drums didn't make too much noise.

And that gives me so much joy to hear how they thought about the program, that they could bring something home from it too.

Amazing!

- Bodil



Bodil Larsen

Date: 10/9/2007

Submitted by: Stephanie Malzahn

Journal Entry:

Hello,

This week has been so crazy, but good. We were in Portland, OR and were helping with a youth night. It was crazy. There were over 100 junior high kids at the event. Wow! It was an outreach event so all the kids had invitations to give to their friends. I was so encouraged to hear how many kids did in fact *invite* their friends. My little 11-year old host brother was talking about how excited he was and how many of his friends he had invited. It was so great to see kids so on fire for God and not ashamed of the Gospel.



Stephanie Malzahn

One of my favorite verses is Romans 1:16-17 where it states... "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God." I have never seen that passage lived so out loud by anyone, none

the less by children. This was such an encouraging night for me. I saw God so clearly that night and hope there are many more nights like that to come.

Stephanie

Date: 10/12/2007

Submitted by: Boe Parker

Journal Entry:

Team is crazy. So many things are going on. My life with God is kind of crazy as well. I really want to know what direction my life is going in. It's funny, I wanted to use my first year of team to figure out what I was gonna do with my life, but that didn't exactly pan out. But I know that I'm not doing a fourth year of team, and I don't really want to go to school, so if you who are reading this could pray for discernment for me this year, that be most appreciated.

In Christ,
Boe



Boe Parker

Date: 11/5/2007

Submitted by: Justin Murray

Journal Entry:

So far the road has its twists and turns. I feel that being this far on the road the team is starting to set boundaries with one another. Sometimes I feel kinda departed because every body is off doing there own thing. I am hoping that everything turns around because I feel drifted.

While traveling it was awesome going into Canada. The people up there were really cool and it was my first time ever seeing a boarding school. Until last week I did not know that Canada had those. But the kids were great and I miss them a lot, but I know that we made an impact. I just hope that feeling keeps with them.

Well right now we are in Idaho and we are heading off to a new place today I am hoping that we actually get to do a worship service because this past week was just a lot of driving and hanging around. Hopefully changes are coming. But right now I guess that I will go with the flow.

In God's peace,
Justin Murray



Justin Murray

Date: 11/8/2007

Submitted by: Nels Davig Dovre

Journal Entry:

So I am a road man. I live off of my own bootstraps. I sleep under the stars. Basically I am Amazing.

If you are imagining my voice saying the words as you read them I hope you would hear the thick impregnated sarcasm gushing from those last four sentences. More and more I realize that though my lifestyle is different from the norm it is nothing but blessing to be on the road this year. I have had the honor and privilege of meeting up with some of my co-workers from camp this last week. It was refreshing say hello to someone and not have that hello not be followed by, "My name is Nels Davig Dovre." Throughout the day I was reminded that eventually I won't be on team anymore and will then live a normal life. This prospect of a normal life awoke within me desires for my future: where I will be, what I will study, who I will hang out with. Pretty soon I was overwhelmed almost lost amongst all of my ideas.



Nels Davig Dovre

From this state I was called back to what this year, and ultimately our lives are about, God's will,... and writing really cheesy journals. (Superiors and those in charge of me, that last one was a joke)

*To the readers, if you're out there, thank you for your interest and support, may God bless you today.

Date: 11/13/2007

Submitted by: Bodil Larsen

Journal Entry:

So, for the last couple of weeks we have had quite a lot of driving and housing, and not as much programming as we would have liked. This has caused us to feel very frustrated in a way, because although we're very grateful for a place to stay, sometimes when churches house us, we stay at the church itself and don't get to meet very many people - and we miss hanging out with kids and young people, and doing our program or Sunday worship. Time suddenly felt long, and it was unsettling to sometimes not know where we would be later in the week.



Bodil Larsen

By reading the above, you might have an idea of what thoughts and frustration we might have thought and felt - but now to the good and positive part of this whole story! Because I have definitely learned something from these experiences.

Matthew 6:34 - Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

I don't really worry about what's coming, because I know we will have a place to sleep, and we will get fed - and the rest isn't important.

I have never in my life lived in right now, I was always thinking and looking forward to what was coming next, but right now I live in the present - not in the future. So I don't worry about tomorrow and I don't worry about the future - I'm just living my life!!

Date: 11/25/2007

Submitted by: Boe Parker

Journal Entry:

I have really been struggling lately physically. I haven't gotten a good night's sleep for probably the last month and a half. It is really starting to take a toll on me. I really didn't mind all of the down time we had these past few months, but I know that I didn't act very responsibly about all the time we had. I now regret that because things are starting to pick up again and we're all a bit sick right now, so it is really hard to feel up to par right now.



Boe Parker

There have been a lot of really good things that have happened these past few weeks. I've gotten the chance to hang out with some of my family that lives in Seattle, which was amazing since I don't really get to see them often. It was so good to see them and to reconnect with that amazing part of my family.

One of the most fun and great ministry opportunities that I've had in any of my years of team was at Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah, WA. We were there for a few days, including our day off, but the best part of it was our program the first night. It was so neat because it was held in the massive chapel at the school and there was a big turnout. I loved playing there because I got to play loud and to really just rock out. Also, I gave the message. At first, I had no idea what I could share with these students, mainly because I've not been to college yet, and I have never experienced what they have in a college atmosphere. So I just started talking about how ever since I've left home,

every year around this time, it feels like a piece of my heart has been ripped out because I really miss hunting with my dad. Then God just took the reins and started speaking through me hardcore. It was all tied together with talking about how we all have a hole in our hearts and the only thing that can fill it is Christ. I felt so blessed that night to be able to share a real piece of me and also the Gospel at the same time.

Well, I am stoked for Thanksgiving and soon, Mid-Winter break.

Later.

Date: 1/9/2008

Submitted by: Boe Parker

Journal Entry:



Boe Parker

Wow. What a rush of feelings. I have already been blown away with how much I love Denmark. I have already been trying to look at everything with a joyful heart and with a sense of humor. I have gotten to re-experience some feelings and already have felt new ones from the last time abroad. I can only say that culture shock is coming on each one of us differently. Some people are quiet and reserved and others are flipping out, excitedly. I think that I am really trying to come with the third category already in my mind. The third category of culture shock is the realization that things are different and that it is okay. I mean, how often would I say that I've been able to walk into a room and have absolutely no idea what people are saying and be completely fine with it. It's definitely different, but it is beautiful, the Danish language and the way the Danes speak. I love it.

Jet lag is a real killer. I tried to go to bed at a decent hour last night (11:30) and when I layed down to sleep, I couldn't. I probably layed in bed for the whole night with my eyes closed, but not asleep. I opened my eyes this morning when my alarm went off at 7:00 a.m. We had to be leaving by 8:20 and breakfast was between 7:15 and 7:40, so I wanted to get up with time to take a quick shower and go get breakfast. My alarm went off right at the time that I was actually about to fall asleep. I turned it off and reset it for 8:00. Then I got about an hour of sleep before I got up. The funny thing is that I'm not even really tired today at all. Hopefully I will be tired by tonight.

Finally, I am so thankful for the ways that God provides and makes everything work out. Our first flight, from Minneapolis to Chicago, was delayed by a couple of hours, and we didn't think we'd be able to catch our flight to Frankfurt, Germany from Chicago. We landed in Chicago around 3:30 P.M. and saw on the sign that our plane was delayed as well and wasn't going to take off until 4:00, so we bolted across the airport to the terminal, just in time to board our flight. The rest of our traveling was solid, but it was so cool to catch a glimpse of how trusting in God pays off and how God works for us when we seek Him and pray, instead of trying to rely on our own selves. Well, I think I'm gonna catch a nap.

