

# NOT THERE YET

Updates from Whitney's Ministry with the Epic Movement in Orange County/Long Beach

## NOPE, I'M NOT ON CAMPUS YET...

But here are 6 of the hundreds of reasons I'm glad I get to take the time to be raising support full-time:

1. **He's given me life and life abundant.** That doesn't mean I recognize it all the time. I get to continue to explore how I live this massive amount of life-given. Whether it's rock climbing, riding my bike, playing guitar, praying for you, or writing these letters... this season is continuing practice in not wasting this life!

2. **He's doing stuff in *your* lives and I get to hear about it!!** If you've been on my team for any length of time, I hope you know that I want to hear from you! (With phones, e-mail, Twitter, Facebook, etc. it makes it SO easy, I promise!) Getting to meet with you and just hear about what God's doing or where He has you now has been incredibly encouraging and it moves me--no matter where you're at. Your faithfulness, struggle, and living is a joy to walk alongside and I'm grateful for the time to witness some of that.

3. **He's called me!!!** (That last sentence should be read like a squeal from a teenage girl who just got a glance and a smile from the captain of the basketball team, or engineering squad--I'm sure you'll find some studs there!) I feel just like that teenager: honored, excited, a little nervous, and *completely* smitten, except not with some guy, with the Creator of the universe: God! Part of my calling to full-time campus ministry IS the calling to share about that very thing! What an awesome job--getting to just talk about what God's done in my life and what He's doing in others'... with *everyone!* This leads me to the next one...

4. **He shows me more of Himself.** Through hearing who you've seen God to be, I see His providence more clearly. Through recounting His calling and work in my life, I see His faithfulness and mercy more clearly. Through reports from my team and what He's already doing in students' lives all over the world, I see His plan more clearly.

5. **I have to depend on Him a lot.** Picking up the phone is a faith action for me. I have a weird fear of voicemail/answering machines. The timing of everything--not in my hands. And as He allows me to know Him more, the more assured I am of my future and whatever lot may befall.

6. **He does so much more than I'll ever know/notice.** God is CONSTANTLY drawing people to Him all around me... and I had nothing to do with it. It's a wonderful realization that our all-powerful, all-loving, all-just God is making waves in lives everywhere...because that's what He wants to do.

When you're not raising support you're...?  
Great question! I've been trying to maintain my normal life! But part of this mid-twenties (AAHH!!?) lifestyle is that "normal" life looks different every month... Recently it's looked like this:



(above) Steph, Clara and I at our former roommate's



wedding!  
(left) I've been baby-sitting my favorite 1-yr. old, Ewan. He has taught me a

lot about humans and toy cars!

(below) I led worship for youth at my home church retreat. It was really refreshing!



## Here's to Hoping

Our students are total professionals when it comes to campus ministry. They are the experts when it comes to their campuses.

Would you join me AND some of our students in lifting up UC Irvine and CSU Long Beach in prayer? Directly from the students to you--here's what they're hoping the Lord to accomplish this school year..

**Mandy (senior, CSULB):** "For this year I am hoping that we would grow in our unity as a group. I think God really wants to strengthen the bonds we have with each other so we will be stronger and more supported as we outreach to our campus together."



**Mei (sophomore, CSULB):** "But I am excited to see who God brings to Epic this year, especially the new freshmen! I know that for myself and my roommate, getting involved in a fellowship our first year was so important for our faith and such a big blessing for us. I hope that God grows Epic not only in size, but also in love and unity. I think my big hope for this year is that we will have a growing and active love for God the Father, our Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, for each other, and for our campus at CSULB. I'm smiling just thinking about it -- how awesome is it that God can use imperfect, ordinary people like us in His Big Plan for everyone!"



**Michael (senior, UC Irvine):** "I would really like to see Epic members, both old and new, really grow to desire and find joy in serving God to the full extent that God allows them. I think growth and transformation are words that I've been thinking about a lot."



### Writing to Other Staff Women

*This month a quarterly newsletter that goes out to all the women on staff with Campus Crusade (Cru) included an article I wrote regarding what God's been showing me about my own identity as well as what He is doing/wants to do for ethnic minorities! It was a big leap of faith for me to even share my heart and experiences as vulnerably as I did. But I'm really grateful for the opportunity to communicate some of what God's doing as several women AND men have expressed how they've felt similarly and were encouraged by my article! I'm so overwhelmed by the feedback! For example: One staff woman who's been on staff for 36 years wrote back: "Whitney: Your remarks, your honesty and vulnerability have touched my heart today and I have to respond. As one of those "ethnic minority" staff members who has labored for Christ and agitated within Cru through the years for cross-cultural and ethnic-contextualized ministry and having tried to help create a welcome environment in Cru for all ethnic American staff, your article actually says to me, "It was all worth it."*

### Verse of the month...

"So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us." 1 Thess. 2:8 (ESV)