

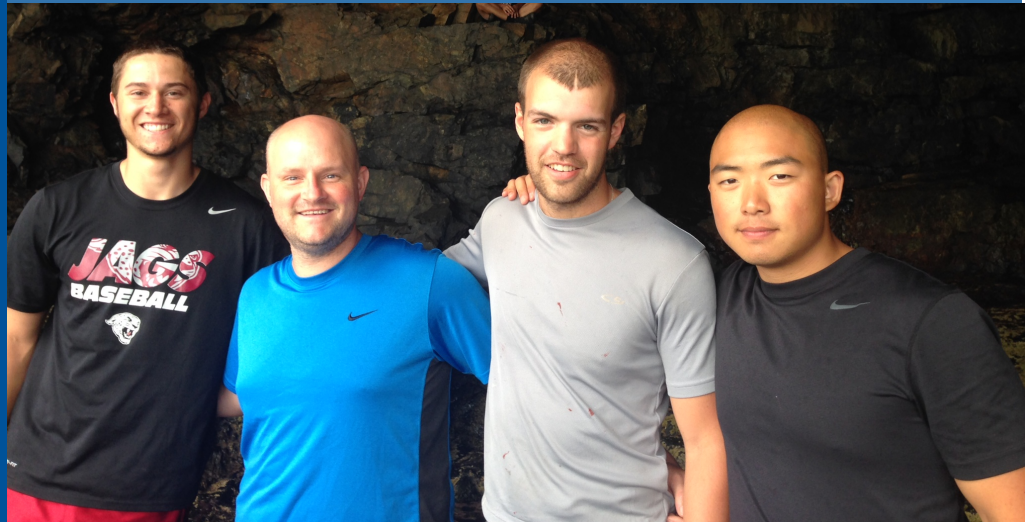
Lifelines  
July-Aug

# The Harvester

**VALOR**  
NORTHEAST  
EXPEDITION  
1-11 AUGUST 2014

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
The Outdoor Ministry of Cru  
**LIFELINES**

To learn more about Valor, go to  
[valormovement.com](http://valormovement.com)



## Brothers in Arms

*"This is the mystery of Christ, - to give life's best for such high sake that it shall be found again unto life eternal."* - Joshua Chamberlain

She would be graduating from college, turning 22 and getting commissioned all on the same day. I looked into that young face and couldn't help but wonder if next year at this time she would be in the middle of a war zone. Valor is the ROTC cadet and midshipman ministry of Cru, reaching future military leaders for Christ. Valor staff had asked us to lead their summer project this year as a Lifelines expedition: an expedition that Dan returned from two days ago. Never before had he worked with such physically fit students, or such respectful,

motivated, and willing disciples. He LOVED it. ☺ At the same time, we had never before worked with students who were willing to literally follow Christ's command to lay down one's life for one's brother, who understood the cost of sacrifice and who lived life under the authority of another. What could we teach them of the Christian life that they didn't already experience? Depending on God, rather than oneself became the theme. Students also had the chance to experience the Gospel and what God truly offers, and began to see for the first time



what the sin in their lives is really costing them. One day the cadets were given a picture and told to find that place to end their bike trip, but they couldn't ask for directions. They biked all day, gung ho and perseverant before they were given a map. They were determined to find it on their own, but they were excited to get the map. They are incredibly capable kids and because of it, extremely self-reliant, but as they began to see, God's map and His strength are not merely "helpful" – they are mandatory for navigating life.



## More than just a paddle

Dan plays the part of the Satan, whispering lies and splashing students as they paddle while hauling a bucket behind them to represent the sin in their lives. It took them awhile to see that if they stayed close to Steph, their guide, they would be less affected and she could just tell Dan to stop. The students could really see the parallels in their own life. "I rely on myself so often, rather than calling out to God," said Bridget.

## UConn Connects

This summer our team had the privilege of taking out the Cru leaders from the University of Connecticut. One of our roles is to help Cru staff reach the lost on their campus, but also to develop their Christian leaders and troubleshoot relationships and teams. The UConn trip was meant to serve that purpose. Scott and Jen, the campus directors there asked us to help them get their leaders to bond. They have struggled to help these otherwise high performing leaders connect and become a cohesive group, which then affects the relationships in the entire ministry and their witness to the



lost. After a day of canoeing and hiking we quickly assessed that these students were unwilling to be vulnerable and real with each other. They were hiding their weaknesses so well that they were not showing their true selves. The problem with this lack of authenticity is that "if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us," (1 John 1:8.) If we do not recognize our sin, then we do not acknowledge our need for a Savior. What's more, others will not bond with us because they will not know who we truly are and those outside the Body of Christ will only see the Pharisaical standards we represent rather than the humble dependence on God and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit that drew so many to the early church. Throughout the day we strove to model vulnerability and pressed them to be honest with each other. They made some progress but there is still pride and fear standing in their way. Please pray for these students as they take steps toward walking in the light.

## Bearing Fruit

What a joy to learn that the student women from our May expedition, who were battling such loneliness, have been meeting weekly on Skype to encourage one another ever since returning from project! We pray for long-lasting results in students' lives and it is so rewarding to know that they are living more closely with Christ, and in dearer fellowship with the Body.

***"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."***  
*Hebrews 10:25*