Praise and Thanks be to God,
Boe Parker
Watermark Denmark

Date: 1/14/2008

Submitted by: Camilla Bryld

Journal Entry:



Camilla Bryld

So I am back in Denmark. I am home. I should be excited and happy, because I am finally home. But I'm not, I fell misplaced and awkward. I feel a language barrier,

because I have been living my life in english for 5 months. And even though my friends and family are only 3 hours away I am not gonna be seeing them until another 7 weeks. I might as well still be in the states. What is wrong with me? I am returning to my own culture and I am having culture shock like none other. You don't take a 2-3 hour drive if your not going to spend at least half a day there or spend the night. It is wierd to go back to that mentality after having spend 4 months driving between 4 and 8 hours every other day. I am struggling with understanding my own culture, why i react as i do and why i am so sensitvive. But then the other day i was reminded about a bible verse from romans chapter 5, 'And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance charachter, and charachter hope. And hope does not disappoint us' - it just gave me new energy to do what I am doing, that even though I might be struggling with things and having a hard time understand, I still have God, I still have the hope that he gives me and me struggles will only help me grov in charachter. Halleluiah!!

Date: 1/16/2008

Submitted by: Boe Parker

Journal Entry:

So today we finished the process of recording our CD. It was really a great experience for our team. We all enjoyed working on this project together and also working with Martin, the producer, and Meretta, our main contact here in Denmark. I really loved getting feedback from people who know music and who know what they want to hear in music. I am really confident about our CD and I think that it will probably go double platinum...just kidding, but I do think that it will sound good. What a great way to begin our tour in Denmark.

I am having a bit of a weird time adjusting to the new time zone here in Denmark. I think we are all having a tough time dealing with the change. I didn't have as hard of a time adjusting to the time difference last year in Australia, but I think that it was because that was almost completely opposite from the time zone I was used to in the states, where as this one is harder to adjust to because it is only seven hours different. We wake up in the morning here at the same time that most of us would just be getting to bed in the states. I think that my body is finally starting to get adjusted to the time difference though, which is good.

Well, not much else to report on this end. Until next time, God bless and have a good day.



Boe Parker

Date: 1/16/2008

Submitted by: Bodil Larsen

Journal Entry:

It has been some great days in Denmark and great people as well – what would we do if we hadn't had these to pick us up in the airport, arrange our schedule, provide food and beds to stay in, produce our cd and just hang out with us? We have truly been blessed with the people we have met here already and will probably learn that it isn't going to be the last time to experience that either.

It has also been hard days as well, because there has been trouble sleeping and tiredness, but the spirits haven't had a significant downfall – even though it was time to record our cd and we were tired and the feeling of soon getting sick is there, the whole team has been great, and it has been some great days recording this 'The Watermark Denmark 07-08 cd'.



Bodil Larsen

So one more time I can say I have truly been blessed with my team as well. They are incredible people and I love them. They are wonderful creations of God and this experience wouldn't be the same without each and every one of them present.

So all I want to say today is: "Thank you".

Date: 1/24/2008
Submitted by: Boe Parker
Journal Entry:



Boe Parker

Wow! We've only been here in Denmark for two weeks and we've only been on the road here for a few days, and already we have had some amazing ministry times. We have been so richly blessed by this first week that we've been touring. It has been great working with Brian, our main contact in the area that we're working in, and with Jim Phrogner, who was on Watermark 05-06, and together have been traveling with us and have lined up our bookings this week. It has been great to meet Maria, Jim's wife, and great to see Jenny Brockman, also on Watermark 05-06. Anyways, it has been great to get to see people that I know and great to meet new people as well.

Today we traveled north and went to a prison in the Northern part of Denmark. I didn't really know what to expect. I've been to the Nebraska State Men's Prison, and that was both a blessing and a haunting image that has been burned into my mind. I can remember the cat-calling that the men did at the girls on my team as we walked across the yard, and I can also remember the amazing bible study with we had with the inmates. I can remember how passionate some of them were when they sang praises to God, and I can remember those who were constantly guarded by men with rifles. The most shocking realization for me was that these men were no different than me or you. They may have committed some heavy crimes, but they are still human beings, and in God's eyes, we are just as filthy in our sin as they are because God sees all sin the same, as sin. That is to say that in God's sight, committing murder is just as bad as lying to someone or cheating on a test.

Today, I was hit with that realization again. The prison system here in Denmark is a lot different than in the U.S. First off, there were two parts to the prison. The first part was a very minimum security type place, where the inmates are freer to go do whatever they want. They aren't locked in at all. They go out during the day and work in real jobs and come back in the evening. I would say it is kind of like a more strict form of probation. Then there is the maximum security part. It is really heavily fenced in and guarded like the prisons in the states are, but once inside I learned that they are likewise, freer to do things. They work a bit within the compound and make money which they use to buy toiletries and food, which they prepare themselves. They have their own kitchen that is fully furnished. They have a nice weight room and access to things like Playstation 2 and the likes. It was interesting, they weren't treated like animals, like I see happening in the U.S., but they are treated like humans. I'm not saying that it is better or worse than the U.S. I am saying that it was different. Very different.

But the greatest part of the day was getting the opportunity to talk to the people there. We were able to talk with many of the inmates and here their stories, their thoughts and dreams, their plans for the future, everything. I thought that it would be tough to talk with them, but they were very good at English and very interested in us. I really enjoyed getting to spend time with the people there. I think it is so important to not place yourself on a pedestal above the inmates, and most important to treat them with the same kindness and respect you would your best friend. And just spending time listening to them meant a lot to them I know.

Peace,
Boe

Date: 1/24/2008
Submitted by: Justin Murray
Journal Entry:



Justin Murray

Journal 1

Well when we first arrived in Denmark I had like an epiphany on what I was doing for the year. Realizing that I would have to do some ministry around people that I don't know at all, but these first two weeks have been a blast I have gotten to see a lot of Denmark already and I am loving it here right now. Hanging out with my teammates and seeing a new side of them while they are over seas too. We have done a lot of concerts that had great

results for all of them. We even did one in a prison which was incredible I thought of it being completely different than what I expected because I had only seen prisons in like movies and they were all runned down and old looking. But, this place was different. The prisoners could go out and have a job and make money so they can like buy food and clothing they don't wear uniforms which was the part that I was expecting the most but it is cool to have some sort of freedom. They could even put money away for a while so that they would have something financially when they got out.

Today my teammates and I went up to the northern coast of Denmark to see some of the sites like a church being buried by a sand dune. And seeing an old world war two bunker that was used by the German military and even climbing inside of it was a blast as well my teammates and I love to jump off of stuff as well as climb on top of stuff. We walked the beach line for a little bit it was incredibly windy out side so it was cold and our noses were running. But we made it to the point that was at the end of the beach were these two seas collided with each other. It was awesome to see this site because the sun was just setting and it made for a beautiful sunset brought back some good old memories that I have experienced in my life time.

The churches here totally blow my mind away there huge. Well most of them that we have been to anyway they have ships in them I really don't know the story behind it all but I bet that it is a good one. We were in this one church that was incredibly old and they were in the process of doing remodeling the place but the celeling and the paintings on the wall were amazing this church was like stepping into something out of Rome like St Peters Basilica or something like that.

So far our equipment has been holding up swell. It is a great set I am glad that we get to use it often because I think that this set is easier to use than the stuff we get in the states.

