

JOANN'S REFLECTIONS

On May 22, 2008, JoAnn graduates from high school! We are so proud of her. She has had a great experience in the International Baccalaureate program, marching band, and youth group. She will be going to Biola University in the fall and will be a part of Torrey Honors Program there. We asked her to reflect on her upcoming transition. We want to share her thoughts with you and ask you to pray with us for her future. Please pray for God's favor upon JoAnn in the new chapter of her college life.

Daniel and Ellen

Well, here I am, looking forward to high school graduation and continuing on to college in the fall. I haven't really thought about my life through high school as a whole. Only bits and pieces surface in my memory: playing in the band, spending time with friends, early mornings at school, fellowshiping at youth group. When I asked my dad what I should put into a prayer letter update, he told me to write a reflection on life thus far. I don't particularly think I can manage that, so I guess I'll just focus on the past two years or so.

During my junior year of high school, I felt more than ever the legacy of my older sisters and brother. Although my parents have never pressured me to be like them, I was disappointed whenever I spoke with Michelle or Monica or asked Josh for advice because of how immature I was in comparison. I envied my siblings' maturity and relationships with God, feeling that I could never be good enough. Until one day I was reminded that my walk in life and faith are unique and it is not the lives of other people that I should aspire to, but that of Jesus.

This year, I realize that I have changed much more than I expected. Beginning with my experiences as a co-leader of the flute section in marching band, I have learned to take myself less seriously and be more outgoing. It was a challenging—and ultimately disappointing—season, but I built great friendships and memories.

As I grow closer to my friends, I find with them so much joy and at the same time so much heartbreak.



I was never very aware of what was going on in people's lives unless I knew them well. Several times this year I learned abruptly about the hardships my friends were undergoing while I was oblivious. These realizations weighed on my heart and I had a hard time giving them to God. I struggled to wait on His timing, wanting to resolve the problem immediately. But unlike God, I don't know everything—the hearts of those involved, His plan for the future, and the events of the past. The fixing is not for me to do, but for God. I am just a vessel to accomplish His will.

If I were to come up with a theme for life this year, it would probably be to give God control. Independent, I prefer to do things on my own, on my terms, on my timing. Although I don't tend to stress, I constantly keep on my heart and want to solve issues that are out of my control, like misunderstanding and broken relationships between other friends. But as my faith has deepened through prayer and Scripture, so has my trust in God. I realize that I am just one dot in the massive tapestry of creation and God's plan. As I look to the future, a summer of working at Black Lake Bible Camp in Olympia, Washington, and a new school year at Biola University to study anthropology and participate in the Torrey Honors Program, I can only pray and hope that I will be able to discern God's will and give my life to Him so that His love can pour out in everything I do.

In Christ,

Joann Oh