



CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

WESTERN PA CATALYTIC

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(INFO)

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Thirst...

The Mid-Atlantic Christmas Conference 2004 was here and gone. On December 28, nearly 700 students from six states (PA, WV, VA, MD, DE and NJ) and DC filtered past the registration table we staffed to get their keys in the Crystal Gateway Marriot. Just across the Potomac from the Capitol with 17 floors overhead and an indoor mall below, Carrie and I could see the Capitol Building from our window.

So, what exactly draws so many college students away from home during their long-awaited break? **THIRST!**

Drink deep...

These students came together with of a thirst to connect with the God of the Universe. For our 23 Western PA Catalytic students who came dealing with issues like bone cancer and sexual abuse, a chance to experience fun, worship, prayer, friendship and growth like this doesn't present itself every day. Speakers like Tommy Nelson (well known for his thorough and straightforward presentation of scripture) nourished and challenged us from God's Word to fall in love with Jesus Christ all the more, some for the first time.

Unique this year among the large main sessions and smaller specialized seminars was the opportunity to *pray* in the New Year. All of us there can say that we began this year doing what we were designed to do – praising God. Don't be fooled, we did some karaoke, dancing and partying too – but this was no ordinary New Years party. This was truly a worship service!

Pour out...

The conference theme was from John 7 which tells of, “streams of living waters” that flow from those who follow Christ. All of the spiritual energy generated during the conference provided a great opportunity to reach out to the community in Washington. Partnering with local churches, campus groups from the six states went into the city to give holiday surveys and meal boxes to needy families.

Bill, a West Virginia University alum, had decided last minute not to skip the outreach and mistakenly followed us aboard the DC subway. Separated from his own campus, Bill ended up paired with Nicole from Slippery Rock University. While walking through the Deanwood neighborhood, they felt the Lord's leading as a man stepped out of his front door. After talking with this father, they told him about the kind of life Jesus

Christ offers – he realized and admitted, likely for the first time, that he needed Jesus Christ in his life.

- The locals that we shared with – especially a Greek man the two of us met in the Subway as we were sightseeing after the conference ended
- The students – that they would apply what they learned at the conference as they return to classes this week.
- Also that the students would seriously consider the various summer opportunities and short-term missions projects.
- Our region's partnership ministries in Venezuela, East Asia, Australia and North Africa.

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. (John 7:37)

(PRAYER NEEDS)