Peace guys and God Bless
Justin

Date: 1/25/2008
Submitted by: Camilla Bryld
Journal Entry:



Camilla Bryld

This morning we had a booking at a school in Aalborg. We arrived at 8.15 am and started setting up for the concert we were gonna have for 7th through 9th grade. About 10 minutes before we started I was asked to do a sharing for the morning devotion we were gonna have after the concert, for the entire school, k through 9th. Some people are really good at coming up with a sharing on the spot, I am not one of those people. So I was kind of freaking out as we started the concert. I decided that a thing that would be interesting for everyone and could engage them, was an interactive bible story. So i picked out the story about the lost son, wrote down the number of charachters I would need, and then just see what would happen. After the concert we went to the teachers lounge to have a cup of coffee before the morning devotion 15 min later. As we were walking back to the gym, I was informed that we weren't gonna have time for what I had planned for, so I had to come up with something again. If I wasn't freaking out before then I was for sure now. So I decided to use our theme verse and talk about that, it comes from eph. 2. 13-14, *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.* So I talked about how we every day do things that we shouldn't have done and how God forgives. After the devotion was over, we were standing around the stage area and two 4th grade girls were kind of walking a little back and forward around us. So I asked them if there was anything they wanted to ask, and they lokked at me with wondering eyes and one said 'It was just, what you said before, about God forgiving the things we do wrong... Does He keep doing that?'. It was such an encouragement, to hear that the kids were actually listening, that for some of them this was something new, something they had never heard before. So I told them ' Yes, He keeps forgiving, day after day. And you know what the coolest thing is? God isn't like us. If someone appologizes for something they have done to us, we might say we forgive them, but what they did is still somewhere in the back of our minds. But when God forgives us, all the things we have done wrong, they disappear. God won't ever think about it again.' For me that is huge! It was amazing to be reminded of how awesome God is, and probably by the last two people I would ever have expected to remind me.

Date: 1/27/2008
Submitted by: Justin Murray
Journal Entry:



Justin Murray

Journal

Things are starting to get a lot better now since we are starting to do a lot more stuff. A couple days ago we did something called street ministry where we just stood on a street corner handing out free coffee and cookies and chatting with the locals. We stood on a street where most of the bars were. And we got to doing about 11:00 that night and we went until 1:30 that morning. First starting out was great the people were friendly and had a lot to say. But since the drinking age over in Denmark is a lot lower than in the states there were a lot of drunken teenagers it kind of made the situation a little uncomfortable for me because I am not used to seeing a lot of people who are intoxicated. But in the end I was glad to have been apart of something great.

We also went up north to where the north and Baltic seas met it took awhile to get there. But we past an old world war two bunker and that made for some fun because we could climb all over and go inside of it. Those things don't have a lot of room to move around in. But hanging out on the sea was a great time my teammates had fun and so did I. And then after that we have visited a church that was half buried by a sand dune. So then the tower is all that remains they showed a diagram of what the church originally looked like most of it was crushed underneath the weight of the sand but the tower has been preserved for tourists like us.

My teammates are having a great time over in Denmark it seems. One of them just had there birthday a little while ago so it was good to experience a Danish birthday. The cake they use is to look like the person who is celebrating there birthday and to get the party going the person has to cut off the head of the cake and then everyone else just screams. It was awesome.

Our first contact this week was awesome his name was Brian and he is one of the coolest guys I have ever met. He was really funny but was also serious and passionate about what he does. We also spent a lot of time with a person named Jim who was on Watermark a couple of years ago. So this first week of doing ministry was a blast I hope that all the time that we are here will go as great as this week went. I am really going to miss those guys.

Peace

Justin

Date: 1/29/2008
Submitted by: Bodil Larsen
Journal Entry:



Bodil Larsen

Every day we all have to make choices. – Should I wear the blue or the red sweater? Should I pull myself together and go talk to the confirmation-class or am I too scared? Should I be positive today or is that too much to ask for of myself? Also choices about the future are to be made, like: Should I go to Bible school this fall or wait until next year? Should I do this or that after team?

All the choices you make every day are important and they "decide" how your day ends up as – either good, less good, okay, kind of bad or just bad. But the most important choice we have to make every day is: Do I want to choose Jesus or not? At times it can be hard to choose Him, because you are focused on everything else. Do I dare talk to these kids instead of just swallowing your fear and take the chance of having a good conversation and/or look stupid to the, but at least you tried!

Well, this Tuesday we got up at 5 am to play for a confirmation class (we had to drive an hour and

then set up to be ready at 8 am).

I have this fear of going talking to the kids, and this day I pulled myself together and went to talk to a group of 5 girls, and it went just fine – really nice girls and they were really into our program which was great. So I finally took a baby step out of my comfort-zone. We all took some choices that day – Kristen and Camilla talked to a girl that said she hadn't really been sure about Jesus, but now she was much more certain. Every day is full of choices most important is whether you choose Jesus or not.

Date: 2/4/2008

Submitted by: Camilla Bryld

Journal Entry:

So I am really bad at adding my journal entries. Sorry about that. But sometimes I just get caught up in all the things that happen around me and I forget to write my journal on the day that I am supposed to, but then something cool happens and I think 'I am going to put that in my next journal, and I remember that my next journal was 4 days ago. So here I am typing about something that happened yesterday, or actually I haven't even gotten to that point yet. But here goes: So yesterday (Sunday) was our day off, and 4 of my friends that I haven't seen since august were going to drive 4 hours to spend the day with me, if you have read my previous journals you will know that everything over a 2 hour drive without spending the night is a lot, if you haven't read my previous journals, I just summoned it up, so now you know. So they left Copenhagen early Sunday morning, around 6 am to drive to where I was and spend the day with me. The were supposed to get there around 10 am, so I talked to them a little before that, just to check how far they were, and they were actually kind of in trouble, they had taken a break and now the car wouldn't start. While I was talking to my friend Julie my other friend Eva was yelling in the background 'Sit down in a circle and pray, sit down in a circle and pray' I think she was kind of joking, but never the less, we actually sat down, me, Kristen, Bodil, Stephanie and our host parents Ole and Marianne, and we prayed for about 6-7 min. We started praying at 10.29, and when we were done I texted my friends and asked if the car had started, and it had at 10.30!! I sometimes have a hard time really seeing that my prayers make a difference and that they 'work' – but this was just so there, and so evident. I just shows me how God can do the most surprising things when we least expect it – even when it is such a little stupid thing as the car being able to start.



Camilla Bryld

Date: 2/5/2008

Submitted by: Stephanie Malzahn

Journal Entry:

Hi everyone! So many things have happened, and it's so hard to find a minute to catch your breath. First of all, Denmark is great. I love it! I thought at first that culture shock might be an issue for me because of the last time I was in Europe. I don't know if this time I was just anticipating it too much to be bad that I didn't notice anything or what, but all I can say is God is amazing! God has really blessed me with so many amazing experiences and people in this new place. Our main contact Merete has been amazing! She is wonderful and really cares about our team. It seems as though every decision she makes (involving Watermark) is made with the very best interest of our team. I can feel so much care and consideration. It is a huge blessing.



Stephanie Malzahn

We have been on the road for two weeks now and we have seen many sights already. We've been to the crazy hyped-up boarding schools, the early confirmation classes, the impromptu cafés, etc. We have been crazy excited, ridiculously tired, frustrated, grateful and just plain content. God is really showing me that he provides all things. These past few weeks have been a tremendous blessing. One thing I am so thankful for is that we have managed to have our devotions almost every day. Sometimes we can't quite squeeze it in, but most of the time we can. I know everyone on the team understands the need to be in God's word ever yday and especially with the busy, crazy, exciting days that we have, it is much needed. Thanks to everyone for praying for

Watermark. Please keep praying for opportunities to share the gospel and joy of Jesus Christ amidst all of the barriers we encounter, especially language. Please pray that we would stay motivated and find time to rest and become re-energized. God's peace!

Steph

Date: 2/5/2008

Submitted by: Boe Parker

Journal Entry:

Well, here I am. I am starting to understand why all the people that I've met that have been on Watermark before me have said that finding rest is really important. We've only been on the road here for a week and a half, and I'm tired. All of us are tired. It has been interesting to see how people function in the early morning. Some don't do it with ease and some do. I can definitely see how we all could use rest. It is also really interesting to have our day off on Sunday. It is nice to have a day off, but it is different because we are all used to having it on Monday. It's cool though, I really love experiencing new and different things like this.

We got up early this morning and led a confirmation class in worship. It was really nice to have the kids get into the worship and just into having fun with us. There was a lot of good energy in the church and I think we all had fun.

