



CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST
WESTERN PA CATALYTIC
 JAYSON AND CARRIE WHELPLEY

(INFO)

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January 9, 2006

Journey...

For many, the week between Christmas and New Year's Day consists of relaxing with family, eating and playing with new toys. But for us and about 700 students and staff from the 6-state Mid-Atlantic Region, it consisted of worship, teaching, prayer, fellowship, outreach, comfortable Marriott beds, the underground food court, the D.C. Metro subway, and lots of energy; in other words – *Christmas Conference – DC05*.

Journey - not the 80's rock band, but the theme for this year's conference where, once again, Tommy Nelson (pastor of Texas' Denton Bible Church) brought great teaching to deepen our journey with Christ. Others like Paul Eshleman (founder of the Jesus Film Project) and Rick James (no, not *that* Rick James) shared the vision for reaching those around us and those in every corner of the globe.

Meeting physical needs...

Outreach day is always a highlight of Christmas Conference – all of us going out into the D.C. area to show the love of Christ to literally hundreds of people in one afternoon. Typically, groups of students and staff with talk with tourists around the memorials and others around the city. This year, while some continued with the “traditional” outreach, many also had the chance to live out Christ's love and compassion through some more service-oriented projects.

Some, for example, helped clean a Salvation Army youth center, while others served and befriended the homeless at a shelter. Our Western PA group teamed up with West Virginia Catalytic students and a local organization called *Food and Friends* (foodandfriends.org) to bring food to shut-ins as far away as Hagerstown, MD and Fredericksburg, VA. The organization, which gives balanced meals for those whose advanced HIV/AIDS or chemotherapy leaves them housebound, relies on volunteers to drive to homes to deliver the meals and visit with clients who want company.

On the way out...

For most of the conference, the two of us kept busy; Carrie set helped with physical arrangements for seminars, while I (Jayson) worked running a television camera for all the main meetings. It's easy to spend the entire week working and never think about opportunities we might have with other Marriott workers or guests who aren't with our group.

While Carrie was setting up for a seminar about a summer mission opportunity, she was hit by this as well. As she crossed the lobby a few minutes later, another guest named Ayesha asked why there were so many young people around. Carrie explained the conference and, when Ayesha sounded interested, asked about her spiritual background. Soon Ayesha had to go, so they exchanged numbers and agreed to meet the next morning for coffee. As I (Jayson) packed the car, God provided the chance for Carrie and Ayesha to talk over coffee about what Christ came to do...

- The new semester as we head back to campus next Tuesday
- That students would take the opportunity to invest their summer to do missions work where God has called them
- That Carrie would continue to have good conversations with Ayesha and that God would move in her life
- Libbie (from November's letter) whose sister passed away this week

Grace and peace,

P.S. Unfortunately, with our limited space here, we don't have room for all the details. If you want to read more about our Christmas conference experience go to our website (Whelpley.org) and check out the *Newsletter Extras* section.

(PRAYER NEEDS)