



Jordan & Niki Shirkman

Cru | Ohio University + Marietta College

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"It was incredible! I was truly experiencing God and realized how undeserving I am of all He's given me, but how grateful I am for all He's done," Lauren told me (Niki) over coffee.

Like many college students involved in fraternities and sororities, Lauren was struggling with having one foot in the party scene and one foot in her relationship with Jesus. As we met for the first time, it was obvious she had made up her mind to follow Christ, but her heart wasn't yet convinced. Lauren's older sister has a strong walk with the Lord, and Lauren has felt like she's been living in her sister's shadow spiritually. Lauren wanted to find her own identity in Christ and be able to use the unique talents and gifts the Lord has given her. Together we read Psalm 139:14, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." and I watched Lauren's eyes light up to the reality that God formed her uniquely for a reason.

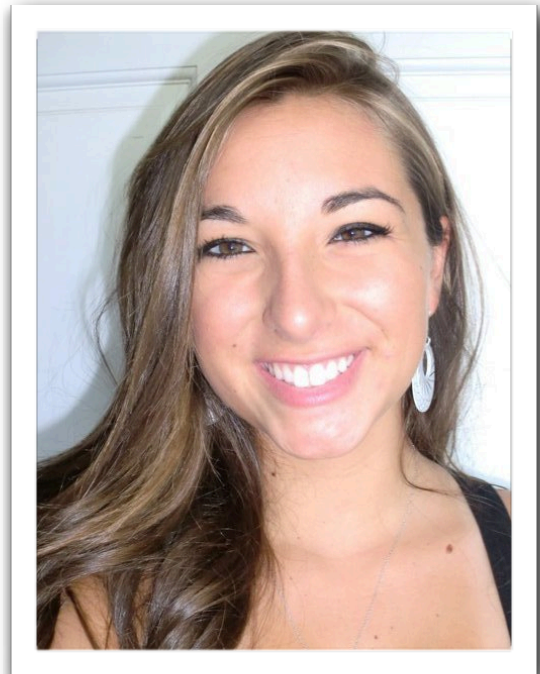
A week later, she asked if we could meet again. My heart was filled with excitement as I listened to Lauren and watched tears of joy stream down her face. With a new enthusiasm, Lauren shared with me an experience she had while running that morning. "I was just going to keep sleeping but for some reason I felt God telling me to get up and run." While on the running path, her shoes came untied and she sat down on the bank by the river. Lauren strongly felt God's presence and was overcome by a deep longing for intimacy with Him. "I don't want to lose this feeling," she said. "What can I do to keep growing closer to God?"

Those emotional experiences, while certainly not the foundation of our faith, provide a sense of refreshment and revitalize our Spirit. I encouraged Lauren to think about going on one of Cru's Summer Projects, which are 6 to 10 week mission trips in the United States and across the world. She has since applied and plans on going on a Summer Project to Traverse City, Michigan, where she will be able to spend the summer growing in her relationship with Christ, developing leadership skills, and receiving training in how to tell co-workers, students, and vacationers in Traverse City about the saving love of Jesus Christ.

Lauren is excited to pursue the Lord's plans for her and desires to be a leader in the Greek Bible study, to steward her platform in her sorority in order to reach the lost with the good news of our Savior.

Laboring for the God who pursues us,

Jordan + Niki



Lauren is a sophomore in Delta Zeta who is involved in the Greek Bible study for women in sororities. She is living in her sorority house this year and is excited to tell her sisters about Jesus!

Prayers

- o Pray that 35 students from OU would join us at Greek Conference in Indianapolis this weekend
- o For 75+ students to join us in Panama City Beach for our spring break trip, where they learn to share their faith and grow as a Christian with hundreds of others
- o Jordan recently helped Tyler start a Bible study. Pray that God would give wisdom and boldness to continue inviting men to come

Praise

- o 30+ men and women came to the Greek Relationship Panel last week to learn what it means to have a Christ-centered relationship
- o Dozens of students from Ohio University have already applied to go on a Summer Project this year
- o Lauren's desire to follow God and turn from the empty offerings of this world

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