



Campus Crusade for Christ

Building Spiritual Movements Everywhere



Musings in Ministry

October 31, 2007

Abby and I met on a recent trip I took with a few of the Regional Directors to Upstate New York. She's a student at Syracuse and a leader in our ministry there. We had the opportunity to go out on campus and engage with students in conversations about their spiritual beliefs.

The first girl we approached learned what group we were representing (Campus Crusade for Christ) and told us she wasn't interested in talking. We thanked her and walked a little farther into the quad area on campus where we met Dani. She told us "yes" she'd be interested in chatting with us and taking our survey. Dani is a sophomore at Syracuse studying Biology. Her dad is a practicing Jew and she and her mom go to Temple to please him.

I loved our conversation with Dani. She told us that she values people's beliefs and it was evident. Most students on campuses are "tolerant" but it extends only so far as it encompasses what they think is a viable truth. Dani is different – we experienced this during our time. We asked her what words she would use to describe God. Her answer: "Past." She believes that God started everything in motion

and that evolution took care of the rest. She went on to tell us that she believes that God isn't involved with what is going on today. He started it, stepped out of the picture and it has been going on ever since.

Our next question was: What does God think/How does he feel about you? She told us that her name, Danielle, means "I judge God" and that this is her impression of her relationship with him. She doesn't agree with things that he's allowed to happen (like the Holocaust, disasters and others) and that she judges him. Her way of thinking about it is that if he loved his people the way he claims to, why would he allow these things?

We spent quite a bit of time talking about the brokenness in the world and justice. When we asked her view of

Jesus Christ, she told us he was made up – there was no proof for his existence. What was interesting to me in the conversation as we discussed science, the Bible and the proof that does exist is that Dani has an amazing openness to the Gospel.

After reading this account of our conversation you might be thinking, "Really?" but, yes she was so open. Her desire is to understand what is **true** and we spent time talking about the post-Christian (some might say post-Modern) culture we live in today. She said she ultimately wanted to know what was true. For me, I heard those words and felt such hope! After all, we serve a God who



Abby and I posed for a quick photo op in the student center at Syracuse. Please remember to keep her in your prayers as she pursues her studies and grows in her faith!

is the way, the truth and the life! Awesome.

Please pray for the students at Syracuse University including believers like Abby and seekers of truth like Dani. Syracuse currently has around 20,000 students enrolled, a private college with a diverse group of students from all 50 states and over 90 countries. A place where students work hard academically and excel, but they are also very social – very unique for the Northeast.

Your prayers and support enable me to be here connecting with these students and engaging with them about Jesus. Thanks so much for all you do!

Jessica Bott, Ten Milk Street, Suite 320, Boston, MA 02108
617.338.4033, ext. 20; Staff Account No. 0511735
jessica.bott@uscm.org; <http://jessicabott.ministryhome.org>