



CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST
WESTERN PA CATALYTIC
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Linda, Jen, Sarah, Matt...

So this semester, I [Carrie] am exploring a campus in Erie and meet some students who seem pretty willing to talk. Linda, born in Vietnam, is Buddhist but doesn't know much about it. She says she'll probably keep her mom's traditions because her brother won't and someone should, but she seems curious about my Christian faith. Jen, born in Italy, enjoys being cynical, not believing in God, and hinting about her sex life. Soon Linda and Jen introduce me to Sarah, who is sweet, with long blonde hair and a boyfriend in Iraq, and can't decide on a major. She doesn't consider herself a Christian and just wants to quit school and be a housewife.

In line for food, we're joined by Matt, a sincere and talkative environmental science major. Amid talk of global warming and our shared aversion to Hummers, he mentions a childhood of religious rules, hypocritical absentee parents and the grandparents he lives with now. We exchange email addresses to talk more later about an article about the difference between karma and grace and who Jesus said he was, which he finds interesting.

Eric, Jenn, Mark...

Eric also frequents the lounge where the others socialize over dining hall mac 'n cheese with neglected text books open. He likes being a connoisseur of religions but doesn't commit to one. With long reddish hair pulled back in a ponytail, he says he'd choose Norse paganism if he had to, maybe because it's easy for him to sound confident and impressive when he talks about its ancient traditions.

Another quieter Jenn joins the table with Eric, staying after he leaves. She's silent until the others leave too, then talks about how much she loves to bowl. Not nearly so shy once we're alone, she chatters until a guy named Mark from her geography class interrupts and joins us. They've never met, but he hasn't been to class in two weeks and needs to be brought up to speed. He's friendly and sticks around another 20 minutes, sharing about how his Dad died of a brain tumor September 10, 2001 and how much better he's doing in school now that he's been in rehab and off the drugs.

Looking for Truth...

When Mark takes off, Jenn offers me some SweetTarts and asks some questions about heaven and wonders if it would be boring if things were perfect, without our faults and mistakes. We talk about the gospel and how Jesus came to reconnect us to God and take our junk, and how that frees us up to be *more* unique as the people He made us. She asks more interested questions until it gets late, and we trade contact info.

Between trips and phonecalls to other schools, I think about these students and how sad it makes me that ever since sometime in the 18th century, "educated" society has had this snobbery against certain kinds of truth that aren't measurable by science – conceptual things like art and poetry and spiritual things like God and faith – and how hard that can make it to seek God and still feel intelligent in college. Pray for these students – Linda, Jen, Sarah, Matt, Eric,

Jenn, and Mark – that God would stir a revival in their small social circle and begin a movement of spiritual awakening at Penn State Behrend.

- Continued spiritual conversations and growth for these non-believers at PSU Behrend
- More believing students with the desire to lead to surface at the Erie schools, as we work against the clock to launch movements before our current contacts graduate this spring
- Safety, effectiveness, and life change during our upcoming spring break trip to Pass Christian, Mississippi with a busload of students to help with the Katrina Relief effort

Grace and peace,

Jayson & Carrie

PS – The article Matt and I talked about is an excerpt from an interview with Bono, the front man for the band U2, and will be posted on Whelpley.org under "newsletter extras."

(P R A Y E R N E E D S)