Right now we're in Skive. It is a nice city. We are staying in the city itself and have a really nice host home. It is in a nice location. I can't really think of anything else to write, so I'm going to take a nap and get some much needed rest.

Peace,
Boe



Boe Parker

Date: 2/6/2008

Submitted by: Boe Parker

Journal Entry:

I find it really interesting, on occasion, to read very deep, theological sermons. This last week, we were at our host home for dinner. After dinner, we sat down and had some coffee and our host-dad told us that he had been asked by our contact to lead a short devotion for us, since it was our last night there. He asked for a volunteer to read a sermon from some guy that he had found on the internet. I said I would and quickly scanned the ten to fifteen page "book," if you will. It was actually a long sermon, but I started reading. It was titled, "Ten Shekels and a Shirt." It started off telling the story of Micah and the Levite priest. It turned out to be a real amazing sermon for me. I realized how much I try to be in control of my life, and how much I try to hold from Christ. My favorite thought from the devotion was this (paraphrased), I want to be completely selfless in following Christ and I don't follow Christ because I will receive the reward of eternal life, but I follow Christ and worship God because He is worthy of that praise, even if I end up in Hell, I will worship because God is worthy to be praised. That is a long thought that is packed full of things, but I have found a lot of truth in this. I will worship my God because he is worthy. Not for any personal gain at the end of my life. Not for any result that would give me any benefit from this action, but because God is worthy. That should be reason enough for me to follow Christ and call myself a Christian. I do believe that I have the promise of life from Christ, but that promise is not the main reason for me being a Christian. It is simply to be a vessel that God can use for His glory and that is what I pray God does with me and my teammates all over the world.

Peace,
Boe



Boe Parker

Date: 2/15/2008

Submitted by: Boe Parker

Journal Entry:

Well, we're all sick now...except for Justin (lucky guy). I think that this is the hardest thing about being on the road and being a musician, getting sick. I really wish that I could sleep through this whole cold, but it definitely won't be happening this week. I have only been sick for a couple of days, but it feels like it's been a long time. I don't really have a whole lot to say this week, but I know that God has used us and that he will continue to use us in great ways. Well, I'm going to try and catch a nap for a couple of hours this afternoon.



Boe Parker

Date: 2/15/2008

Submitted by: Nels Davig Dovre

Journal Entry:

Well I guess if you're reading this you have something called hope (meaning that you have been hoping, against given evidence) that I would write another journal. I am so sorry that I haven't put up a journal in these past months. If you were not aware I am now in Denmark, and no, Denmark is not the capital of Sweden. It is a country in which they speak Danish but would not understand what it meant to eat a Danish. Also if you were wondering Danish and Dutch are not the same thing. I decided to finally journal today because today was not an ordinary day, I had peanut butter for the first time since December (that's not actually the reason I am writing this) (I just couldn't think of a better way to say, "I hadn't had peanut butter for a long time") (but seriously, I did have peanut butter today).

Let's see how long it takes for me to catch you up to where I am since I wrote that, "I'm a road man," journal. People, get ready for a long run-on (sentence).

We drove from wherever we were back to the mid-west through an Ice storm (notice the capital "I" in "Ice"), We stopped at Stephanie's parents house, we stopped at my parents house, we stopped at "aunt" Julie's house, we stopped at Justin's parents house, we stopped at mid-winter training (for the first time in my life I actually thought I had become an introvert), I had my winter break (I have never seen so many people in so little on such little energy before in my life), just know that break was... life changing, then I made it back up to Minneapolis for a little prep week, we stayed with our host families again in Taylor's falls (shout out to the Vitalis's [sorry about butchering your name, I am an awful speller]), we took a little journey across the ocean and ended up in Borkop (which is in Denmark) at a nice little bible school, we spent 23 or so hours recording tracks to put onto a compact disk (which is available for ownership through use of either cash money, check or barter system (I could use a nice looking goat [mine looks terrible... goat meaning goatee... meaning I haven't shaved my face since coming to Denmark... meaning I look disgusting])), we stayed in North Jutland, we saw two oceans crashing into each other quite near a buried church (which I was going to write a little essay on... I didn't), we stayed in West Jutland, we got to be at a camp that really made me think I might be in the Midwest (of the United States of America that is), we went to South Zealand, we got to play at our first Soldiers home (we don't have these in the U.S.), and now were in Bornholm, on the ride over I almost flew off the boat because it was so windy, now I'm writing a journal.

Do you think you can read that in one breath? I bet you can't. Now that I've told you all of that, or that you've read all of that (the latter being the more likely of the two options just put forth), now (wow, I used "that" four...five times in this sentence so far) you'll read (probably) that (#6) most of what I've previously mentioned doesn't really let you in on that (#7) which is going on inside my head (I am having much too much fun with these parentheses) (that) (#8).

Now for the actual update on Nels Davig Dovre.

I'm feeling... reliant.

Thank you so much for all of your support. I will redouble my efforts concerning the, "Letting You Know What's Going On With Me" business (or as I like to call it, "L.Y.K.W's.G.O.W.M." business).

Nels "zypelsie" Davig "the beast" Dovre

p.s. The, ' "L.Y.K.W's.G.O.W.M." business,' was a joke I've never called it that before and even more so cannot actually "like" calling it that.

p.p.s. I know that, "much too much," on line 5 of paragraph 3 was improper English... along with most of the rest of this journal (I don't get prepositions).



Nels Davig Dovre

Date: 2/17/2008

Submitted by: Stephanie Malzahn

Journal Entry:

Have you ever been put on the spot before? I'm sure you have. I've been in classes where I am asked a question, and at that exact moment my mind sort of goes blank. Sometimes it's just for a second; other times, it's for the rest of the class period. I have been asked "Can you ..." or "Do you want to ..." and I really don't

want to, but I could. I don't have a good reason for saying no, so there is that awkward pause (where the person isn't quite sure if you heard the question) where my mind goes blank again.

It feels sometimes that I have spent the last 25 years of my life trying to prepare myself for the question, "Why are you a Christian?" This question is one of those where I think about it for a bit and no words really come, and the answer in my head is "Well...I just do." I think to myself that there are reasons why I believe; I just can't quite think of them right now.



Stephanie Malzahn

This past week we have been on the island of Bornholm. It is an island just southeast of Denmark's mainland. We had a usual schedule when we arrived. Our contact Jesper was extremely nice and helpful and had planned a week just like every other contact. We had a few church concerts and some confirmation classes and some schools. On Tuesday, February 12, we played a concert for a public school. I'm pretty sure this was our first full concert at a public school. The concert was great. It seemed like the kids were at least enjoying the fact that they got out of classes for that hour, but they also seemed to be enjoying some of the songs and the puppet show, as well.

After we tore our equipment down, we were going to go to some classes. We had to split up into five classes so that one American would be in each class and then Bodil, Camilla and Jesper would join whoever they wanted to. I ended up going by myself, which I was totally prepared for and was fine with. I ended up going to a religion class. I thought that was a little odd for a public school. I thought this mainly because in the U.S. you would not have a religion course in a public school. I was naturally curious about what they were learning about.

When I got to the classroom, the teacher introduced me and said they could ask me anything they wanted to. The first question I was asked was, "Are you a Christian?" to which I answered "Yes, I am." The same kid jumped right in with "But why Christianity?" then, "When did you become a Christian, what happened?" I must admit I wasn't really ready to answer those kinds of questions right away. I wanted to understand who I was talking to, so I asked who in the room of maybe 30 students were Christians. Approximately four or five of them said they were Christians, but only a little bit.

The phrase that was running through my head was, "Good luck." Oh yeah, and "Don't mess up!" I was terrified. I didn't know what I was going to say. I haven't had a "light bulb" God moment. You know, one of those heart wrenching stories about how I almost overdosed and when I had nothing left I saw God or something like that. I mean it's cool if you have, but I haven't. I didn't know what to say that was going to actually make them listen or understand or just think; not to mention my mind was a complete blank.

