



Dear Friends,

Happy Friday!

I love hearing testimonies what the Lord is doing in the students of Northwest! Especially during this month of "Live Dead," I encourage you to keep pressing in and discovering what he is speaking to you in this season! Below is the Story of the Week, take a moment to read it. I guarantee you will be encouraged!

Next Week in Chapel

Monday, Missionary in Residence and Professor of Intercultural Studies, Barb Houger will be speaking to us from John 13:1-38. **Wednesday**, Dana Buck from the World Vision Organization, will continue our Student Development Theme with a message on Christian ethics in a post-modern world. **Friday**, Dr. Castleberry will be speaking to us from John 15:1-16:33.

Live Dead Challenge

I hope that you are encouraged by the testimonies of other students doing the Live Dead Challenge. Remember, it's not too late to join the Live Dead Challenge, purchase your Live Dead Journal at the Campus Ministries Office or the NU Bookstore.

Share your stories at <http://livedeadnu.blogspot.com> or by visiting NUMissions on Facebook.

Panel Q & A | Monday at 7PM

Monday night at 7pm the Student Development Staff are hosting a panel Q & A to discuss various topics such as love, faith, relationships, and dating. All students are invited and encouraged to attend!

For men only: "The Talk" – Gray/Beatty Lounge

For women only: "GPC Chat & Chocolate" – Perks Lounge

Pursuit | Mondays at 9PM

Alum of NU and former member of Crossing, Zac Calvo, will be leading us in an all worship Pursuit. You won't want to miss it!

Revival Prayer | Thursdays at 9PM

World Intercessory Prayer will be this Thursday at 9pm! We also have prayer rooms available for the whole month of February; prayer cards with locations and times are available in the Campus Ministries Office.

Scripture Focus

"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." – John 14:13-14

Offering

This last week we raised \$252.42! Our total so far this semester is \$1013.31 - let's continue to be a generous community and reach our semester goal of \$5000!

Story of the Week:

Several years ago, during my Junior and Senior years of high school, I spiraled in to a depression that ended up consuming my life. My friends and family told me I never laughed or even smiled anymore. It came to the point where I could no longer physically muster the strength to attend my classes more than twice a week. Eventually I was no longer on track to graduate because I had failed so many of my classes. I remember feeling like every day was an out of body experience and I couldn't control what was happening to me. People expected me to just be able to "snap out of it" but they didn't understand that I simply couldn't

One day, during my senior year, my teacher called me over to her desk and asked me why I had been missing so many class sessions. All I could do was shrug and say I didn't know, because I honestly did not have an explanation of why I was incapable of handling anything anymore. She then asked me if I was depressed, and all I could do was nod, because I was on the verge of bursting in to tears. My teacher then called up the school counselor and told them that I needed an emergency appointment and she sent me right away. When I sat down in the counselors office, he took one look at me and asked me if I ever thought about hurting myself. I was proud to be able to tell him no, because I know that others who were as severely depressed as I was surely might have had these thoughts cross their mind.

Eventually I ended up seeing the school counselor periodically, but it was only a temporary fix. With the help of my very persistent parents and wonderful friends and their prayers, I began to realize the source of my depression.

God is the light of my life, and I hadn't been near to God, at all. I was literally living in the dark. Without God, my purpose in life and reason for existence was gone.

It was towards the end of my Senior year when I finally began to feel alive again. I realized that God was the source of all things good, including my happiness, joy, and peace of mind. I came in to my counselors office once more, this time asking what I needed to do to graduate with the rest of my class. He basically told me that this was impossible, because I had too many classes to make up and there was not enough time. Little did they know, I now had someone on my side who makes all things possible.

With God on my side, I ended up making up a full semesters worth of classes in just two weeks. At the end, I came to visit one of the advisors who was checking my senior portfolio, and he looked at me and said, "You know, you always seem to have a smile on your face." A few days later, I walked out in front of thousands of people and received my diploma with the rest of my class when none of the teachers or staff thought it was possible. I found out what it was like to live in a miracle.

Fast forward one year later, I felt God strongly calling me to Northwest University. Coming from failing so many failed classes in high school and almost not graduating, how would I possibly get in to an incredible university such as this? Well, long story short, he provided another miracle for me and I was accepted. Next I sensed him calling me to become a nurse. This time I was very skeptical. With such a terrible academic history behind me, how could I possibly be expected to pass classes I had never taken like Chemistry, Anatomy, and Microbiology? Well, a few weeks ago I recently turned in my application for the School of Nursing, and I have exceeded all of the requirements. God delivered me once again.

To look at where I was several years ago, and to see the incredible place I am now still amazes me. I can honestly say I couldn't be happier with my life. I am engaged to the most incredible man I have ever met, and we both have a bright future together because our relationship foundation is in Christ.

I attend Northwest University with virtually no financial aid because of my previous grades. My student loans grow exponentially every year, but I know that God called me to this school for a reason, and that he will somehow provide for me financially when it comes time to pay all of my loans off. This is simply the next miracle he's going to provide in my life, because he has been faithful and delivered me thus far.

I praise God every day for the place he's delivered me to, and I hope that everyone else can experience the love and joy of Christ the way that I have in my life. If you depend on Him, He will always deliver you, no matter how low or how dark you think things have gotten.

I hope this story can inspire others to realize that nothing is impossible with God, and if he leads you somewhere He will always pull you through. He never lets go, even if we wander in the dark.

-Ashley

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