

# IMAGINE!

Thank you for teaming with us in reaching students for Jesus.

## Hoping in the Reality of Jehovah-Provider



There was once a naive but unwavering faithful Christian man whose name--for the purposes of this letter--was Jireh.

God asked Jireh, an uneducated and regularly shy 25-year-old, to enter a bookstore where a popular atheist writer was signing his latest book, *It's Final: God Exists as much as the Spaghetti Monster*.

"But God," Jireh objected, "I have no idea what I would do or say, given the opportunity to speak. Lord, they're intellectuals!"

"Just go," the Holy Spirit urged him.

And so, Jireh, embellishing himself with his best clothes--a pair of dark wash jeans, his friend's "NYU" sweater and thin-rimmed glasses, like those of Steve Jobs--trekked the twenty block journey to Barnes and Nonbelievers (or is it "Nobles?") with 1 Cor. 1:25 in heart.

He listened in as, one by one, the group of thirty frightening academics protested God's existence.

"Why would a loving God condemn ME to hell?" said one.

"Exactly," another agreed, adding, "Christians always impose their archaic morals. Philosophy offers exceedingly more than mere Christianity."

"If God exists," one exclaimed, "I'd rather worship his harrowing counterpart, Satan, for at least he lets humanity do what it wishes!"

Jireh gawked as his tongue slowly tied itself. His heart raced fast enough for all to hear. His mouth warmed with an excess of dribble. He bolted for the door, when--as if by divine intervention--the intrepid author called, "You there! Don't leave! Share!"

Jireh turned and 1 Cor. 1:25 dawned over him like the tropical sun, which melted his panicky heartbeat. He spoke the most elegant and articulate utterance (which, to this day, he cannot remember) and left.

Four struggling agnostics and one curious (and formerly hostile atheist) chased Jireh, thanking him and praising his reasoning. Later, three of the five gave their hearts to Jesus, saying, "God lovingly provided redemptive responses to my earnest questions!"

Based on the above account, along with several scriptural references, it is safe to posit that God not only provides for his people financially, but he provides wisdom, direction (Ps. 18), redemption (Ps. 111), comfort (Isa. 61), a way out (1 Cor. 10)

and even a God-breathed Good Book, which trumps all others in truth. We must remind ourselves of this, whatever discipline it takes.

God provided students and staff the opportunity to commune regionally with over 1,000 other disciples at Radiate, a yearly conference from Dec. 28 to Jan. 1, munching on great messages, packing seeds for the needy in Gambia, and gawking at Jehovah-Jireh.

Although Christa Diaz, a student from Kean University, thought she couldn't afford Radiate, "The LORD surprised me yet again! From my staff and from my other supporters I received a total of \$603! I gave \$100 to my friend who wanted to go as well. HE IS SOOO AMAZING! The best provider ever!"

God also "provided" for Melany Ledenza, a freshman from Raritan Valley, during a worship session: "At one point I opened [my eyes] and saw the cross up front. God just reminded me of everything He had done and that He had never left me, no matter how I had been feeling before, and that He will never leave me.

"I just gave him complete control of my heart and everything. I realized there was nothing more that I wanted than Jesus, and that's what I got."

Melany says that she made tons of Christian friends at Radiate, friends she knows God provided for a purpose.

In a world where temporary is customary, it's a luxurious feeling to know that our Hope is far from fickle. Christ is so faithful in providing for us, even in our faithlessness. He drenches us with growth, wisdom, glory, direction, redemption and plenty of food and water. For New Jersey students (and Jireh), knowing this only propels them forward.

As for us, we're thankful that God has provided us with an OPEN WOMB. Yep, we're pregnant! (Send your cards to Barnes and Nonbelievers.) As with everything else, we know He'll go before us. Please pray we trust Him fully, and email us parenting tips if you'd like!

Warmly,  
Joey and Jenn Sforza :)

JANUARY  
2011

## PrAYer PoINTs

**-That the seeds planted in students at Radiate will be watered well**

**-That students won't grow weary with the pressure of school**

**-That more graduates would catch a Kingdom vision, taking the gospel to their respective fields**

**-That our summer mission trips would be loaded with passionate laborers**

**-That WE, Jenn and Joey, would be encouraged regularly in our walk**

**-That we would walk in our calling joyfully and diligently**

**-That our baby will be healthy :)**

## RADIATE 2010



## OUR BABY :)

