

2011 BWC

Engage. Equip. Ignite.



JAN 1ST – JAN 5TH

**358
STUDENTS ATTENDED**

**71
UNITS OF BLOOD DONATED
DURING 2-DAY BLOOD DRIVE**

**19
BOSTONIANS
ACCEPTED CHRIST**

**31
STUDENTS & STAFF
SENT TO HAITI**

**\$15,000
RAISED FOR HAITI RELIEF
FROM STUDENTS & STAFF**

**FREE. For freedom Christ has set us free.
Galatians 5:1**

On New Year's Day, students descended in waves upon the Sheraton Boston Hotel, hopping out of cars and hauling their luggage up from the T station. One determined - and exhausted - student arrived after a 28-hour bus trip from Florida! No matter how tired they were, the 358 college students from all over the Northeast were riveted by the Saturday night speaker's powerful and sometimes hilarious testimony of how he came to know Christ. While Bret Ogburn described how Christ set him free from a lifestyle of parties to a life in Christ that led to him being where he is now, as senior staff with Campus Crusade for Christ, he challenged students to discover what it means to be free in Christ.

Darryl Smith's declaration Sunday morning that because of Christ we are not struggling to be free, but we are free to struggle, set the tone for a day of learning how to live out freedom in Christ. Students had two workshop sessions and were able to choose from many different workshops on being free to share their faith and being free to live in the power of the Holy Spirit. Darryl, the director for Campus Crusade's high school student ministry, Student Venture, and a speaker who returned from last year, spoke again that evening on being Free to Love. His message that was further explored by the Men's and Women's panels that night. The men and women separated into two rooms where they asked a panel of men and a panel of women questions covering every aspect of relationships, love, sex and more.

Paul Byrd, former pitcher for the Red Sox, and his wife, Kym, were on the panels and shared their struggles in dating and marriage. Paul went with students the following day during the Day of Outreach, when students fanned out across Boston to share the reason for the hope

they have. God intervened as the students stepped out in faith, and 19 people prayed to receive Christ - including 2 of our own students! That night, students were excited as they shared how they had seen God at work in Boston and in their own lives.

Holly Sheldon, director of Campus Crusade's 100% Sent Initiative, challenged students not to see the day as a one-time event, but to ask how God was encouraging them to live out their lives in a way that brought the message of the Gospel to others. The workshops on Tuesday continued the idea of living as leaders and experiencing freedom. That evening Bret called on students to return to their campus with lives surrendered to Christ, a heart to serve and an eagerness to speak about the freedom found only in Christ.

The conference ended with separate campus times, where students shared what God had been doing in their lives during BWC. Hugs, tears, spontaneous worship songs, and planning sessions for more effective evangelism all broke out during that time. It was amazing to see the freedom and joy reflected in students' faces, and it will be even more incredible to see how God uses these students as they return to campus.

Thank you for being a part of changed lives, changed campuses and the spread of the Gospel of Jesus throughout the Northeast and around the world. BWC and its results would not happen without your prayers and financial support!



"I threw a ball
past a guy with a stick.
But I did it for Jesus."

-former Red Sox pitcher, Paul Byrd

FREE.

"BWC CHANGED MY LIFE..."

STUDENTS' STORIES

Going into the conference I was really struggling with whether or not I was deserving of God's love. But now I know I am deserving - everyone is deserving. **On our day of outreach, without even thinking, all my walls broke down and I opened up to complete strangers.** I wanted them to know how great our God was. No matter what they had done before, God would forgive them as he did for me and so many others. The speakers from BWC really ignited the flame in my heart for God and opened my eyes to what I could do. By the end of the conference I had realized that God was calling me to share His word. I could use my testimony to help others. One of the speakers asked how we identify ourselves - are we college students that are Christian or are we Christians that happen to go to college? I now identify as a Christian before anything else because I'm living for God now and nothing else. Leaving the conference I am a new person ready to bring glory to God's name and to do his work.

Serving the Lord is my calling. My heart has never felt so alive.



**KELLY,
FRAMINGHAM
STATE U**



**KEVIN,
ST. JOHN FISHER
COLLEGE**

Boston Winter Conference changed my life, plain and simple. Prior to BWC I was someone who was struggling with the concept of God. I went through depression, anger, self-hatred and a whole host of other negative emotions for roughly 5 years. I would lie to myself and tell myself I was happy, but truly I was far from happy. During the first session, Bret Ogburn was speaking about his college days and what made him realize he needed to accept Christ and turn toward God. He was talking about me. **After he was done speaking I could not stand up; I just sat there and for the first time in my life, really prayed.** The next big step came on the day of outreach. We came across a man named Charlie; a homeless man who had lost everything. His wife died of a heart attack and then he proceeded to lose his cars, house, money and eventually he lost one of his legs. I knew if he could let go of his problems through Christ then I could do the same. That night I accepted Christ and I felt a whole lot better about everything. It is a journey, albeit a spiritual journey, that I have started and there is no stopping now. As the song says, "And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us."

I was trying to fight God at BWC, like most of my life, but decided to take a leap of faith and give up control during Campus Times on the last night of the conference. Throughout BWC I was feeling very dead and disconnected from life, a feeling that I had been all too familiar with the past 8 months. Throughout the conference I would try and pray and ask God to help me give up control and let him lead my life. **God kept putting it on my heart that I needed to re-accept him (something I only had done when I was little out of fear and obligation) to allow him to take control and piece my life back together.** I tried to push this idea into the back of my mind and ignore it, but after a few conversations I knew what I needed to do. Allowing myself to be vulnerable and give up control were two things I was not accustomed to, but I knew I had to do it if I was going to give up my life for Jesus Christ. During Campus Times, only by God's will and power, I somehow made that leap of faith. My walk with God has been very tumultuous my entire life and I know it's still going to be long and rough, but now, through Jesus Christ, I can see the beauty in that journey and rely on him instead of myself.



**JESS,
U OF NEW
HAMPSHIRE**