



Christian Encounter

NEWSLETTER

STUDENT PROFILE

Addy

Addy was seven when she was adopted from an orphanage in Ukraine, along with her brother and sister. Overnight Addy gained a family and moved across the ocean to a small town in Idaho. Two siblings became seven and now she had someone to call Mom and Dad. With no formal education prior to her arrival in the States, Addy was catching up with schooling in addition to learning a new language.

Amidst the whirlwind of change, Addy still had her sister with her. Her sister who had taken care of her in the orphanage all those hard years after their mom had left them.

Four years older than Addy, her sister left for the military when Addy had just entered adolescence. Things had been tense the day of her sister's departure, and in the months to follow contact grew scarce. Her sister had been her pillar all these years, and now she was gone. Addy felt abandoned.

The growing distance in their relationship left Addy with a lot of questions. *Where is my sister now? Is she okay? Why*

Addy with Natalee on the wilderness trip in August.



did she leave? And then: Why did my birth mom leave?

This began to drive a wedge between her and her parents. Angry and hurting, Addy pleaded with her parents for an alternate solution to staying at home. At 15, she went to live in a foster home setting out-of-state. It was a year and a half before she returned to Idaho and re-enrolled in public school.

Addy grew increasingly oppositional and would defy her parents' authority at every turn. This time her parents gave her two options for out-of-home placement - Christian Encounter and a place closer to home. Addy's friends urged her to prioritize finishing high school, and because Christian Encounter allowed her that option, Addy got on a plane to California.

Addy arrived at the Ranch just a couple of weeks before the annual Agony Ride. She caught a glimpse of the breadth of community that supported the Ranch and was moved by the staggering display of love.

As Addy settled into Ranch life, she met with her discipler, Cassie, weekly. During these meetings Cassie would ask, "So what do you think about Jesus?" Addy would respond with indifference. Though Addy was raised in a Christian household, in recent years she had begun to distance herself from any pursuit of faith.

One day during school, Addy was sifting through the contents in her backpack when she pulled out her Bible from the bottom. A student commented, "You should read that some time." Addy politely declined in the moment, but that night she read John 3-4.

Later that fall, Addy had the opportunity to see her favorite Christian artist, Lauren Daigle, in concert due to the generosity of some friends of the ministry. That night, in a stadium of thousands of people, Addy heard the Lord calling out to her, telling her to come to Him. She sensed resistance in her spirit.



Then two weeks after the concert, some friends of the ministry and the pastor from the Body Church shared some timely words at the Ranch. The next day, Addy submitted to Christ.

"When I look back now I can see the Lord was slowly softening my heart, though I didn't realize it at the time."

New life in Christ was sweet as Addy was eager to learn and grow more. "Since I gave my life to the Lord, I've felt a lot better about life. I can't really say I had a purpose in life before that."

Addy found herself enjoying family life at the Ranch, highlighting Christmas and another Agony - this time experiencing it as a believer. Addy was baptized in February, and though her family couldn't attend, the testimony of the Lord's work in her heart was evident as she worked towards reconciliation with her parents.

In the summer Addy began working in the garden at the Ranch, carefully tending to her raised beds. *(cont. on back pg.)*

FIFTEEN DAYS SUNRISE TO SUNSET



CER's annual 15-day backpacking trip serves as an opportunity for our students and interns to unplug from the responsibilities and distractions of daily life and experience the great outdoors. CER has been leading wilderness backpacking trips since the 1970's.

Trust. Dependence. Patience. Grace. Redemption. Communication. Time. Servanthood. Healing. Unguarded. Uprooted. Yoked. Foundation. Rest. Endurance. Hope. One day at a time. The Lord equipped me with these words, one a day, that reflected my heart posture and process for the day. - Madi

When I reached the top [of the rock climb] all the pain and suffering was worth it. Not because I did it but because I realized how much I needed God and how willing God is to lend strength. It was beautiful because it solidified and dug my foundation deeper - finally understanding what being saved by grace meant. -JJ



The Lord reassured me that He was not angry with me for being scared. He said, "Fear is something that the devil plants inside you and you have to decide if you are going to water that seed or trust me to remove it." His words [allowed] me to be patient with myself and my fear. -Natalee



