

CONVERGE

BELONG BELIEVE BECOME

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Student Spotlight: Liz Schettle

My name is Elisabeth Schettle, and this is my story.

Ever since I was a little girl, I've been going to church and attending Bible studies on a regular basis. The source of my religious education came mostly from my dad, who crammed his dogma, rules, and expectations down my throat. By the age of eighteen, I could quote the Bible from memory, speak knowledgeably on Biblical issues and themes, and pray impressive prayers.

My prayers, however, were shallow words lacking in substance. I knew all about God, but I never knew him personally. I had gotten very good at pretending because my dad would accept me only if he thought I was a Christian. I moved out of my parents' house at 18, and began my life in college. Freed from his overbearing doctrine, I grew bitter towards God and blamed him for all of the losses I had suffered through as a child due to my dad and his wildly conservative dictatorship over my life. God was an easy target, and he never refuted any of my accusations.

Even though I was then living a Godless life, I stayed on society's good side. I never felt the urge to dabble in drugs or drink or go to raves at night. I didn't experience any lifestyle changes, because the only thing that had changed in my life was my realization and admission that I didn't love God. I had subconsciously known this all my life, but only now had I had the epiphany. My behavior stayed the same, but my soul turned a darker shade of black.

Fueled on by my intellectual atheist friends, I found logic and comfort in agnosticism. I stopped going to church, and poured myself into worldly concerns

like working, doing well in school, and maintaining a social life. This last summer though, my world changed. Joshua Ernst, the head of Converge, called and invited me to attend. Someone from my old church had referenced me to him. I listened to his invitation, and told him I would try to make it if I could. I hung up the phone, fully intending not to go. I had other plans for the night, and hanging out at a church youth group full of naive, judgmental Christians was not my idea of a good time.



God had a plan, though, and the campus play that I was planning to attend that night was canceled. I found myself with nothing to do, and I didn't want to spend the night alone at my apartment, so I decided to go and check out Converge.

I checked it out, and checked God back into my life. My change was not instant-

aneous. I was not immediately saved, nor was I entirely convinced that Converge was a group I wanted to frequent. As time passed, however, and as my heart softened, I began to disassociate God from the bitterness of my youth and from the pain of my father. I learned to separate my dad's concept of 'religion' from a true relationship with God. I met new friends that proved to me not all Christian kids are ignorant prudes, and most shocking of all, I discovered I was having fun at these meetings.

Months later, here I sit writing this: a changed girl. I have accepted God into my heart and submitted my life to his will. The rewards he has given me are bountiful beyond belief, and he takes better care of me than anyone else ever has. It was a matter of me ceasing to resist his call and presence in my life. I'm by no means where I should be - I still relapse, I still struggle with doubt, and I get in angry fights with God at least once a week. But, despite this, I know I am growing and maturing in God's word and I can feel his hand on my shoulder as I wander throughout my days. By freak coincidence - or by God's will - I came to Converge, and now I regularly attend as a genuine woman of God. I can say now, without lying and without pressure to lie: I am a Christian, and I love Jesus with all my heart.

Please continue to pray for Liz as she continues to move forward in her journey with the Lord. Pray that God who has begun a good work in her will carry it on to completion. Thank you for investing in this ministry so we can reach out to students like Liz. We couldn't do it without you and your support!

PRAYER POINTS:

- CONTINUE TO PRAY GOD WILL MOVE ON THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE AND PARTNERS TO PARTNER WITH US IN THIS NEW MINISTRY.
- PLEASE PRAY THAT WE WILL HEAR GREAT REPORTS AND BE ABLE TO DISCOVER THE GENDER OF OUR BABY AT OUR UPCOMING ULTRASOUND ON MARCH 7TH!

PRAISE REPORTS:

- OUR FAMILY IS HEALTHY AND WELL! THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND WHOLENESS!
- GOD IS BEGINNING TO PLANT A DESIRE IN THE HEARTS OF SEVERAL STUDENTS TO EARNESTLY SEEK HIM IN PRAYER. 5 MORE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT WHILE PRAYING TOGETHER IN THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS.

Support

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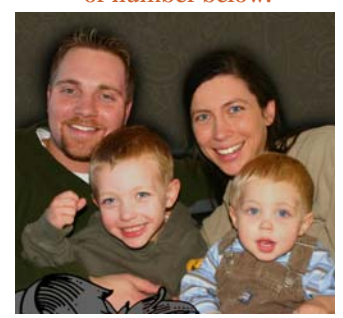
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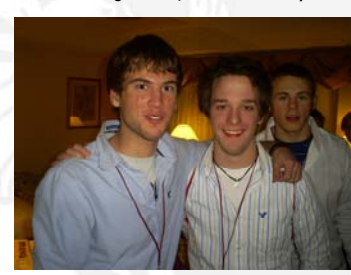
Joshua, Heather, Josiah, and Asher Ernst

Your missionaries to the students of UW-Oshkosh

The SALT of the Earth

Over 500 students converged upon Rochester, MN, last month to enjoy a phenomenal conference we call SALT. Students gathered from universities all over the Great Plains Area, including Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas! We were able to bring 13 of our own students to this intense time of worship, seeking after God, and deep, relevant teaching. On top of large corporate gatherings, students were offered a wide range of "Relevant" classes that taught on topics such as righteous relationships,

discovering God's plan for your life, answering His call, baptism and gifts of the Holy Spirit, financial management, and life beyond



college. Joshua even taught a session on how to reach those

around you through relational evangelism. Our students had a blast! One of our students, as you may recall from our last newsletter, was baptized in water! Many more of our students experienced some profound times of worship and seeking after God, surrendering their lives to Him. Some even decided to give a year of their life to missions upon graduation from college. God is raising up a new generation of student leaders who are going to change the world with His love as they spread out as "the salt of the earth" all over the world!

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