I was praying over and over in those few seconds of the awkward pause and I just said, "God, this has to be you, speak, speak, speak." I opened my mouth and just starting talking.

This is not a story about how those 30 kids are now all on-fire Christians and now they understand and believe what the Bible says. I don't even know if what came out of my mouth even made sense, but I do know that God was there. I hadn't been forced to really answer those questions before, and since I was the only one in that class, it meant that I was it.

The one verse that came to my head was Rom. 5:8. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this, while we were still sinners Christ died for us." This verse is gospel to me. I don't even think I can really understand what God was doing with me in that classroom or what that experience is shaping me for, except maybe trust. I've been having a hard time with that and those kids really pushed me by asking lots of probing questions. They asked questions that I didn't have the answers to. It was good for me to see that I don't need to have all the answers because I can't anyway. I guess I'll wait and find out what that class experience has done for me later.

Please keep those kids in your prayers, not just these kids, but everyone. Denmark seems to be a place with uncertainty among youth. They have questions but can't find answers and so get distracted in the meantime and that takes their focus off of God or at least their questions for him. I guess just be in prayer that God would make known to them that he loves them no matter what. It may seem too good to be true, and it really is, but it's the truth! How exciting is that? Thank you for

praying!

Steph

Date: 2/18/2008

Submitted by: Kristen Elder

Journal Entry:

One month already!!! Wow, it has been flying by so fast! Sorry I have not written anything in a very long time; I am not very good at this journal stuff, but this is what I know! Being in Denmark has opened my eyes so much. Being in another culture for the first time, not being able to communicate with most people, is the hardest yet best experience I have ever been through.



Kristen Elder

When we first arrived in DK, it was wonderful! To be in a different country and eat new food--the newness of everything was so exciting. That was definitely culture shock stage #1! Stage #1 is being super excited and loving every minute of being here. Stage #2 didn't fall that far behind! Stage #2 is the crying stage and being weirded out because of how different things are. I got sick and had to go to the doctor. Then getting different medicine (I ended up getting the wrong kind)...that whole experience was insane. The time difference was crazy, too. I promised myself that I wouldn't look at the time at home because it made me homesick. The hardest struggle I have been through so far is the language barrier. The first week I could not communicate with my host mother at all, and I wanted to so badly. After all, that is a large part of our ministry, and I couldn't do anything to fix it. So I went through those stages very fast. Sometimes I feel I am still in culture shock, but I think I have overcome it.

My birthday was on Jan. 25, and I really thought that was going to be hard, but it was the best birthday I could have had away! They had lots of Danish traditions, and it was fun to be a part of that, but the best part was the street ministry! Late that night, we went out at like 10:30 p.m. and stayed on the street till 2:00 a.m., talking to mostly drunk people and drinking coffee, just to bring up Jesus Christ and to tell them why we are standing there and in Denmark. I had a blast! I learned so much that night. People would just walk up to you and ask you, "Why are you Christian? Why do you believe? You came all the way from America to tell us why you believe in God?" Everyone has different beliefs. We ran into Satanists and Christians. This one guy said he was God. It was so good to just have that smile on my face when telling people why I was here and why God came for us. But it was also so cool to talk to people that didn't see eye to eye about anything I had to say, so they would just bring up American politics and ask about other things in America. That

was one of the nights that stick out the most.

One of the coolest experiences I have experienced so far would be at Bornholm Island. It was absolutely beautiful. We got to see a lot of sights and the ocean and a huge castle that has been there from like the 1400s. But the coolest of all was my little host sister, Maria. It was so much fun. It's amazing how neither one of us understood what each other was saying, but we still connected. She was nine years old and very sweet! She would give me stickers when I was speaking Danish well, and she gave all the girls stickers for singing good! Bodil (my teammate) and I tucked her in to bed one night, and as we said good night, she told Bodil we weren't done yet--we still had to pray, duh! So I said a little prayer, Maria said a little prayer, and Bodil did as well, and we finished off with the Lord's Prayer. They said it in Danish, and I said it in English. It was so cool, saying the same thing in different languages .It just reminded me how amazing God is, how he is the same God, even though we are so different. And how even though we couldn't actually speak to one another, it was okay. There was a lot of smiling back and forth. After we said the Lord's Prayer, Maria leaned over to Bodil and said that I was good at English. It was so cute. The last day, before we left, Maria found out I had a birthday in Denmark. So she pulled me aside, of course with Bodil in the room, and she sang Happy Birthday to me in English! She was so excited to share that with me, and it was really touching.

So Denmark. I like it here a lot, and God works and is still working. Hopefully I will write another journal soon!

Love you guys.
Kristen

Date: 2/18/2008

Submitted by: Bodil Larsen

Journal Entry:

Time has passed by since my last journal entry... When you get out of the routine of writing them, it's hard to start again--watch me trying!

So, since last time, we have been from west to east, to further east and then back west again (all in the small country of Denmark). Even though it's a small country, you can end up driving a lot because we have the same beginning point every day (where in the U.S., we just continued on the highway) that we drive out from twice a day!

So this weekend we had completely off. I went to visit my sister, which will be the first time being here in Denmark where I have had the opportunity to really see some family. So I have been looking so much forward to it because Denmark doesn't really feel like home without family, even though I speak the language and know the culture...

So the weekend was great and relaxing. My sister is very active compared to me, so she took me out walking and bicycling. I walked 12 miles and bicycled up and down hills for an hour as well. Wow, I got tired at times, but it was nice to actually doing something healthy.

In all, I really enjoy team, also here in Denmark, even though we have much more to do here.



Bodil Larsen

Having this weekend off made me actually miss my teammates, our jokes and just spending all my time with them, and also doing ministry and just hanging out with all sorts of people as we always do. It's become our life, lifestyle and what we do all the time!!! (If you can express it like that!) So it's great to see teammates again, joking around and preparing to go out playing music tomorrow, hanging out with kids and answering funny questions in different classes at different schools!!

Okay, now I'm just babbling, so I better stop before it get too boring.

Bodil Højgaard Larsen, reporting live from Denmark.... Thanks for 'listening'!

Date: 2/20/2008

Submitted by: Boe Parker

Journal Entry:

It has been interesting these last few days. I've been thinking a lot about everything imaginable. I'm a little nervous about my future and I don't really want to think about it, but I do think about it. I have really been valuing the friendships that I have with my teammates and have really enjoyed getting to know them more. I really don't know what all to say about this week. I think that it has been nice not to have as much stuff to do these past few days, but I still enjoy it when we are busy. I wish that I had more revelations to share, but I haven't really had any lately. Hope life on the outside is good for everyone.

Peace,
Boe



Boe Parker

Date: 2/22/2008

Submitted by: Bodil Larsen

Journal Entry:

So today we were at a public school, where we attended some english classes with 10th graders! During the class we were to split up into small group and talk English, answer questions.. Yeah, just talk. But Camilla and I were not 'allowed' there, because the kids would probably talk Danish to us, and that wouldn't help their English, so we went to the teachers lounge to get coffee. Then we decided that for the next english class we would make false identities - telling we were Americans. I told I was from Evergreen, Colorado and Camilla from Oregon. We said our own names just with the American pronunciation. So we joined the talks and had a great time because we just spoke English and pretended not to understand the Danish. The conversation became good and we also talked about the whole thing of being confirmed and being a Christian!

We also sang a couple of songs, and before we sang the last one, Nels told that we had played a trick on them, and that there were 2 Danes present, and made them guess who of us it was! It was really fun, because we had to keep the straight faces and don't give yourself away. The thing that gave me away was my name, because one of the boys figured out the whole pronunciation of my name. So they guessed the Danes, but were really surprised. One girl even said that it was mean that we did that, but she had a smile on her face, so it wasn't too bad!

So Camilla and I have decided to pretend like that again, when we come to school and don't want the kids to talk in Danish to us. It's gonna be interesting to see if we can fool them every time!