I was looking out onto the mountains and was struck with awe. I was struck with God's love for me and just the fact that he is God. I can't even explain it. When I saw those mountains, it was like I was seeing a small portion of God's character. It was truly amazing and mind blowing. -Addy

I have to enjoy what I have in the moment. This trip was hard but I learned a lot, like how to take advantage of what I'm experiencing and learn from it. I was always living in the fast lane, never looking back on what I was doing because I would have felt bad. Now I can say that I'm doing something helpful for my future. - Jayden

You get to learn about God being with you in the hills and valleys even if you have a bad attitude, negative headspace, or very little patience. God still walks with you. On one of the hikes I got frustrated and instead of taking it out on others I started singing "Jesus has already walked this path before me, He is the one walking besides, He guides me every step, He's the one who holds my hand." Over and over I sang that until we got to our destination. - Phoebe

Angels' Meadow serves as a retreat venue for immigrant families, inner city youth, and more

Our Meadow venue continues to serve the local community free of charge as a space to unplug and experience God in nature as a community. Three Slavic churches in Sacramento - Bryte Church, Second Slavic Baptist Church, and Spring of Life Church - hosted multiple camps for immigrants (pictured) who have been in the States for less than two years. The Body Church in Sacramento hosted a men's retreat (pictured) in April and a camp for inner city youth in May.

Pastor Henry from the Body Church shares, "We didn't charge anything for the weekend, so kids that can't normally experience a youth camp because of the cost got to experience something new. A lot of them have never been camping before. Many of them come from abusive homes; the camp gave them a break from life."

We had college groups, youth groups, a women's retreat, a ministry travel team from the midwest, and our own Family Camp. Child Evangelism Fellowship Nor-Cal hosted their Christian Youth in Action camp for the fourth year in a row. We are grateful to be able to share this resource and for the furthering of the gospel.



Staff member David Ramey facilitates JJ's baptism on day nine of the wilderness trip at French Lake.



Material Needs List

- Index cards
- Expo markers
- Energy bars
- Nature Valley Oats n Honey bars
- Hot chocolate packets
- Apple cider packets
- 12 oz Disposable coffee/hot cups with lids
- 12-16 oz Disposable cold cups
- Heavy duty paper plates 8" & 10"
- Heavy duty foil
- Gallon & quart sized zip-lock food storage bags
- Potholders
- Twin bedding
- Toothbrushes
- Safety glasses
- Earmuffs for hearing protection
- Heavy duty loppers/pruners
- Lumber (2x4s, 4x4s, plywood)
- Shipping container

Featured Need:
Four-door sedan in good condition

Christian Encounter Ranch
PO Box 1022
Grass Valley, CA 95945

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Christian Encounter is a non-profit, non-denominational, residential community helping 16- to 24-year-olds by providing love, spiritual guidance, high school education, counseling, and 24-hour supervision. Internships are offered to young adults 21 years and older. We are a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, and all gifts are tax deductible.



MEMORIALS

In memory of Dave Bladorn, given by:
Joyce Bladorn

In memory of Marion Boyd, given by:
Greg and Diane Boyd

In memory of Jeff Farrow, given by:
Gene and Robbin Adams
Zoya Lee
Chris and Sharon Palmer
Mike and Susie Petrillo

In memory of Nathanael David Miller, given by:
Dan and Shelly Haagenson

In memory of Christie Petersen, given by:
Jim and Judi Petersen

HONORARIUMS

In honor of Robbin Adams, given by:
Robin Weigel

Addy *(cont. from pg. 1)*

“Life can get loud and busy; being in the garden I felt at peace. I feel closest to God being out in nature.” The wilderness trip in August allowed for deeper communion with the Lord as she and her peers spent 15 days in the Tahoe National Forest.

Addy entered her senior year of high school this fall and plans to graduate and finish the program in January. Plans are in motion for her to move into the Girls’ Transition House upon completion, where she will be able to continue to draw on the support of the Ranch community as she moves into independent living. We rejoice with Addy as she looks forward to what’s ahead.

Zoya Lee

“I’ve started breathing
The weight is lifted here

...

I took the long road
But now I realize
I’m home with You, I’m home”

- “Thank God I Do”, Lauren Daigle