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Notes From Dan and DeAnn!

One Reason TCX is so Amazing!

Heading to TCX, a conference over Christmas break, is what 130 of our students did. The slogan is “Four days for change for life.” And it really is! But to tell you this story about TCX I need to take a step back about a month.

Three weeks before the end of first semester, Alex shows up to Bible study. I hadn’t met him before but one of the guys had invited him. He went to Prime Time (the weekly meeting) and then he showed up at Bible study the next week. When I asked who was going to TCX Alex raised his hand. And I was thinking... “Who are you? You just start coming and already you are going to TCX?” The reality is that it can be difficult to recruit for TCX especially for freshmen as TCX is over their first Christmas Break.

So at TCX Alex is there and really connecting with the other guys from Madison and he seems to be really enjoying himself. One of the things that gets talked about a lot at TCX are summer missions projects. After TCX I got a request to write a reference for Alex to go on one of these projects. And again I say to myself, “Who is this guy? He’s everywhere!”

When the semester started again, Alex and I got together for coffee. I just wanted to get to know him more and hear his story. So I asked, “What’s your spiritual history?” He replied, “Well, I know my family had a Bible but we really didn’t open it. I mean, I never studied it or anything like that. And I went to church until I got confirmed and then figured I was done with everything so I stopped going.”

“So Alex, if you were to die today, on a scale of 1-10, how sure are you that you’d go to heaven?” I asked. He replied with an 8. Now I’m seriously

concerned about Alex. He’s grown up with no Bible, church being something to get over with, and not really sure about where he is going to spend eternity. But the next question is what made this conversation really fun!

I asked, “Alex, if you arrived at the pearly gates and St. Peter came down and asked you why he should let you into heaven, what would you say?”

And Alex looked down and said, “Wow, that’s a tough one.” (Right now I am completely ready for him to answer saying something like I’m a good person or I haven’t done anything really bad.) But Alex looks up and says, “Well, I would say that I have accepted Jesus as my Savior and that because Jesus has forgiven all my sins, I now deserve to be let in.”

Alex’s answer blew

me away. He had hit the nail on the head! It is about faith in Jesus and what Jesus did for us.

So I followed that up by asking when he had made that decision. He said, “Oh, at TCX.” It was at a time when people were filling out commitment cards to the Lord, a faith exercise. Alex realized he couldn’t do it. So he went up to his room and began to pray. It became clear to him that the reason he couldn’t fill out the card was that he didn’t trust Jesus with his life. When he came to that realization he was able to apply what he had been learning about who Jesus is. He decided then and there that Jesus was worthy of his trust and confidence so he prayed giving control of his life to Jesus. And then he signed the card.

I asked him one more question. I said, “Alex, before TCX how would you have answered that last question?” He turned and said, “Oh, I would’ve told you that I was a good person!” Praise God with me that Alex has new life in Jesus.



Jordan, Matt, Eric, and Alex (in front.) Four freshmen all going on summer project!