

Musings in Ministry

February 28, 2006



The First-Ever Boston Winter Conference!

January 1st –5th 2006 marked the beginning of our *newest* annual regional conference. Since the moment I accepted my new role in the Northeast and the first day I walked into the office in August of 2004, our team has been preparing for this event. It's been a long time in coming and God did some extraordinary things in the lives of the 450 students, staff and guests in attendance.

Jessica Bott
Ten Milk Street, Ste 320
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 338-4033, ext. 20
Jessica.Bott@uscm.org

Our theme was “Free,” and we focused on the freedom we have in Christ throughout the week. Students came from campuses all over our region to hear from the Lord, connect with one another and reach out to the community, putting faith into practice, during our Day of Outreach. Check out <http://www.bostonwinterconference.com> for more details. The pictures in this letter are a visual “snapshot” of the conference. I couldn't think of a better way to give an account of the week than the following story and student quotes expressing how He moved in their lives.

Joe, a long-time staff member in New York City, writes:

“I am not very comfortable with this!” These were the first words Miranda said to me as we began the community outreach. I assured Miranda, one of our students at The Pratt Institute, that I had her back! As we went into the community knocking on doors, we saw little response on the first block of houses that we tried. I was getting a bit concerned that Miranda was having a terrible experience in the community.

At the first house on a new block, a young woman named Joanna answered the door. She invited us into her home. After we did a quick survey on her opinion on the needs of the community, we asked Joanna if she would be interested in a short explanation of the gospel. She was most interested. Miranda then proceeded to lead Joanna to Christ.

I left the house wondering whose life was most changed – Joanna or Miranda. The experience made an indelible mark on all of us. We went back to the church with Joanna's contact information so the church could follow-up. Thananye [a teacher in Boston who joined us for the Day of Outreach and was involved with Campus Crusade at Stony Brook on Long Island in the 1990's] said she would follow through with Joanna personally.



What did God do in your life at the Boston Winter Conference?

I had a chance to talk to brother[s] and sisters in Christ who had a common vision in reaching our city for Christ. (Sic)

God started to show me how conversations could begin at school with my friends, and also that I don't have to strive in order to please Him, but out of a response for His love toward me.

He gave me more than just a spiritual high. He gave me the tools and the motivation to continue serious study and worship of him in my day to day life (sic). I gained a lot of encouragement and motivation to be a strong leader on my campus and elsewhere in my life.

He can use me to PERSONALLY be able to talk to some one about his love. He's showed me how to rest in Him, surrender all to Him, to be able to forgive people that have hurt me.

Made me want to share my faith everyday that I'm alive.

God truly moved in me during BWC... I came with expectations, and God exceeded those expectations. I found how and what it was like to truly submit my whole self to Christ, and it is only then that He can truly move in our lives. It was a very significant spiritual week for me. :)

Brought me to Jesus.

Grateful for You!

Isn't it amazing to hear how God has moved in the lives of these students? You played a significant role in the success of this conference. God *is* using your prayers and gifts to further His kingdom here in the Northeast. This conference is one tangible tool that God uses to connect students with Himself, with one another and with the Great Commission. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for investing in the lives of students – because of *you*, we are seeing lives changed!

It is such a pleasure to be able to use my gifts and abilities to minister to students in this unique capacity. More than ever before, I see how God uses Operations to fulfill our vision of reaching every student. Please continue to pray for our team as we work toward our mission of *“Increasing the capacity and sustaining the mission of turning lost students into Christ-centered laborers.”*



Support Update No. 2

Last November, I wrote to tell you that I was turning my attention from fundraising back to my responsibilities in the office to complete work on the Boston Winter Conference and the Northeast Regional Staff Conference. As I mentioned at the time, I would begin focusing again full-time on my fund development in the New Year. I have now begun that process and wanted to share a couple of important things with you.

First, many of you know that in December 2005, I sought the Lord to raise \$10,000 in special needs support due to a major monthly shortfall that has continued since my move to Boston in 2004. **I am so happy to share that He led people like you to give almost \$5,500, closing the gap significantly!!** Thank you so much for your prayers and for giving so generously. I cannot express how grateful I am to the Lord for His faithful provision.

Second, I continue to covet your prayers on my behalf. My monthly need continues to be great and as every new month goes by, the gap grows. God continues to show me that I am where He desires for me to be – here in Boston on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ. I firmly believe that God is able to provide for me, and more so, desires to do this. Would you take just a moment to pray for me? Please pray...

- 1) ... that I would be faithful in working diligently on my financial support.
- 2) ... that I would have a heart that continues to trust the Lord and experience His faithfulness to me as I wait on Him.
- 3) ... for God to lead me to the new people that He desires for me to partner with in reaching students here in the Northeast.
- 4) ... that this gap in my monthly and the remaining special needs support would come in quickly so I can return to my ministry assignment.

Third, I am excited to share that I have developed a ministry website to keep you better updated on all God is doing here in the Northeast! You'll find information on what I'm trusting God for in ministry to students (including more stories and photos from the Boston Winter Conference), recent and past "Musings in Ministry" letters, prayer requests and updates on how the Lord answers, photos, information on giving and much more! Please visit the site, sign my guest book and let me know what you think! Here is the address: <http://www.jessicabott.ministryhome.org>.

Finally, let me express how thankful I am that we have the privilege of ministering to students together. It is truly a joy to know that I am not doing this on my own, but in partnership with the Lord and with you. How thankful I am to remember that God uses ordinary people to accomplish His extraordinary work. And, how wonderful it is to share with students how they can have a meaningful, thriving, life-changing relationship with the God of the Universe through Christ.

I look forward to updating you more next month! My prayers are with you until then.

- Jessica