

SEPTEMBER 25, 2012

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever! Amen. 2 Peter 3:18

BUILDING & REACHING

CALEB AND LAURA COOK WITH CRU

Anything But Anonymous

“Caleb look, it’s Emily!” We quickly ran over to say hello. Emily was in the Bible study I (Laura) led as a student leader in Cru. We’ve developed a friendship over the years, but last Sunday, she shared with me a little more about how the Lord had worked in her life that year. Here is part of her story:

Entering in to my sophomore year at UW, I was at a crossroads. The deep commitment I'd made to following Jesus had been shaken freshman year from the freedom and new, challenging realities of college life. It'd also been shaken by not fitting in to one Christian organization on campus and the ease of anonymity that followed afterward. Thankfully, in the early days of sophomore year, I anxiously signed up for a Bible study through Cru hoping that it would be something significant and not another organization I could drop out of and be anonymous once again.

Thankfully, Laura entered my life by knocking on my door and sharing that she would be my Bible study leader for sophomore year. And, as it would seem, Laura's joy and love bubbled out of herself and wrapped around me making me anything but anonymous. Over the course of the next 9 months, Laura not only became a friend who loved and valued me but a woman who challenged me to dive deeply in to the Word and truly recognize the need for Christ again in myself and the world. She challenged me to move beyond my comfort zone by attending conferences, which in retrospect were some of the most instrumental times of growth and connection into a rich community of believers. And lastly, she shared herself. She shared her heart, fears, strengths, joys, and questions in a way that created a tone of equality rather than leader-student. She taught me that wherever we are, all ground is equal at the foot of the cross.

What I didn't know when my year with Laura began is that it would be the most pivotal year in my journey with Christ. There was no way to foresee all of the change that would occur in my heart, my mind, my soul, and my community. That year shaped me to become a Bible study leader for my two remaining years of college, connect with an area church, meet my best friends who would later stand up in my wedding, send me as a missionary to Cambodia, and bring me back to Madison as part-time staff at a church. I am so thankful for the impact that one committed woman had on not only my college experience, but my faith, my heart, and my future.

Thank you for your partnership in changing lives.

Caleb + Laura



L: The Bible Study that Emily was in and Laura led in 2008-2009.

R: Laura and Emily at the end of the 2009 school year.

Prayer Requests

- Emily is now married and lives in the Madison area. Praise God for how He has worked in and through her life!
- The Lord has been providing abundantly for our transition in ministry to serving Him in Uruguay. Please pray that He continue and that we are fully funded by January. We hope to be in Uruguay as soon as possible to start ministering there.

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