

# CHI ALPHA CAMPUS ministries - university of michigan

DECEMBER 09

## KAREN OLSON, UM SENIOR

I'm a senior at U of M, studying Psychology. I'm a native Michigander, and if we were talking in person I would hold up my "handy" Michigan map and point to the base of my right thumb, explaining that I grew up in the Southeastern part of the State. My family and I went to church for most of my childhood, but I was never personally engaged, and stopped attending in high school. I tried to fulfill myself in many ways, but routinely ended up empty and hopeless. After seeing how drastically Jesus changed my sister at the end of my senior year of high school, I decided to follow Him.

I came to college in a vulnerable position. I'd lacked spiritual guidance and was still attracted to the party scene. God sent me a great friend who brought me to a Bible study, and eventually to H2O Campus Church (our Chi Alpha Ministry). I was attracted to the deep, authentic community, and Pastor Nino's teachings. He was not afraid to address tough issues like drinking and relationships. It's so refreshing to be told the truth, and to get free from sin. I've learned to be real with God and with people, and have received unconditional support. I have also felt protected and nurtured in a University environment which is otherwise cold, and really hostile toward God.

The Biblical teaching and great community of H2O has helped me fulfill my potential. My spiritual gifts have been cultivated and God has built into me a passion for prayer, service, and mentoring. I'm currently living with about 20 girls who don't know Him, and I'm praying to demonstrate His love daily. Overall, H2O has helped me develop a Christ-centered, full life. I'm so thankful for Pastor Nino and Tammy's love for college students!

I'm currently asking God where He's taking me next. It is likely going to be the workforce, at least for the next little while. If this is the case, I commit to going into the "real world" as a missionary – using this time to speak His words and be His hands and feet. Thank you so much for supporting this ministry – you're providing a needed service to the students at U of M!



## THE GUARISCO'S REPORT



**Ministry Partners, and those wishing to give a special Christmas/Year End gift to our ministry :**

**Send gifts to:**

US Missions

1445 N. Boonville Ave

Springfield, MO 65802-1894

**Guarisco Acct # 2539922(09)**  
(put our name and number on memo of your check)

*All gifts are tax deductible*

## ON THE HOME FRONT

The Guarisco kids are doing well, and 2009 has been a great year for our tribe. Earlier this year we began to take all four of our kids to Keith Hafner's Karate in Ann Arbor. They are progressing well and enjoying this new adventure. Just last week all four of our children received their Orange Belt! For those unfortunate souls out there, who have never studied Karate, let me explain just how significant this is. They started out as White belts, promoted to Yellow, then to Gold, and finally reached Orange. Emma, Jonathan, Alyson and Matthew are all committed to achieving the rank of Black Belt in the next several years, and it's wonderful to see them grow in goal setting, self discipline, self confidence and physical strength. Thank you Grand Master Keith Hafner for this great opportunity!



Tammy and I want to thank you for your faithful prayers and financial investment in our ministry vision to reach Wolverines for Jesus Christ. Students like Karen Olson have been eternally impacted through your partnership in the gospel, and you share in this fruit. You're investing in the greatest mission field in the world. Reach the University, and you reach the world; change the University, and you change the world!



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