

Coffee in the Swarm | Cadence Sires

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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SPEAKERS

Mike Hoffman, Christian Biwott, Aliyah Farrell, Cadence Sires

Aliyah Farrell 00:29

Welcome back to Coffee in the Swarm, a Project Zion Podcast production coming to you from Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa. The swarm is our on-campus snack bar in the Newcom Student Union. This year our podcast is co-hosted by campus chaplains Aliyah Farrell, a new co-host this semester, Christian Biwott, and is hosted by campus minister Mike Hoffman. Coffee in the Swarm is where we interview students at Graceland who are connected to the Community of Christ. Today we are with our guest speaker Cadence Sires. Okay, so, first we're gonna' start, um, just tell us about your tell, self, tell us your story. All that good stuff.

Cadence Sires 01:04

Well, like I said, my name is Cadence. Uh, I'm from Des Moines, Iowa. Well, specifically Johnston, I guess, since I've come here, people are like, what's Johnston? (What's Johnston?)

Mike Hoffman 01:14

So, what is Johnston? Is it a northern suburb of Des Moines?

Cadence Sires 01:17

It's Northwest. (Okay.) So, yeah, um, just outside of Des Moines, but it's like one of the bigger suburbs. (. . .) So, yes, I'm from Johnston. Um, at Johnston, I was on the golf team, dance team. I did show choir and choir. So, those (Ah, okay.) are the big things that I did. Here at Graceland, I still do choir, dance, I'm on the dance team, and golf. So, still sticking with those. And I go to the Northwest Congregation at home, which we'll talk about more, but (Yeah. Okay.) yeah. So, tell me about your high school. How big was it? I graduated with 650 other students, which for Iowa is pretty big. I think (Yeah.) they're, like the third biggest (Okay.) school in Iowa. Um, all the other districts are, like, splitting up, so, it kept, keeps us at the top for one of the biggest, but,

Mike Hoffman 02:11

It's a little bit bigger than Graceland then.

Cadence Sires 02:13

Yes. Yeah. Yeah, my, my high school was only sophomore through senior (Oh.) and that in itself was bigger than coming to Graceland (Sure. Okay.) which I was, like, Oh my gosh, like, I don't know about this. But I'm so glad it is because I cannot imagine going to a bigger school again.

Mike Hoffman 02:30

Yeah, well, we're really glad you're here, so

Cadence Sires 02:32

Me, too.

Christian Biwott 02:35

So, Cadence, tell us about your year here at Graceland, your major, and your house.

Cadence Sires 02:39

So, I'm on Shalom--Go, Shalom. I, I love my house. Um, I'm rooming with Nicole Shear who's been my best friend for a while. So, that's really exciting. Um, and I'm majoring in digital content creation, which is one of the new majors offered here, along with marketing, which I'm really excited about. I have a big interest in, um, marketing and, um, social media marketing. So, I get to major in that which I'm excited about, um, and the new transformational leadership major for incoming freshmen. And, yeah.

Aliyah Farrell 03:16

Okay, so you mentioned earlier you went to the Northwestern Congregation in Iowa, (Um hmm.) so, tell us, what that was like, like, growing up and just how that church has impacted you.

Cadence Sires 03:26

Um hmm. I actually got to grow up with Christian, which is really exciting. Yes, Christian. Uh, he unfortunately moved to Lamoni during COVID. But, um, for the most part of our lives, uh, we were together, um, and we, like, got baptized together and his, uh, cousin Ellen was with us. So, that was really fun. It was nice to have, um, other youth my age and youth that were, like, very involved and, yeah, you could say they're fun people. So, that's pretty fun. But, yeah, after COVID, it was kind of just me. And then there's, uh, our friend who's a year older than us named Reagan. Um, and it's just kind of us two. So, once she kind of graduated and she went off to North Carolina, I kind of felt like I was, like, just me because we have a lot of younger, um, kids now. Um, so, it's, it's fun to hang out with the younger kids, but it's not the same as having Christian. (. . .) Yeah, exactly. Exactly. But yeah.

Christian Biwott 03:26

So, tell us what brought you to Graceland?

Cadence Sires 03:34

Oh, my, um, well, I wasn't originally going to come to Graceland. I was planning to go to Iowa State and I was going to major in some sort of business. I didn't know what and then minor in leadership. So, yes. Um, I thought I wanted a big university and this was before SPEC was on again, so, (Okay.) um, SPEC had kind of stopped for a few years because of COVID as a lot of us know, but when I came back to SPEC, back home, I didn't, I didn't have, like, a lot of friends necessarily. I just kind of did, like, my

activities and coming to SPEC and, um, having church members my age, which again, I wasn't really used to. Like, I had Christian, I had Owen for a little bit, but, um, at this point in my life, like, it was just kind of me at church. And, so, having people all together to, like, talk about faith and, um, just be in Lamoni, I kind of, like, away from everything else, um, and just a positive environment, I automatically liked and was, like, Okay, maybe I'm interested in this. And then when they added digital content creation and leadership, I was, like, Okay, maybe this is more than just God being, like, Oh, here's some friends and (. . .), like, Okay, like, I'm really trying to tell you, like, you can come to this school and be happy. He was right, so, (Alright. So, you're happy.) I am very happy. (. . .)

Mike Hoffman 05:54

We're really glad for that, too.

Aliyah Farrell 05:56

Yes, well, you just kind of answered it, but what's been your church experience here at Graceland?

