

Feb/Mar'04

Western PA
CAMPUS MINISTRY

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Tough Month...

The past month has been a hard one, that's the best I can describe it. Since my last prayer letter, my computer got a virus which necessitated a complete reinstall, I switched cell phone providers and in the process overpaid on some charges, and overall I've been feeling quite empty spiritually – it happens to all of us at some point I guess.

To top it all off, before I even got home from church yesterday I hit a deer and found out that a friend of mine (the student president of Campus Crusade for Christ at Edinboro University of PA) is shipping out to Afghanistan in less than a month.

To put it lightly – *I've had better months.*

Good Days...

The past month has been very good too. Well, mostly one day of it; I'm excited to let you all know that I got engaged on Valentine's day! Carrie and I have been dating for almost a year and a half; she is also on staff with CCC in Western Pennsylvania. (I'll put the story of the proposal on my new 'staff website' – <http://www.Whelpley.tk>) Hopefully, you'll get to learn a little more about her in the coming months.

Carrie and I first met at Edinboro at a campus ministry group and have been good friends for around 5 years.

Secure Place...

In the past month, I have faced a number of trials and testing situations, and at times have understood more intimately what Paul meant when he wrote to the Corinthians "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."

God has been the one that really has been consistent this past month, even when I didn't feel it. It's wonderful to know that He never stops watching and caring for us.

My computer-- I didn't lose any vital information. My phone-- I was able to keep the same number. The accident-- I'm not hurt and the car only has cosmetic damage. My life-- I'm not only okay, but God has been teaching me through this low point the importance of knowing the reasons for my faith – my *faith* is based on the *facts* of God's word, not on the emotions that ebb and flow in me. Even today as I read in the Psalms, God comforted me anew, "I will not break My covenant, nor change the thing that has gone out of My lips. (Psalms 89:34).

Kept by His faithfulness,

Please be praying for:

- Jay Reynolds as he prepares to serve our country in Afghanistan. (For his safety and for the hole that will be left at Edinboro.)

- The wedding plans and my relationship with Carrie.

- Those on the college campuses who are struggling with their faith as well, that God would reassure and comfort them.

2 Cor. 4:17

"Our suffering is light and temporary and is producing for us an eternal glory that is greater than anything we can imagine."

