

Christina Eads  
814 Goldenrod St.  
Placentia, CA 92870

christina.eads@gmail.com  
(760) 443 9676

*September 2010*



Dearest Friend,

Fall Retreat was just about ideal. Numbers weren't looking very good a week beforehand, so we had an extra reminder to rely on God's grace instead of our own charm to get students there. That worked. We enjoyed a beautiful resort with almost 70 students. More importantly, we maintained that attitude of dependency on Jesus.

Throughout the weekend, there was a feeling of genuine community. The speaker helped materialize our theme, "Drive," beginning with how our identity is fully in Christ. We were inspired to mature in faith and allow God to increasingly be our driving force. Then we broke into more intimate discussion groups to further absorb the lessons from God's Word. Our bonds with each other and the Lord were deepened and multiplied.

There were two highlights for me. For some background, let me tell you about Matt. He's a junior who started leading in several capacities this semester after attending a summer project. Over the past year, I've seen him humbly surrender to God's hand in his life. At the retreat, a newer Christian told me how well he was connecting with Matt. Personalities and interests had just really clicked. This is significant because it's the first time he has a male peer truly focused on a life with the Lord. I love that vital friendships like this form in the retreat environment. It's so exciting when leaders help point other students to Jesus!



Some ladies from last year's small group:  
Taiko, Amanda, Shirley, me and Ali

Another highlight for the weekend and for the semester has been Taiko. She is constantly conscious of the needs of those around her and never stops encouraging all of us! She was in my small group last year and is now leading a small group with a fellow student. God has blessed our movement with Taiko's joy and servant mentality.

Please join me in praising God for a great start to the semester. Please also pray for lasting effects of Fall Retreat and continued attendance and fruitfulness in our weekly meetings and small group Bible studies. Thank you!

Grace and Peace,

Christina