

Recent Alumni Recognition Award Interview
2018 Recipient
Amelia McNeilly, Class of '08

Quick Background:

Amelia lives and blogs from her home base in North Carolina. From 2009-2015 she worked as a booking agent for three comedians in Hollywood, including Kerri Pomarolli and Bob Smiley. Amelia has a disability called Cerebral Palsy, which affects her balance and walking. Most recently, she is having chronic infections and is under Hospice care. However, she is thankful for the life God has given her. He has been faithful in all His promises to her. "Working in Hollywood I got to see the Lord at work in what other people say is a dark and crazy place. I saw Jesus lived out—which is my dream!"

Q: How did you get to Hollywood?

A: I knew that I wanted to go into ministry and do something with public relations. But as a 17 year-old I didn't have a clear idea of what that was. As soon as I drove onto CIU's campus it was like God spoke to me and said, "This is it!" The Lord provided and I never looked back!

It was during my time studying communications that the Lord lit the fire that revealed my calling – to pray, minister, and work in Hollywood. Dr. Dan DeLozer told me about an organization called Hollywood Prayer Network, which I joined. From there God sent me Christian contacts in the industry. Through an internship with model Rachel Lee Carter, who had a ministry called Modeling Christ, and another internship with Kerri Pomarolli, I ended up getting a full time job as Kerri's booking agent/personal assistant/manager. I also managed two other comedians. North Carolina remained my home base, but I traveled a lot. I got to see the Lord at work in what other people say is a dark and crazy place. I got to see Jesus lived out in Hollywood – which is one of my dreams.

Q: How did CIU prepare you for your work/ministry?

A: I went to CIU to get an education that would equip me to go out and spread the word of God's love, and I've been able to do that in different ways through the years. Not only has it prepared me for ministry out and about, but it prepared me for ministry being chronically ill and homebound. The Lord recently reminded me that even though I am not able to "go out" and minister and work, I have an opportunity to experience purpose and joy in the "right-now," and share that through my blog. It was a great reminder for me that no matter where we are, if we are being obedient to God that's all that matters.

Q: Tell me about your blog!

A: I'm trying to write on my blog every day. I've done several series about what the Lord is teaching me during this season. I want my blog to be a place where anybody can go, and leave feeling encouraged, no matter their circumstance or season of life. I want them to leave there feeling closer to Jesus. That's why I write, that's why the Lord gives me the words He does. Some days, most days lately—it has been hard to write because of sickness. However, the Lord reminds me of His faithfulness and has allowed me to build a community of friends and prayer warriors that daily encourage me.

Q: What advice/encouragement would you give to ALUMNI & STUDENTS serving around the world?

A: Seek God, put Him above all else. Put all your fleshly desires out of the way, and say "Lord, what is it that You want me to do. Show me that, no matter what." Fix your gaze on Christ! You're not always going to know what He is doing ahead of time, but you learn to trust God day-by-day. He will lead you! Practice daily surrender, and enjoy the journey! Jim Elliot said it the best, "Wherever you are, be all there!"