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Unexpected Harvest

Clem Boyd

Cedarville University, clemboyd@cedarville.edu

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Kim Jenerette '83 was a cocky freshman when he arrived in Cedarville from Long Island, New York. "I did not care how I treated other people," he noted.



Unexpected **HARVEST**

by Clem Boyd

A man with a grey beard and hair, wearing a blue and white striped button-down shirt and dark pants, stands in a field of tall green plants. The background is a dense field of similar plants stretching to the horizon.

Evan English '88 pushed the envelope on the University's code of conduct. "I was seeking the wrong crowd," he admitted.

Julia (Moran) Mueller '09, M.S.N. '15

lived an isolated life her last two years of her undergrad studies. "I was weary from my struggle with sin," she explained.

Yet today, one serves as Cedarville's **Executive Director of Financial Aid**, another serves on the **Board of Trustees**, and the last recently completed a **master's program** here.

Like seed that germinates late, all three of these alumni are examples of the Lord's unexpected harvest from Cedarville University.

SELFISH GUY

“My first two years at Cedarville, I basically led a very selfish life,” Jenerette said.

But he had an epiphany one summer. “I began to question why I was still at Cedarville,” he said. “I decided to either make changes or transfer.” His conclusion? “I came back junior year and was a lot friendlier. But I recognized there was still a void.”



A soccer injury left Jenerette, a Yellow Jacket winger, feeling more unsteady. “That fall, the Lord began taking some things from me,” he said. “I broke my right big toe, and that took playing time away. The Lord took away 100 percent

health. It just made me think more and more.”

At the winter Missions Conference in 1982, God spoke to Jenerette through a speaker. “I vividly remember him pointing his finger in my general direction and saying, ‘You’re not living your life right for the Lord and you know it; you need to get right with the Lord.’”

Jenerette wrestled with going forward, but decided to wait. The call to action came again. “I remember thinking, ‘I’m going to live for you, Lord,’” he said.

He spoke briefly with Pastor Harold Green, former Campus Pastor and Vice President for Christian Ministries at Cedarville, and then walked to the back of Jeremiah Chapel to receive one-on-one counseling.

He spoke with John Hart ’81, Cedarville University’s General Counsel today, but a first-year Admissions Counselor then. “I prayed with him to accept Christ,” Jenerette said. “At that moment, I didn’t realize that’s what I needed to do. I just knew I wanted to live for Christ now.”

Jenerette had a new direction and began reading four Bible chapters a day, growing in his faith. But he needed outside involvement. After a heart-to-heart conversation with Don Callan, then Athletic Director at Cedarville, he knew what he needed to do. He reached out to Green, affectionately known as PG, to mentor him and his roommates.

Graduating with a bachelor’s degree in education, Jenerette taught for several years at a Christian school, then switched to business, working for Crown Home Furnishings in product management, production control, and engineering.

He returned to college at Coastal Carolina University to earn his social studies certification. While

there, he began working in the financial aid office part time. He has continued to work in that capacity ever since, including three years ago when he was hired as the Executive Director of Financial Aid at Cedarville.

Jenerette admitted he was in a dry spell for several years before returning to his alma mater. Friends all over the country, including Cedarville alumni, loved him and prayed for him. “There’s a Bible verse I use: ‘A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out’ (Isa. 42:3). That was me. The Lord remained faithful to me as I was not faithful to him.”

RULE-STRETCHER

English came to Cedarville University with a chip on his shoulder. “I wanted to look at other schools,” he related. “But my mom told me I had three choices: Cedarville, Cedarville, or Cedarville.” He started at Cedarville thinking he would do his time and then switch schools in a couple years.

His poor attitude worked itself out in a lifestyle that showed disregard for Cedarville’s standards — but just far enough so he wouldn’t get caught. “I was a fence walker who regularly jumped on the wrong side, but then I’d jump back on to look respectable again,” he



explained. Then a friend confronted his hypocrisy. “She looked at me, and with love and honesty, said, ‘If you expect me to think that behaving outside of the code of conduct that we both signed is cool, then you are sorely mistaken. As a matter of fact, I think it means your word is worth nothing. If you don’t value your word, how can I value your word?’”

