

# Words of Wisdom

Testimonies from the 2007-08 participants

## Audrey Martin

"NGA presented me with a door and gave me the option of opening it. I have had to take

responsibility—take ownership—and reach for that doorknob to fling it open and embrace my faith.

There have been so many instances in which I took a leap off my ledge of comfort and experienced a freefall into vulnerability. But in that instant of complete surrender I found that I did not have to give up or give in. I could fly."



## Lily Jones

"One of the greatest things about NGA is not what you're taught, but what you discover through experience and prayer, difficulties and victories, and most of all questioning *everything*. Everyone here on NGA is having their own unique experience, paving their own path, but always united in love and support. Once I was able to let my guard down and open my heart, be myself, I developed powerful bonds with all the members and with that, I could get through anything. It is impossible to say exactly what one goes through here on NGA. All I can say is, to know it, you must live it, and here, I've never felt so alive."

## Heungkook Stephens

"I found that God always delivers and with my own investment and effort, along with the very supportive environment of NGA, I have learned more about myself and the Principle, and have deepened my spiritual life, my sense of mission, and my relationships with God and the people around me. Now that I know how to really learn, I feel that I can absolutely continue to grow after this year on NGA and for the rest of my life."

## Tesia Bobrycki

"Last year NGA went to the Dominican Republic, this year we split into groups of three and went to five different countries including India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Sri Lanka, the possibilities for this new year are endless. What drew me to this program last year was the aspect of travel and adventure. Take a moment right now to envision yourself on the other side of the world in a small little village that has never heard of a computer or a microwave before. Picture yourself singing songs with a group of little children of a different race who can barely speak English. Picture yourself speaking in a classroom, working in an orphanage, or simply sharing stories with your host family late into the night. Picture that."

## Lisa DeGoede

"I came into this program leaving my less than ideal family at home to meditate between themselves and strove to focus on my own growth.

Surprisingly, this did nothing to diminish our relationships. On the contrary, my family is communicating more effectively now than ever before. My relationship has improved with each and every one of my family members. All my internal struggles, striving for a deeper, more real relationship with God and facing my long hidden fears; all of my efforts are making the difference."



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## Justin Frisk

"Fundraising is a struggle to many including myself, but as I changed my mindset and focused with a vertical heart, I knew what I was doing was towards God's Will. As I changed my motivation I felt close to God as He put me through intense situations, challenging my character, and shaping me into the guy I am today. Not only that but it has helped me take ownership over my faith, taking my understanding and respect for Father and God to a whole new level."

## Joyce Payer

"To experience NGA is to experience the true meaning of the term "ownership." If nothing else, I have learned that my life is what I make it. I can choose to take ownership over it, to take advantage of this amazing environment, push myself to the limit, and let myself grow to my fullest potential, or I can merely take the experience at face value. Either way, I'm bound to make memories... but why not go all out? NGA is an once-in-a-lifetime, roller coaster of emotions and adventures that will always be with me in my life."

## Manae Pisano

"NGA absolutely is helping me in my quest for truth and balance. They guide the discovery and deepening of my own faith through fundraising, team endeavors, and youth workshops. All the while helping me gain leadership experience, business skills, as well as global/international awareness through service and philanthropy. Simply NGA is not a program that will change me but a tool to help me change myself and become the true, divine and amazing person I want to become."

## Jacob Shaw

"NGA is an adventure. It is a program in which you can go out and *live* by the Principle and Core Values."

## Ana Reid

"This is what NGA is to me; from a soft wispy breeze to a wild whirlwind, it fuels me in the right direction, urging, charging, allowing Ana to find Ana. I am taking a u-turn in my life of faith. I am redirected.

I am terribly grateful for this tool (NGA) that is guiding me to fulfill my potential, and finally build a relationship with our Father, God, along the way."

## Teddy Sylte

"NGA for me has been like a group of crazy kids living together, struggling together, doing insane stuff together and not really knowing where we're going half the time. But we have a blast, and grow in our relationships with each other and God.

Good deal. And the end product for me has been being able to take my spiritual life to every aspect of life. For example, we aren't just on the "front line" of fundraising, but we are also close to the real front line: our daily life. To keep a life of faith in spite of all the crazy things in daily life is hard. We all know it is. But now I have the confidence that I don't need something like NGA or a workshop to grow. Because I am my spiritual life."

## Hannah Boyd

"I learned the importance of plunging myself into the unknown, doing what is the scariest, all for the sake of growing, maturing, and becoming closer to our Heavenly Father. I've grown and changed on NGA as much as one would in a lifetime. My thoughts on life have been challenged and redefined. I am a new person."