Just a little fun story I wanted to share.



Bodil Larsen

Date: 2/25/2008

Submitted by: Camilla Bryld

Journal Entry:

I am still alive. Believe it or not! I know it has been a while since my last journal entry. It seems that when you have the opportunity to do it, you forget, and when you don't have time you remember. But today something extraordinary happened. I remembered



Camilla Bryld

AND I have time! So here goes... Thursday is my day for journals, but I am really not a very schedule driven person, so I never get to do it on thursdays! Lately on the team, we have been talking about how we sometimes just feel out of energy or are not really in the mood for doing this whole ministry business, and I think we have come to the conclusion that when it starts to become 'a job' and not just something you do because you enjoy it, thats when it gets tough. So this thursday, we were at a christian school. I was really tired, and I didn't really feel up for a whole lot, but we were there so we just had to do our best. I ended up not really concentrating on playing perfectly but on having fun instead. And it was a blast. We had so much fun and so did the kids. It was amazing! So I guess the moral of the story is, when we do ministry it's not about playing the music perfectly it's not about looking good up there, it's about having fun for Jesus and making sure that the spectators become involved so that they can have fun for Jesus, and so that they can get to see who He is.

Date: 2/27/2008

Submitted by: Bodil Larsen

Journal Entry:

Yesterday we were at a boarding school called 'Odsherreds efterskole', it is a Christian school, but they attract non-Christians.

We played a program there. I was a bit "so, this is gonna be interesting", and as we started out, I felt a bit tense, couldn't relax completely and tried hard to just flow with the music. Though after a couple of songs (with our youth consultant, Lars', help) I smiled, enjoyed it and had fun.. Lars was sitting in the back, making faces and giving thumbs up (we had rehearsed a song before the program and Lars had said that the energy and fun we had had there, we should bring with us to our programs.

So, back to the story. During the program we had a bit of feedback from the students, and they laughed a lot during our puppet show, so the general feeling was good and we got to talk with them after the program at the sales table. But the point my story is this....: What touched me the most during this program, was when we did the Danish song "For det kald som jeg har" - They knew it and they sang along. I got so happy and that was the first time I have enjoyed singing that song that much.. It was a great joy, and I thank God for that moment, because it was indescribable.



Bodil Larsen

Date: 2/27/2008

Submitted by: Boe Parker

Journal Entry:

Today was so good. We are working with Lars Lund (the brother of Sandie on Central Plains), and it has been amazing. I don't know what has happened, but we are sounding the best that we ever have when we play. Actually, I do know what it is. We have all started really having fun playing and not worrying about other things. We are all just in the moment and focused on praising God with our music and helping the other people worship by (ha-ha, I will be very cheesy and use our theme) "bridging the gap" that is peoples comfort zones. When they see us having fun and not being tense or uptight about making things perfect, then the people in the crowd can come out of their comfort zones and have fun singing along with us.

I have really been enjoying Denmark. I am really trying to learn the language as much as I can. It's funny, when I first thought of Denmark, I never really thought that I would want to live here, mainly because of that language barrier, but now that I've been here for this long, I really think that I could live here, and I actually wouldn't mind moving here, I actually kind of want to. I would need to find a good reason to, as in a job or such, but I would definitely do it if that kind of thing came my way (Oops, hope my mom skips over reading that line, but then again, I did also think about moving to Australia too (I think she could skip over that part too)). Well, things are so good on this end. I can't wait until we have our Easter break, since it is coming up soon. I think it will be nice to have some time where I can just be and do whatever. But, I love my team, my life, The Lord. Yup, things are good.



Boe Parker

Date: 3/5/2008

Submitted by: Bodil Larsen
Journal Entry:



Bodil Larsen

I have two things to tell about this week..

I will start with Monday, 3rd of March. We were playing with acoustic set-up in a missionhouse, near Copenhagen. That is actually the least important information in this story. The point is that I ended up talking to this guy, Søren. He has been a Christian for 20 years. He told me he is psychological ill, are taking some medicine and that it makes him tired. But the last 10-15 years he haven't been able to really get up in the morning and get something out of the day, because the medicine has made him more tired, but also because he doesn't feel like he has the strength to pull himself together. So he told me that every morning in between 6.30-7.30 he wakes up, and he just knows it's God waking him up (because he has this special feeling, and he mentioned a bible verse as well: Psalm 3,5: I lie down and sleep, I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.) to like help him up, and he has like 5-10 minutes where he can make the decision: Do I want to get up and get something out of the day or sleep some more because I am tired. If he decides that he is too tired, God would be like: okay, sleep some more then.

But Søren really wants to get up, but he just hasn't got the strength to pull himself together. So he told me he had been talking to his friend René, who is a Christian too, and they had been talking about what Søren should pray about, mostly for Søren's sake, because God knows what we want to pray for before we even know ourselves. So they had been talking about that and Søren had written down what words he should use in his prayer to God - God give me strength.

All of this Søren probably told me like 5 times, I don't know if he was aware about that, or... But it really made me think! So when we said goodbye, he asked for my name again. And he asked me if I would like to pray for him, because he was wondering if some people had the gift of praying so God would here them better, than others. So I promised him I would pray for him.

When we got back to our host home, which in this week is a house where 4 young people live in a Christian community, where they every evening gather and pray together. We got together and we talked about different prayer requests and I mentioned Søren, and it was really good just praying for him in that group!

The second thing I would like to tell about is Tuesday, 4th of March. We were playing in Brøndby Strand Church for a bunch of confirmation kids (maybe I should say that most kids in 7th grade gets confirmed, whether Christian or not). It was a very interesting program. The kids were not at all serious and very disrespectful. We did our car crash-skit, where it's 4 friends driving to the movies, accident and only the driver survives. It's a very strong skit and the kids were just saying all kinds of stuff, laughing and making fun of it. And they were like this several times during the program.

Just all the things they did throughout the program made me so disappointed and embarrassed... This is my country and countrymen, and it just made me so sad. I couldn't help but to think throughout our last song: God, please forgive them, because they don't know what they are doing. And that is exactly what it is. They don't know.

So hereby comes the complete point of my journal.

I want to ask you to pray for Søren, that he might find strength - to get out of bed, to maybe get a job again and get something out of his life (as he himself worded it).

And I am asking you to pray for these kids, because they just don't know. And that is all I want for them, I want them to know who Jesus is and what He can do for them. I am asking you to pray for the little seeds we might have planted in some of them, that they will grow and bloom.

Date: 3/5/2008
Submitted by: Boe Parker
Journal Entry:



Boe Parker

Well, it has definitely been an interesting week. We had a great time with the last family, and this week we are staying at a house that is for young people from the church to live in. The idea of the house is mainly based off of the verse in Acts that talks about the believers all living together in community and they shared everything with each other and the Lord added to their numbers. I think that it is so cool. It is kind of like team. You live in community with a bunch of people that you don't really know right off the bat, and you have to share things. You must share everything;

time, possessions, personal space, etc. without expecting anything back in return. But, the most interesting part about the verse is the last part; the Lord added to their numbers daily. I love that because it gives me peace to know that it isn't my job to go out and blow up this whole thing of Youth Encounter to look like something amazing so that more people will join team in the future. My job is to simply be here and be willing to let the Holy Spirit speak through me so that others may also get the desire to do something like this, or to just look at their lives and see who Christ is. May God be able to use you in the same way. God Bless.

Boe

Date: 3/11/2008
Submitted by: Camilla Bryld
Journal Entry:



Camilla Bryld

Message from the Youth Encounter office (this is not Camilla).

The International Teams Fall Tour Newsletter is now available for download.

