

Bringing praise to God through life and drama

Praise Out! offers creative worship to the campus

Banke, at right in suit, organized an outdoor concert, Shekinah, spring term 2005.



Praise Out! performed a skit during the Mustard Seed chapel service, fall term 2004.



Banke Oyeyinka '06

One of my most unforgettable memories at Carleton was when a friend from Thailand asked me hard questions about my faith. That day I cried because I wasn't able to give strong answers to his questions and he caused me to doubt.

When the tears were over, however, I remember thinking along the lines of: It doesn't matter what people say, my faith in God will remain undeterred. It doesn't matter if I do not have all the answers, God has been too real to me for me to turn my back on Him.

At Carleton, I saw God everywhere. He was in the early morning walks I sometimes took from my dorm in Sevy, through Sayles Hill and over the Lyman Lakes bridge. I remember sensing God's presence with me while walking in the rain on the worm-strewn paths from the LDC as I headed toward Watson. I remember God being my comfort when I was behind in writing my comps and my classmates seemed to be much further along.

God was more than everywhere; He was showing me I could trust Him with my life. I remember God's good-

“ One amazing thing I saw was how God always came through. ”

ness as I lay in bed one Sunday afternoon, during spring break of my senior year. I didn't know what I was going to do next because I had not heard favorably from the graduate schools I had applied to. Earlier, in church, we had sung a song by Jason Upton, “I will wait for You Jesus/ You're the sun in my horizon/ all my hope's in You Jesus/ I can see You now arising.” I was calmed as I lay there on my bed. Later that day I received a positive answer for a masters program via e-mail. Yes, God was and continues to be my Friend, my Comforter and my Lord.

While I was at Carleton, there were different opportunities to be involved in the community of Christians. There were Mustard Seed, Sola Scriptura (both of which I attended), Navigators for women at a point and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Praise Out! was a group that I led on campus. The idea was to praise God through creative means such as dance and drama. The group itself was not very big, but each time we had a production, there were others we called on who rallied to help. We held three big productions, one each spring:

an Easter musical; a dramatization of “The Prodigal Son” (both included dance and drama and singing); and Shekinah, an outdoor concert. One amazing thing I saw was how God always came through. In the weeks leading up to the production, things could be so disjointed and unorganized, but that final week before the production, everything miraculously would come together. Praise Out! also went once or twice to minister at a prison and it was a blessed time.

My encouragement for all who will

read this is that God is faithful. I stand in awe at how we keep growing in Him and how He meets us as we are at each stage of our lives. Never turn your back on Him; He is the one Person who stays forever true. ♦

Banke Oyeyinka '06 lives in Bronx, NY. She is a Ph.D. student at the Department of Urban Planning at Columbia University. She has a blogsite where she posts encouragements (www.beeencouraged.blogspot.com).



Students put up signs for the Shekinah concert, spring term 2005.



Praise Out! did a skit at Mustard Seed's Open Mic Night, fall 2005.