



“Who is that coming up from the wilderness, leaning on her beloved?”

Song of Songs 8:5



(Left to right) Andrea joined other seniors at an end-of-year celebration at the Cottage, and posed with her sister Stacey at the graduation open house.

Journey from death to life

How I was drawn to Jesus during my Carleton years

Andrea Parrott '07

When I arrived at Carleton in 2003, there were a few things I knew for certain: I hated Christians, I didn't trust them and I definitely didn't want to become one. Yet I couldn't stay away from them.

During the fall Student Activities Fair, I somehow found myself in front of the Sola Scriptura table adding my name to the e-mail list. A few weeks later found me at one of the meetings still swearing that Christians were ridiculous.

Underneath all my anger abounded depression and suicidal thoughts. I desperately wanted a way out, and a small part of me clung to the hope that Jesus was really the answer.

While I dealt with these emotions and maintained my academics,

“ Underneath all my anger abounded depression and suicidal thoughts. I **desperately** wanted a way out and a small part of me clung to the **hope** that **Jesus was really the answer.** ”

I also communicated with a Christian woman in an online chat room. She answered my questions and patiently tolerated my rants against God, all the time telling me about God's character. I came to understand that He is not the sadistic tyrant I believed Him to be. Not even close. God is love, and perfect love drives out all fear.

Eventually I believed her. Why? As I became convinced that there existed an enemy of my soul who wanted me dead and that this enemy used fear as his weapon, I also became convinced that God loved me and was drawing me to Himself. Thoughts of God's love and His drawing me scared me, but I knew He had to be real.

One Sunday in the spring of 2005, I walked into what was then called New Covenant Church in Northfield and gave my life to Jesus. No fireworks went off. I didn't rush off to campus and tell everyone about Jesus and frankly, I still felt that God could keep His distance. But now I knew something else for certain: I was a child of God and in the family of Christ I would come to know Him more.

This began my journey of learning to love and trust both God and

other people. It turned out that I didn't just distrust Christians, I pretty much distrusted everyone! In addition I was still severely depressed, suicidal and prone to separating myself from present reality. School work and class participation grew more difficult; it took several hours longer than usual to finish a paper. These issues were particularly stressful during my senior year, 2007, as I tried to write my comps. Yet in the midst of it all my hunger for God grew.

And the Lord met me, setting me free from depression and despair. I graduated on time. Some of the memories that stand out during my senior year are the times I felt I was waking up and noticing my surroundings for the first time. Finally I felt alive.

I am very thankful for the prayers and support of my church, my family, the Geffers (a local family who took me in) and the Hvasses. Most of all I am thankful for a God who never gives up on us. Currently I am navigating my way through life, looking for my niche, but there's one thing I know is certain about my future: In the end I will be deeply in love and leaning on Jesus, my Beloved. ♦



Andrea (left) with Lydie Theodor '08 at the Student Activities Fair, fall 2005.

Andrea Parrott '07 currently lives in Chanhassen, MN, after returning from the six-month Fire in the Night internship at the International House of Prayer in Kansas City, MO. She has volunteered for Prepare Ministries and is currently a freelance writer and a brain trainer for kids while she seeks God for the next step that He has for her.

