

Dear my beloved CCF Community,

As I was praying for what God would like me to share with you, He gave me the word "legacy." It is a word that you hear a lot in CCF, in particular at CCF story night and as it relates the long history of CCF starting with Brady. However, during my time at Western, God has been challenging me understand legacy in terms of my role in furthering His kingdom. When I first started college, this was really hard for me to grasp, that although God does work immediately to fill some needs, He also works over the course of many generations to solve others. We can see this clearly in the old testament, how God traces the lineage starting with Adam and Eve to Noah, to Abraham, to King David, all the way to Jesus Christ. God works on a timeline with no beginning and no end, and we play a small role in a much bigger plan. Upon realizing this, it makes it much easier to understand how the sacrifices and choices we make have an impact that we may not see yet. That the small seeds we plant, may grow trees that produce fruit long after we are gone. I say this with encouragement of the good works that you are doing within the community and beyond.

In looking back at my own experience at Western, God has proved the goodness of His great timeline. I remember move-in day of my freshman year, the nerves and excitement, but mostly the anxiety as I watched my parents tearfully walk away for the last time, leaving me completely alone in dorm room, Nash 220. I remember calling out to God and asking for friends. Unsure what to do next, I went next door. I knocked and two smiling faces opened the door and invited me inside. I introduced myself and attempted to start conversation by asking if they were a part of any clubs on campus. They responded, "oh, yes, we are a part of CCF." Shocked, I responded that I was looking for a Christian community and they were shocked saying they were just praying for someone to come talk to them about CCF. God worked immediately here, providing what I needed in the moment of my asking, however God quickly proved that not all I desire comes in my timing.

That year, I attended an SSI trip to Stanislaus that changed my perspective from inward to outward, giving me a great vision for reaching the Ridge for Christ, which led to me becoming an RA in Beta-Gamma for two years. It was incredibly challenging, but so rewarding as I reached out in faith to co-workers and many first-year students. In these moments, I had no idea of my impact or which seeds I had planted, even now I pray for revival and strong leaders in this community. However, just because I haven't seen the results that I wanted to see; doesn't mean they aren't there. And God is proud.

As I think about the uncertainty of the future with my upcoming graduation, I think about God's display of faithfulness through His timing. As someone who likes to have a plan always, I have come to rest on the truth that God's timeline is always best and the legacy He wants me to leave behind is good. God sees every sacrifice that you make for His kingdom; my neighbors' faithfulness in living on campus, my leading to be an RA and He uses them to further his kingdom in ways we may see now, in the future, or perhaps in hidden ways we may never see.

Thank you CCF for continuing to tune in to the Spirit, listening to His callings upon your life. Thank you for saying 'yes' to live on campus to reach those for the Kingdom, for having hard conversations even when its awkward, for leading in ways that you were created, and for continuing the legacy of those before you. You have changed my life, even without knowing as I know you have for countless others.

With love forever,

Emily Joy