



Using the outdoors to help students and staff grow in relationship with God, in relationship with each other, in character and in leadership

The Harvester

Lifelines CRU Dan & Heather Litchfield

June 2012

A Walk in the (National) Park

“And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.” – Galatians 3:29

In silence they knelt before the cross, grateful to lay their burdens down. The students on our women’s expedition had been hiking up Mt. Mansell, and collecting rocks along the way. Each rock represented a sin in their life, from adultery to jealousy. By the time they reached the cross we had erected in the woods, they were a sober and tired crew. Lifting the weight from their packs, they spent a long time in thanks to the Lord. We had covered the cross with verses like the one above, putting Christ’s sacrifice in perspective. Suddenly the theme of the expedition (living as a child of the promise) was far more dear. This was the first of many programs the women would experience over the next 10 days, designed to practice truly living in light of God’s promises.



What’s next?

Planning and more planning! At the end of July we leave for a week for our national Lifelines conference. Already the Boston metro Cru staff have asked us to lead a trip for them in August, and Yale and UMass have booked student retreats for October. We are thrilled!

The Big Picture

The biking portion of the expedition was intended to help women grasp and live as children of God in light of eternal perspective, according to God's promise of a hope and a future in Jer 29:11. So they began a 64 mile bike trek carrying all their gear on the hottest day all summer. After 15 grueling miles, we stopped and asked them how they were feeling. Amid tears, the comments were "desperate," and "hopeless." We then informed them that we would be driving them from that point to a bed and breakfast for a full dinner, and their first hot showers and beds in five days. You can imagine their joy. The rejoicing ensued with a discussion about heaven and why what your hope is in matters. What in your daily living would change if you lived each day with an eternal perspective?

When we experience something that involves us on an emotional level, we remember it. Our goal is to use the outdoors to provide experiences that we can use to connect students' heart with Biblical truths, so they can both see and remember how the Word applies to their lives.

And what will these women take from the expedition to apply back at school? "I want to work on having deeper relationships and being more confident of what I believe and why." "I'm going to stop towing the line between the world and what the Bible says." "I've grown in so many ways. I have been so honest with others and especially with God in a way that I have never been before. I have been confrontational (which is super hard for me) and have seen my relationships grow because of it. I have also really begun to believe that God really does want what is best for me." The comments from the women were great, but watching them grow was even better. Praise God!



A change of heart

Does it work? Is it worth it? These are the questions we ask ourselves as staff.

But this expedition was such confirmation of the tremendous growth God can produce in lives devoted to him for just ten days.

Ashley, a senior on the cross-country team, has been working for four years to beat a record that her university holds. She is less than a second from doing so. Yet, over the campfire near the end of the week, she shared that as a result of all she was learning from the Lord, it was clear that God wants her to spend that time and energy on investing in the incoming freshmen on her team, rather than beating the record. Her voice trembled in speaking those words aloud, but God is not asking her to give up her dream. Rather, He is asking her to take on his.



Bright ideas

When Bill and Vonette Bright started Campus Crusade for Christ at UCLA in 1952 they threw their arms wide to all ideas of how to get the gospel message to the world. Today we are thankful to be living out that legacy with Lifelines by using the outdoors to draw believers and non-believers into relationship with Christ. This past month Dan spent two days in Orlando meeting with some of Cru's national executive team and lawyers to discuss the legal end of taking students on outdoor adventures. It is encouraging that Cru is so supportive, especially as we consider new ways to serve students throughout the region from our NH base. Please pray with us for God's guidance as we plan.