[Download Now.](#) (You will need Adobe Reader 6.0 to view this file)

Date: 3/15/2008
Submitted by: Camilla Bryld
Journal Entry:



Camilla Bryld

So we are halfway through our Denmark tour, and I can't believe it. It seems like time/team is just flying by. Lately our theme has had a renewal in my life. We hear the theme every day, several times a day, we read or listen to the theme verse several times too, and as the days pass by you start to not pay attention whenever it is being read out loud. But yesterday something happened. We had been playing for a bunch of older people, and I was going to say a little before our final song, and Nels who is the program coordinator had asked me if I could say something about our theme. So I started saying thank you for coming, we enjoyed it, hope you enjoyed it too, and all that good stuff, off course I had left my bible somewhere else so I had to get up from the piano and get it – very well prepared huh? But anyway, I got the bible and I started reading the theme verse to these people, it comes out of Ephesians 2, 13-14; *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away, have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.* These verses are actually talking about the Jews and the Gentiles, but for me it has a lot more meaning than that. As I was reading this I noticed one lady who was just smiling and nodding her head, and suddenly it hit me; we were far away from God, because of our sin and our own desires. But now in Jesus we are not far away, we have been brought near. As I was telling this the lady's smile just kept growing bigger and these words suddenly had a new meaning to me, we are WITH God because of Jesus. It's not just that someday we will be with God in heaven, he is already right here with us. It's true that someday he will literally be right there next to us, but he is now too, in the spirit. As I looked around the room I saw several smiling faces and they were nodding too. We so often get caught up in being good Christians or going to this and this church meeting or leading worship or something else, that we forget to stop and think about what is actually more important than anything else. We ARE brought near! Because of His blood, we can't do anything, God has already done it all for us. Allelujah!

Date: 3/27/2008
Submitted by: Boe Parker
Journal Entry:



Boe Parker

So, it's been a while since I last wrote. I have been doing pretty well. We had our Easter break last week and I really enjoyed the time off. It was really great to be able to do my own thing and not have to worry about being "on". It was nice to have a break from that. I loved being able to do my own thing and not have to worry about what I was supposed to be doing.

It's only been a couple of days since we've been back together, and we are already sounding great and working together quite well, so I'm very glad that break did us all some good.

One thing that has been going on for me is that I can't get this song out of my head. It's

"Everything" by Lifehouse. It's kind of an older song, but it's amazing. The thing is, there is a skit on youtube.com that is done while that song is being played. If you get a chance, go to youtube.com and search for "Lifehouse Everything skit." It is such an amazing skit and I had seen it a while ago and loved it, but I watched it again the other day and it hit me so hard that it brought tears to the eyes (somebody must have had some onions hidden somewhere nearby□). I'll leave you in suspense so that you actually look at the video.

Until I write next, peace to everyone and may God Bless,

Boe

Date: 4/10/2008

Submitted by: Bodil Larsen

Journal Entry:

The reason why I haven't written a journal in a long time, is because I haven't really seen and experienced anything that was "wow that is worth telling the world." But today I am writing again, because I have something to share!

Last night we played a program for about 4 confirmation classes and their parents as a last thing before their confirmation on Sunday. This program was only going to be 50 minutes long and we would go and get coffee and cake, and then we would play a couple more songs acoustic and have a little devotion. And I had volunteered to do that instead of doing a 'broken-glue'.

So I decided to talk about my favourite Bible verse, Romans 8:31b: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" I was just really nervous, because the kids and their parents hadn't really responded to our program; I was afraid I couldn't catch their attention; that they wouldn't care. Meanwhile I realized that this was exactly what I was going to talk about – what will they think of me? Well, I don't have to worry about that, because as long as God is for me, the others don't matter. So I decided just to be me, and if they didn't like that, whatever.

So I started talking, and the confirmation kids were noisy, but I just felt so calm, no worry. I just kept talking while turning around and facing them completely – which led to complete silence. Wow, they were listening now.

"This bible verse means a lot to me, it makes me feel safe. When God is for me, I don't need others to like me; I can just be me and not worry about what others think of me. God sent His Son to die for me, rise from the dead and defeat death, so that I can be clean; Jesus wiped my board clean, He gave a white tunic – spotless. God did all of that for me, because He is for me. However I still worry because I am human, we all do. So when we do a sing-a-long song called 'Gonna Dance', I always start dancing down the church aisle, with everybody sitting and watching me (maybe thinking, she is weird), dancing in a crazy way. And very often I think about what people might think about me at the moment and how stupid I probably look, while trying to dance. But I don't have to worry about that, because I am "gonna dance, gonna dance, gonna dance before the altar of the Lord, won't be afraid of living anymore (no, no, no) won't be afraid like before". I don't have to fear, because God is for me. And He is for all of us!"

I realized right when I was standing there, sharing why this bible verse was important to me, what it means. For the first time the meaning of the verse became real to me and I trusted that God would say the words that needed to be spoken, I wasn't afraid anymore.

After my devotion, we were going to play a song called 'All we need', but Nels decided right there that we were going to do 'Gonna Dance' instead. I felt it like a perfect ending to my devotion, I didn't care what people were thinking about me, when starting to dance. It was and is all for God.

"If God is for me, WHO can be against me?"

NO ONE



Bodil Larsen

Date: 4/11/2008
Submitted by: Camilla Bryld
Journal Entry:



Camilla Bryld

Whoops, and yet another month went by! It is unbelievable how fast time passes by... Right now we only have another 3 weeks left on the road in Denmark and then before we know it we will be back in the states, preparing to do VBS. I am starting to write my lists for what I need to bring back to Denmark from the states. I have started thinking about how to decorate my apartment that I am going to be moving in to when I come home and what kind of a job I want to have. And then suddenly it hits me, if I am living my life 4 months from now then what am I doing with the time being? I am trying hard to live the here and now, not to think too much about the time to come, and not being on team, how to provide for myself. But what really struck me was, that I don't have to worry, God has promised that he will provide for me! And then I start to think, but it's really not that easy sometimes, how can I not worry and then I think of one of my absolute favorite passages of the Bible, it comes out of Romans 5:3-5; *"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance character; and character hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."* I Think this verse is really cool, because it tells me that even when things aren't easy, God is still working in me even probably also through me - and that brings me great hope!

Date: 4/13/2008
Submitted by: Nels Davig Dovre
Journal Entry:



Nels Davig Dovre

Hello. Well its my weekend off which means we are back at the bible school that kind of feels like our home base. It has been really cool to catch up with the same people we first met upon arriving here in Denmark. The weird thing is that we now only have 3 weeks left. That is no time. I am planing on going to bed early again tonight, I slept 13 hours last night, so that I am ready to finish this tour off strong. The weather has been extremly nice these past two days and spring is everywhere. I am so excited for what these next weeks will bring. Wow, this journal makes sense. Huh.

Its me, Nels Davig Dovre.

Date: 4/20/2008
Submitted by: Bodil Larsen
Journal Entry:



Bodil Larsen

This journal today is kind of a follow-up to the last one I wrote, because this week I used the Romans 8:31b-verse in a share and I have never felt anything like that before in my life. I felt that God completely spoke through me, with perfect combinations of words and with a complete clear message. I have never felt that happy before in my life.

I actually used a new example about 'Gonna Dance' that night. In the morning that day we played at a school, for about 100 students, and they were just sitting there and then we came to Gonna Dance, and they just looked weird at me, but I just did as I always do, yell 1-2-1-2-3-4 really loud (as the only one there!) and after encouraging them, and still I was the only one really being heard, there was silence for a second after and I ended up yelling 'Come on, can't you be louder than me' with a little smile on my face. And my team mates busted out laughing, it apparently sounded hilarious - but I probably scared them a bit :o) (just a little side story!)

The last couple of weeks have changed my life. I have never felt God's presence this obvious before. It all started when I did the devotion I talked about in my last journal. Since then, there are a couple of stories I want to share with you.

Some days ago we were playing at a public school, and while we were setting up, Boe and I were going to talk with a big group of confirmation kids. The pastor said to the kids that they could ask any questions they'd like, but now was a good time to ask questions about Christianity and why we, Boe and I, 'the young people', would choose to be a Christian. And these kids were so good at asking questions about Christianity, (like no one we have met before here in Denmark) and there were a bunch that we really had to think about, like, 'do you believe that everything the bible says is true?' Wow, big question. All these questions made me really think and I found words to answer with that came from deep down, like, 'how amazing is it that God promised to never send a flood again, and to show He will keep the promise, He sends a rainbow.'

