

The Harvester

Using the outdoor experience to help students grow in relationship with God, in relationship with others, in character and in leadership

True Courage

This month we had the joy of taking 29 student men from the University of New Hampshire on a rock climbing and repelling trip as part of their men's appreciation night. We were privileged to be part this huge outreach. Many of the students were non-believers and a big percentage of those were internationals from all walks of faith. As Dan lowered them down the 100 foot overhang he had opportunity to talk with the men about courage. Many of them overcame real fear on the cliff, not unlike what they may face in their own country should they pursue a relationship with Christ. Please pray that they would not allow fear to keep them from giving their lives to Him.



May 6: year-end party

PSU students have their last day of classes on the 8th. Please pray that our final leadership meeting and Bible studies would prepare students to go and grow over the summer.

May 12: planning days

Our staff team will be meeting soon to evaluate this year and plan for the next. Pray that we would follow God's insight and direction as we do so.

May 27: expedition

I am co-leading a ten-day women's expedition in Acadia at the end of this month. Please pray for the 10 ladies who will join us and for safety and deep connection with the Lord.



New Recruits

While in Maine on our staff training retreat we had a chance to take student leaders from the University of Maine on a climbing trip. This provided great hands-on practice for our new staff in both technical and facilitating skills. Kayla, one of the student women, will be on our expedition this summer, so it was especially fun to meet her. One of my greatest joys was in listening to Beth, a former UMaine student and sister to my co-worker, Steph, give her fund raising talk to us. She will be interning with Lifelines this coming year (and, yes, we have decide to support her.) ☺

Missional Team Leaders Conference

Every April the 100+ Cru campus directors in the northeast gather for a time of strategizing, prayer, vision casting and encouragement. This year Dan had the opportunity to talk to them all about the biblical basis for experiential learning. He highlighted multiple examples of how God used experience to teach a lesson that may not have otherwise been learned. Even in the Garden of Eden, God presented all the animals in pairs to Adam and it wasn't long before it dawned on Adam that he was alone. He experienced a need and then God stepped in. Again at Pentecost Peter proclaimed that the promise "is for you and for

your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself," (Acts 2:39) but it wasn't until he saw the vision of the blanket being lowered with "unclean" food that Peter was actually willing to *change his behavior* and associate with non-Jews (Acts 10.)

In our culture it is not normal to learn through experience, but Jesus used it all the time. If worship music were missing from our church service, it would be a tremendous loss. What if God designed experiential learning as another form of worship and teaching and yet it's missing from our ministry?

Staff Playing Training

One of the most fun events we did this month was a staff training retreat in Maine. All twelve of us (kids included) stayed together in one cottage and spent the days practicing climbing techniques and set-ups. Our new staff had a chance to set up a traverse, which they had never done before, and even Aliza took a turn crossing over! We also had a great time of fellowship, hiking, and eating (of course.)

Aliza is 60 ft up!

