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Dearest Supporters,

This past weekend, I helped out at the Pac-10 Cross Country Championships in Long Beach. Some of the seniors at USC are the last of my contemporary teammates. It was so good to be with my old team and coach!



Watching the mob of athletes face the course before them, any spectator could observe a number of things. I couldn't help but compare this scene to our spiritual "race."

The field of elite runners arrived prepared. Years of anticipation led up to race day. When students show up to their university, many have been trained in the Christian faith. This foundation may enable them to live victoriously on their campus.

But even the most well trained running machine needs a good start. When the teams line up for the gun to be shot, it seems as if all eyes penetrate the starting boxes. Similarly, an 18-year old woman entering college is in the beginning stages of her race. What a critical time! Although much can change, this point powerfully influences any athlete or student!

After the race begins, there's a common bond between every runner. Whether she is in first or last place, no one is alone. Every athlete in cross county has at least six other teammates on the course. The same is true in the Christian race. It can feel to a college freshman like she's running behind the pack. The reality is that there are several other women feeling just as isolated and in need of a sister to run beside her.

I was able to talk with one of our seniors last week. Amy's small group is an example of students running together. Faithful to be there every week, each woman is contributing both questions and thoughts about the Bible study and the lives of her sisters. They're truly growing closer to each other and to the Lord!

Let's pray for this leg of the race called college! Let's pray for students to take advantage of their training and run hard for Jesus. Please join me in praying for young men and women to get a solid start and run together in this race!

Grace and Peace,

Christina