

SOUTHWESTERN INTER VARSITY



Jacklyn Andrada



June 2008

Praises...

- That we finished off the school year and that the students passed their classes.
- Aaron graduating and transferring to San Diego State
- That God provided financially for this past year of ministry.
- That I am going to Manila this summer on missions.
- For my dad's health and that he is responding well to chemo.



Aaron Rayos

Looking Back... A Student's Perspective

In my second year at Southwestern I came upon InterVarsity after having been invited a few times before. I didn't respond to those invitations until one day I figured that it would be a lot more enjoyable than sitting in the cafeteria by myself. Although I was open to the group, I had a problem with its vision to transform students and faculty, renew the campus and change the world. The first two didn't seem unreasonable, but as anyone could imagine, "Changing the world" was a bit over the top for what I saw in myself.

After a long process I began to realize the impact that InterVarsity made on my outlook on life. This past semester, I adopted the word "redefine" after realizing the changes God was making to the common beliefs I held about different aspects of my Christianity. The biggest thing that God redefined for me was the idea of community. Prior to that, community was a distant idea because I never truly felt like I was a part of a group of friends.

My redefinition process began with me leading a community group focused on creating a lasting community as we learned together what community was. Through leading this group I began to find a community that I never knew existed. Not only did I find lasting relationships that were positive in which we could all learn and support each other, but God also redefined the way that I viewed myself. In the past I always looked at myself as a mediocre person who settled to go to Southwestern College instead of going to a four year university. Through InterVarsity I realized that I was valued by God and had purpose in life to change the look of community not only at Southwestern College but also in the communities around me.

As I transfer to San Diego State I find myself more goal oriented and full of purpose than ever. I really can't see myself getting to this point in my life without InterVarsity. It has helped me grow personally and constantly challenges me. In InterVarsity I have never felt alone in pursuing God and community but instead felt supported to overcome life's challenges and continue to push forward to change the world.

Personally Speaking...

Recently I attended a conference and the speaker referred to this passage, "Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God" (2 Cor. 3:5). As I sat there mulling over these words I realized that when I first came on staff this sentence totally convicted me. Of course our competence comes from God! Of course all the glory should go to God as well! But all too often we forget this basic thing. I sat there in disbelief that I forgot that initial conviction. As I looked back on the year, I could totally see all that God has done. He has grown me, the students and the ministry so much. The question though was not whether or not God did anything this year, instead it was whether or not I realized it all came from Him. As I have grown in my identity, confidence and leadership these past years it's so easy to take the credit for when things go well. It's easy to be prideful in success. But rather than focusing on ourselves we should instead continue to focus

on God. What we do and who we are are totally dependent upon God. Thank goodness He keeps reminding me time and time again who is actually in charge of things. Hopefully I will not forget this lesson in the future.

Please pray as I am heading to Manila on June 17. Please pray that God would keep me and my team safe and that we would see his heart for people.

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:3-6



Jacklyn Andrada