I keep realizing how much this year on team has given me, so much more than what some months on a bible school would do.

Lately I have thought a lot about what to do in the fall. It's something I have prayed about a lot. I have wanted to go to Israel again for a long time on bible school, but I started thinking that I would probably prefer to do volunteering, helping people, but then I found out they had enough volunteers for the fall at the organisation I wanted to travel with. Then my thoughts went to volunteering somewhere in the world, but then realizing that it would be a good idea to go to a Spanish-speaking country because then I could learn Spanish as well (because I will be needing Spanish for my education, but I have never taken classes and learned it!). So I googled something like that, and found this website for a language school in Ecuador, where I could do volunteering while learning Spanish. Interesting.

This now leads me back to the first paragraph. That night where I did my share, afterwards we sang 'Hearts of servants', I have never felt so happy singing that song and during this song, I just got this feeling and I just knew right there while worshipping, 'I am going to Ecuador'. It was such a weird, but wonderful feeling. So I guess that's what the fall is going to bring!

Well, hope that you find these stories interesting – it is things that has changed me and my faith :o)

Date: 5/1/2008

Submitted by: Camilla Bryld

Journal Entry:



Camilla Bryld

Okay, so I'm not very good at writing blog and journal entries, but right now I just really feel like writing. So maybe what I put down on paper (well, I guess it isn't paper but a keyboard, but you know what I mean - you are smart people) makes sense, maybe not. It doesn't really matter, what matters is that I am writing because I feel like it. I just realized that when I write something because I have to it is BORING, but when I write because I feel like it it turns out to be a lot more interesting. Well, anyways, this turned out to be a very long introduction to what I actually wanted to write something about.

We just had a team outing where we watched 27 Dresses, I liked the movie even though it was a classic feel good happy ending movie, but it entertained me in just the way I wanted to be entertained. This is why Hollywood makes the big bucks. They know what we want! As we were walking back from the movie, Kristen, Nels and I were talking about the end of the movie and I am not going to reveal anything about it (even though it has been out for a long time in the states and you probably have already seen it if you really wanted to) but what we were talking about is how the ending wasn't really a 'realistic' ending. And that's what is so interesting to me, so lets say they (them being the Hollywood people who made the movie) went with the realistic ending - would we really have enjoyed it the same? I highly doubt it, because we would have been left with the feeling that 'they totally messed up the ending' or that 'they are so cynical'... So what Hollywood is doing (even when we complain about so-far-from-reality-endings) is that they are giving us what we want to believe. We want to believe in the happy ending.

This leads me to my next point of this journal. So as we were watching this movie which (for the people who hasn't seen either the movie or the trailers) is about weddings, I almost started to tear

up - because it was so cute, and I am pretty sure that all the girls who were in the movie theatre were thinking the same 'I wish it was me'... It made me start to think, in less than 2 weeks, 9 days to be exact, one of the people I love the most is getting married - to the person she loves the most. My beloved older sister is stepping in to marriage with her fiancé who she has been dating for more than 5 years, and I can assure you, that this is going to take more than one box of kleenex. I might not know myself completely but I know this much, I am going to be sitting there and I will start crying. But the good tears! The kind of tears that are evidence for an uncontainable happiness, when you have so much joy inside of you that tears are the only way to let it out. My sister whom I love so much is going to be standing up by the alter, right in front of God, with the one person she loves the most, saying 'I do'. I do want to be with you, not just today, or for a week some months, a year, but for the rest of my life. And that brings me tremendous joy...

Date: 5/2/2008

Submitted by: Bodil Larsen

Journal Entry:

Tour in Denmark – WHAT, it's over?!?

This morning I got up, like any other day, but it isn't... Yesterday we did our last program; today we are dropping our whole sound equipment off at Indre Missions house... No way, that can't be, we just came to Denmark a week ago.. At least that's how it feels like.



Bodil Larsen

But sadly it's true, this tour here in Denmark is done and over, however I have learned so incredibly much, I can't describe how challenging, interesting, exciting and exhausting it has been, not to mention how much I have grown in how I am and in my faith.

I just want to share with you a story from yesterday. Our last booking was at a prison, where we were going to play about 45 minutes, because the prisoners couldn't go all together cause of security issues. So we prepared for about 45 minutes of acoustic programs! We were told that there would be about 10 people for each program. Well, first group was 4 men and it was good playing for them. The next group was 9 men and again it was cool. Then we had some supper and Nels asked if somebody would like to do the share for the last one, and I said I would like to do it (I felt I had an itch to do it :o)). We had been told about this last group that they could be noisy and they were the hardest to get attention from.

So, I prepared to talk to them, being a bit nervous about it - afraid that what I was going to say wouldn't get their attention etc. And then we were told that there would come 30 men this time.... Ahhhhhhh!

Now I was really nervous, because these men would be talking, having a hard time keeping their attention.

During the song before my share, I wasn't playing so I sat down in the crowd and just prayed that God would take away my nervousness and be with me. And now it was time for me to get up there in front and share with them.

At first they were talking, but suddenly they were just silent – completely silent. When I took breaks from speaking, to find words, it was just silence, a wonderful silence. They were listening, really listening.

They kept concentrated all the way through my share, and I connected with these guys, I could fully have fun and not worry, because they are just like me, a human that has done mistakes more than once.

It was a perfect way to end the tour here in Denmark, and I am so happy that I did the share at this place, because it gave me so much doing it! I can only say, PRAISE GOD, HE IS MIGHTY!

Date: 7/30/2008
Submitted by: Bodil Larsen
Journal Entry:



Bodil Larsen

The end of team...

Yesterday we left our last VBS in Reedley, CA, to go on a weeklong road trip back to Minnesota. It scares me in a way, a week with mostly driving and not so much music and playing together. It makes me realize that the clock is ticking; I am only going to play some form of program with my teammates 4 more times... 4 more times. That is nothing compared to the, maybe, 200 other times.

Well, I can look back on a memorable year that has changed my life quite a bit. I am not the same person anymore, but that's not bad – I have grown in so many ways, ways that I hope I will continue to grow in and work on.

The three parts that our year was split into has been very different from each other – The Fall, where we travelled from place to place every/every other day, on the go all the time.

The Spring, where we hit the roads of Denmark, with a busy schedule and staying longer every place, with different challenges, because some of us are Americans and some are Danish. Even though I know the language, there were lots of other things to work with.

And the Summer booked with 7 VBS' from Colorado and Montana to Oregon and California. From 40 kids to 350 kids. With lots of sing-a-longs and games.

It took me awhile to adjust to the big difference from our time in Denmark to VBS with tons of kids running around you, but it has really been a blessing to be able to hang out and have fun with all these kids. Before VBS I think I only knew maximum 10 sing-a-longs, but now I know probably 20 by heart and I have liked that challenge of learning, especially by doing.

A thing that my team had a lot of fun doing was introducing the theme of the day at a couple of VBS'. We would have the kids to a drum role, where the theme then would pop up on the screen and they would have to stand up with their arms in the air and scream for 3 seconds (it worked really well!), and every time we would say "we love" during opening and closing, they were to stand up and scream!

I have a hard time describing how I feel about the year coming to an end. It is both sad and exciting. It is sad to say goodbye to the people that I call family now, leaving a bunch of friends here in the States. But exciting because I get to go home, and do what I want to do, at least for the first couple of days. 5 days after I get home, I am starting at my old job in a grocery store, that's probably going to be a big challenge because I have to get used to being off the road at the same time, but that is just part of it.

A thing I find comforting is that I know I will always have this family here in the States, I will always be part of the YE-family. I know it isn't over, even though team is over. We will always be together in Christ.