Cadence Sires 06:01

Oh, yes. Yeah. So, um, yes, there's so many people around, UM, to share just conversation about God. And Campus Ministries always has something going on. Um, I'm House Chaplain for Shalom, so, getting to go to the chaplain meetings, um, and reach out to those on my hall to encourage them to go to things, um, has been really, really fun for me. I've really enjoyed it and, uh, being involved in Afterglow and services and stuff. I would

Mike Hoffman 06:36

Yeah. And Afterglow's the Wednesday night, so, have you had a chance to speak at Afterglow yet?

Cadence Sires 06:41

I'm actually speaking on Wednesday. (Oh, Oh, okay.) Uh, hopefully, after this is posted, you can go and check me out.

Mike Hoffman 06:47

I don't know. It may, it may take a little while to get posted, but we'll have to see. So,

Cadence Sires 06:51

Yeah. But, yes, um (Cool.) Yeah, I sing sometimes, but it's a great way to, um, hear other people. I like listening to other people. I like sharing, but I also like listening to my friends. So, yeah.

Christian Biwott 07:06

That's awesome. So, can you tell us a little bit about your plans after graduation?

Cadence Sires 07:13

Oh, my. Um, (Now you're in your first year? Right.) I am a freshman. Yes. (Alright.) So, I haven't thought much about necessarily, like, where I'll end up, but I know I really want to do marketing. And I

like the creative side of it. So, um, I'll probably end up at, like, an ad agency or something to begin with. But leadership is really important to me. So, I wouldn't be surprised if, um, I end up moving to a corporate job and doing more leadership and stuff like that on a larger scale. (Yeah, very cool.)

Aliyah Farrell 07:49

Um, what are your hopes for Community of Christ in the future? What is one thing you would want the leaders of the Community of Christ to know going forward? (Whoo, this is a) I know. I'm a loaded question asker.

Mike Hoffman 08:03

For those of you listening to us, uh, you know, we try, try to keep it where we're flowing, not about a specific time, but it was just announced that Stassi Cramm would be the next President-Prophet, assuming, you know, the approval of her call at the next World Conference. So, sort of some big things on the horizon for the church. So

Cadence Sires 08:24

Oh, I'm very excited about Stassi. Stassi's great. Um, I, my grandma was the Mission Center President of Michigan while I was growing up and (Who was that?) Deb Crowley. (Okay.) That's my grandma. But I spent a lot of my summers up in Michigan and, um, Stassi would come and stay with us in our, in our little RV and I'd feel so bad. But no, she's been, she's been a big inspiration. It's nice to see or it's nice to just be around someone who's the same gender as you. Um, it's just nice to have role models. And she's very well spoken and very, very patient and, um, there's a lot to learn from her. So, yeah, (Yeah.) I've been, I've been fortunate in my lifetime to have, um, such amazing leaders. Obviously Steve Veazey, um, he's, he's great. And, so, yes, the path of Community of Christ and now the future, (Yeah.) uh, is, I, yes. So, yes.

Mike Hoffman 09:29

So, what do you, what was the question? What, what's your (. . .)?

Aliyah Farrell 09:31

Oh, it was, yeah. What would you want the leaders of Community of Christ to know going forward? Or, like, what are your hopes for Community of Christ's future?

Cadence Sires 09:39

Um, what are my hopes? Um, I'd really like to see more of, like, younger generations getting involved in, uh, like, different parts of the church. I feel like currently, you know, um, like, Council and, um, just, like, a lot of the greater jobs in the church, I don't know how to word that (. . .) girl. (That's fine. Yeah. I see. Yeah.) But, I feel

Mike Hoffman 10:15

So you are thinking younger people in church employment is what you were thinking. (Yes.) Okay. Okay.

Cadence Sires 10:19

It would be nice to see just some younger takes on those kind of things. And it's nice to see, uh, younger people there because then it's more encouraging to, um, those of us that just attend on Sundays because it's, like, oh, I have a connection to these people. And, uh, our church is very good about just, um, being connected no matter where we are. And, so, even though we are all together, um, be, like, still be like, oh, I want to go to church on Sundays because I'm seeing these people. Oh, I'm, I'm talking soft so hoping you can still hear. But, um, hopefully, that makes a little bit of sense. But I'd like to see the younger generation getting more involved. And I think I want that just because, like, I see now, um, and like at SPEC, SPEC's, like, smaller than before. And being on campus, we have a big community of Community of Christ, uh, church members, but I believe it's significantly smaller than when necessarily our parents were there. Um, so, it's, to me, I really want to build up that community for us again, um, so that, you know, we may stick with it. And when we're older, like, we'll have those our age rather than just, like, a few people. (Yeah. Makes sense.)

Aliyah Farrell 11:41

Yeah, that's definitely an answer we get a lot is (Yeah.) more younger kids, like, we definitely talked about, like, sometimes we'll just go to church and then there's really not that many people. But same time, we'll go to SPEC and go to church camps and then there's other people. (Yeah.) Like, why can't it always be like this at church? So, like, there's a gap between, like, gaps in church is what, like, we get frequent answers about as well. So, (Yeah.) definitely hit the nail on the head with that one.

Christian Biwott 12:09

Do you have any closing thoughts for us?

Cadence Sires 12:12

Closing thoughts? Hmm, let me think. Uh, I just, like, I feel like in the church, we talk a lot about, um, being peaceful and, um, I really appreciate, appreciate that about our church and, um, how we're trying to make a positive impact in the world. Like, we have a connection with God, but we also are trying to connect with others and show them, um, what we believe, uh, it looks like to be a good disciple. Um, and, so, yeah, I would, I want to see that, um, in the future still, and I have no doubt that we'll continue to do that. But, yeah, I'm just grateful for this church. Pretty awesome.

Aliyah Farrell 13:04

Okay, so that wraps up everything for today's episode of Coffee in the Swarm. Thank you guys for listening. This is Aliyah, (Christian) (and Mike) signing off until next time,