That friend was Layne Etchison ’88, whose last name just happens to be English now.

“I heard everything taught in chapels and in my fundamental Bible classes,” he said, “but it was one of those moments, when someone speaks in your life, and it started a train of thought: ‘What are you going to do with your life? Are you throwing away your time at Cedarville? What is your spiritual worth?’”

From that point on, English started investing more seriously in his spiritual growth. He drew up a philosophy of business while a member of Cliff Fawcett’s business seminar class: God, family, then business.

“Those were the three main points,” he said. “Over the next 27 years since graduation, I’ve been constantly returning to that philosophy of business.”

He and Etchison also started dating. “That strengthened my resolve for the battle,” he said. “I wanted to do it not only for myself and for God, but I also didn’t want to let her down.”

He might have escaped his spiritual slide without Etchison’s rebuke. But maybe not. “I could have skated through without Cedarville’s message gaining traction in my life,” he said. “My tires were just spinning. I was headed back to our family business after graduation where I would have to toe the line again.

“Still, I would say that accountability is key. It’s easy to live a two-faced life when you are not transparent with someone who will speak the truth to you. I don’t know who that would have been if it wasn’t Layne.”

English, CEO and President of Olde English Outfitters, joined the Cedarville University Board of Trustees in May 2015.

HURTING HEALER

Mueller was excited to attend Cedarville. “My brother had attended Cedarville,” she said. “I’d attended a Christian school my whole life, and there were a lot of people from my church who went to Cedarville. There was a long history there.”

Her first two years were all that she had hoped. “I played JV volleyball freshman year,” she said. “I went on a missions trip sophomore year. I was involved and had a large friend group.”

But an internal battle sidelined her. “My sophomore year into junior year, I started struggling with body image and an eating disorder,” she said. “It affected my whole life: My grades started to suffer; my friendships suffered; even my relationship with my family suffered.”

She stepped away from Cedarville in the spring. “I took the semester off my third year for some intensive counseling at home,” Mueller explained. “I returned junior year, but I was still struggling.”

Taking a semester off set Mueller back socially, as well as academically. “I lost some of my friend groups because they kept going and I was a year behind,” she said. “I became pretty secluded even though I lived on campus. It was by my own choice.” Her fifth

and final year she lived off campus and the seclusion worsened.

In spite of her withdrawal, close friends — Casey O’Neal ’06 and Julie (Martz) Anderson ’08 — and her adviser, Sharon (Klopfenstein) Christman ’92, never gave up on her. “Sharon met with me weekly to talk about nursing, but she’d ask me about life, too,”

Mueller said. Christman asked tough questions and wouldn’t let her get away with easy answers. She was the mentor Mueller needed at that point in her life.

She is also thankful for Angelia Mickle, currently the Interim Dean of the School of Nursing. “She really advocated for me in the nursing program.”

By Mueller’s senior year, she had recovered academically, making the dean’s list. Despite her internal battles, God was using Cedarville people to help her begin to heal.

After graduating in 2009, Mueller lived in the Cincinnati area two years, then moved to Dayton to work as a cardiovascular intensive care nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital. She lived with Cedarville alumni Devon ’95 and Beth (Irving) Berry ’93.

“God used them to help me understand how to apply the Gospel to the way I saw my body,” Mueller said. “I wanted my body image and eating disorder to be gone. I missed the point that God was trying to use it to make me more like Himself. God didn’t look at my performance and equate that to my standing before Him.”

In 2012, she married husband Trevor ’06, whom she’d met her fifth year at Cedarville. They live in Springboro, Ohio, and are expecting their first baby next year.

Mueller finished her Master of Science in Nursing degree at Cedarville this summer. Although the seed planted underwent a harsh growing season, Mueller has experienced the fruit of her Cedarville experience. “I have a greater appreciation for Cedarville today due to God’s work in my heart,” she explained.

And that’s a harvest worth celebrating. 🙏

“I was a fence walker who regularly jumped on the wrong side, but then I’d jump back on to look respectable again.” — Evan English ’88



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Clem Boyd is Managing Editor of Cedarville Magazine.

