

SOMETIMES THE PATH IS THE D E S T I N A T I O N

Finding God at Union College

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As a junior in college, I was lost and lacked motivation. My major was not an area that I envisioned would get me the kind of career that I wanted. I knew that I needed to take a break and reassess my goals. Despite advice from my loved ones, I dropped out of college and went back to my home in Des Moines to get my head together.

When I came home, there seemed to be a constant cloud hanging over my head. I was the only one out of my close group of high school friends to venture out to attend college. I thought my friends and family would be so happy to have me back, but I was wrong. It wasn't until I saw the disappointment in their eyes that

I realized how I not only let myself down but them as well.

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As my empty semester dragged on, my drive to be back in school was gradually rekindled. I moved in with my high school buddies and got an office job downtown, but as the weeks passed I started to become frustrated with my job and depressed about my life. What did I get myself into? Only my friends made it

bearable to get through this hard time.

The worst part of this whole mess was that the only girl that I had ever truly loved was in Lincoln, Nebraska. Melissa was finishing up her last year in college. Then I knew my life needed a kick-start right away. Rotting in my hometown was just not an option.

On a trip to see Melissa in Lincoln, I happened to drive by Union College and was very intrigued. I had never even heard of this school, but was impressed by the outer beauty of the campus. After much thought, I decided to schedule a visit to see what this place was all about. I thought about all of the possibilities of how being in the same town with Melissa would benefit our relationship immensely and salivated at a legitimate shot to get out of Des Moines for good. Melissa and I had been together for a while and

things were going great. Although I was skeptical, it was worth it to check it out and see.

Upon arrival, I was very surprised about how kind and energetic the staff at this school was. I felt like Union was where I'd meant to be all along. The students were great and the faculty was so easy to talk to. "Hey, I haven't had the opportunity to meet you yet," was something I heard on a daily basis, which made me feel the Union family truly cared that I was there. I was hesitant to make a decision because I knew that I couldn't afford to go to the wrong college again. Also, I knew that I had the desire in my heart to get close to God and I wasn't sure how to go about doing it. At this point I was planning on proposing to Melissa and moving to Lincoln really completed the package. After three or four months of contemplation, I decided to transfer to Union College. Melissa also decided to make me the luckiest man alive and accepted my offer for marriage.

Literally the day I stepped on campus I started to make friends, not only with the students but with the faculty as well. Although my friends back home were great, Union College just had a better quality of people than I was used to.

After a few days on campus I learned that Union was a Seventh-day Adventist College. I had no idea what that even meant. I honestly didn't know if it was some kind of cult or what. When I visited, nobody said anything to me about this. At that point I was so impressed with the people I had met that I fully decided to go into the whole situation with an open mind. Within a matter of months I had already made friends that I knew I would keep for the rest of my life. I not only quickly gained a lot of respect for the professors at Union, but I also developed friendships with some of them. I enjoyed how they challenged me in a positive way. I'd never met faculty that acted this way.

Union College has really aligned my life for me and the positive atmosphere brought me closer to God. I am thankful for every day I have on campus. I am not a Seventh-day Adventist, but I regularly attend vespers and Sabbath services and truly treasure the relationship that Union has helped me establish with God. To have stumbled upon this place has been a gift from the Lord and I truly feel in my heart that Union is where He has wanted me all along. I just now finally heard Him. ✝

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