



WWC Alumni Newsletter

2002-2003



Dear Friends,

I don't even know where to begin. Last year at this time I would have probably been having a late night in the WWC office working on putting together the alumni newsletter. This year, though living in the same small town of Cable, my world is far different. At the end of my year on staff, I had a desire to somehow continue to be on staff. But now, I wouldn't change anything for the opportunities set me before me in my everyday life. My time spent on staff at WWC which ended only eight months ago, seems so long ago.

After my time there I spent the summer at home in North Carolina which was overly uneventful. I sensed early on in the year that the Lord was directing me back to Cable. I was burdened for this place though I honestly didn't know what that would look like for God to fulfill. God was asking me to have faith that his plans were beautiful. I knew I wanted to be in Cable again but how the details of finding a job and house in such a small town was beyond me. Finally I drove up at the end of August for an interview at Lakewoods as a waitress.

On my trip back up to Cable, I stopped to stay at the camp I worked at in high school in Indiana. A woman there that I know told me I was certainly about to find a mission field at my workplace when I got here. Looking back now, here words were full of God's Spirit of truth. I had no idea what to expect when I came – not even knowing for

sure if I'd have a job. Now I've been working at Lakewoods for four months. There have been times when I have been overwhelmed with the routine of my life and not knowing how to invest more into the community and to build relationships. I have wept deeply, knowing that my life was missing the fellowship I'd had formerly in a place like WWC or the Christian colleges that many of us have attended. It is so radically different not being surrounded by that!

I am finding that many people's lives here have been affected by alcohol; which is a big part of the culture here. This includes a majority of the people I work with. Many of them have broken lives because of this and divorces. The lesson of the brokenness of our world that I began to understand as a student at WWC, is rather vivid in my workplace. Daily, my co-workers are the burden on my heart, and yet my joy. It is my joy because I have the opportunity to learn what it is to "conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the Gospel" as Paul exhorted the Philippians to do. With most of them, I haven't reached a place where I can speak much about the truth and hope that I know. Yet, most of them respect me and I pray that God will use that as a foundation in relationships with them.

I am amazed at the people that God has put in my life, and how he uses even non-believers to encourage and challenge me. I am satisfied in life right now because I know that God is desiring to work in just one of my co-workers lives who has

begun to open up to me. I guess ultimately I am okay with my simple life and work routine because I know God is active, he breathes his desires for these people around me to know him, into my heart so that I can share it with him. He is teaching me that despite if they never choose to follow him, his love for them is still unfathomable. Obviously, sharing the Gospel through my life, and hopefully eventually my words, is continually on my mind. New Scriptures come alive and I feel in a way like I'm beginning to see what it is to live out the other 50% of my faith. With all my heart, I challenge you, to seek out being a part of people's lives who don't yet know Christ. It is exciting! And it seems to me like many Christians, including myself for a majority of my life, have had very little contact with people who don't know the hope that we have. We are *called to be a light* in an extremely dark world. May that not be cliché but something that God's Spirit writes on our hearts. I hope to see many of you at alumni weekend and to hear and be enthralled by the wonders God is doing in your lives!

Tammy