



CHANGING LIVES ~ ONE STUDENT AT A TIME!

FALL 2023



**CALI M.
9TH GRADER**

“Here at USA I can be myself and talk about Jesus freely!”

I grew up in Washington State until I was about 11 years old with my parents and three siblings. Life was not easy for me as a child for many reasons, including my parents getting a divorce when I was around 10 years old. My birth mother was Buddhist, so she wasn't very fond of me having different beliefs than her, and the kids at my school didn't agree with my beliefs either. There was a lot of negative peer pressure. I wasn't raised in the church, and I didn't always have or feel God around me. A few years ago, I decided that I wanted God in my life. My dad ended up marrying the mother I have now and they had my baby sister. For the past four years, she has really loved me, shown me God's love, and helped be the person I am today. Although my birth mother is not in my life, I am very thankful for the loving family I have now.

This past summer, my stepmom suggested that Union Springs Academy (USA) could be a school where I could be respected as a Christian and be with others who believe the same way I do. I instantly wanted to learn more about it, and so I attended Skills Week which really sealed my decision to be here. There were some challenges because my family didn't have all the financial resources to help me attend. Then I got the news that a miracle had worked out for me to come! I was so excited to be at a school where kids had the same beliefs as me!

I am taking lessons in Sabbath School at the Academy to prepare for baptism. Being here at USA I am learning more about Jesus everyday, whether it be in the dorm during worships or in my classes, especially the music ministry class. Here at USA, I can be myself and talk about Jesus freely. The teachers are so kind, generous, and really look out for me. My friends are really supportive and help more than my old friends. I have felt more peace and happiness in my life, and I pray that it will continue with the friendships I have made. I love that USA is also a mission and service-minded school. I am planning on being a trauma surgeon and want to be the kind doctor that people can feel safe with.

I think my younger self would be proud that I didn't give up. I think she would be proud of the steps I have taken. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to come to USA, and I hope you will help many other students to have a chance to be here too!

My family is from Burundi, but I was born in Ethiopia in a refugee camp. Life was a struggle and parents longed to give me a better life. When I was three years old, we moved to America. Although NYC was a big improvement from the refugee camp, we still were not safe in the Bronx because there was a lot of crime. Thankfully, through God's providence, after several years we moved to Maine where there were more opportunities for our family. My parents raised me in a Christian home and wanted me to have an Adventist education, but we had financial challenges and transportation obstacles. When I was in middle school, my parents had a stronger desire to send me to an academy since I had the tendency to fall into the wrong crowds and my choices were not going in the right direction. My peers began to have a negative influence on me.

During the summer after I graduated 8th grade, my parents heard about Union Springs Academy from the Bible worker in my church. Upon meeting some of the staff, my interest was very high to attend. By the favor of the Lord, He worked out my finances with the collaboration of my home church, my parents' sacrifice and hard work, and generous sponsors whom I hope to meet in heaven.

This is now my third year at USA, and I am so thankful for teachers who actually care for me! The students help hold each other accountable and remind each other to do the right thing. The staff are a wonderful help by sharing their wisdom on life situations and answering questions I have about the Bible. The deans are positive role models to me, which inspires me to reflect Christ to my peers.

I am very involved in campus life here at USA! I joined the ministry class, help as a church deacon, play on the basketball team, and sing in the touring choir. I am co-captain in the drum corps and an RA in the dorm. These roles have helped me to be a leader and a positive influence in my school. Most importantly, I see my relationship with God is growing stronger every day. I am currently studying for baptism and look forward to publicly giving my life fully to Christ where I intend to use my gifts and education to help serve God.

I am so grateful for the support you have given to students such as myself to help us be here. As Numbers 6:24-26 reads, “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” This is my prayer for each one of you.



**CALEB I.
11TH GRADER**

“The deans are a positive role model to me, which inspires me to reflect Christ to my peers.”



Dear Alumni and Faithful Friends of Union Springs Academy:

God's creation has many lessons of faith for us. As I write this I am looking out my office window at the vibrant leaves on the maple and locust trees that line our campus. Their beauty not only draws my mind to God's beauty and goodness, but also reminds me of God's sustaining powers. In the very near future, these leaves will be gone, and the bare trees will look dead. But life is still there. In the same way, there have been different "seasons" in the life of Union Springs Academy. There have been times when things looked bleak and times when things looked vibrant, but always the life-giving blessings of God have been here at our USA.



Currently, our school is in a vibrant season! Enrollment continues to be near ninety. Academics are of a high quality with A+ educators on our team. Student and staff morale is high. Mission trips are being planned. A new greenhouse frame has been erected, signaling the growth of our agriculture program. The music department is continuing the tradition of spreading the glory of God through music while recruiting for the Academy through regular choir and band trips. God's presence on campus is palpable.

Two years ago, we adopted the acronym S.O.A.R. and have challenged students to come soar with us spiritually, occupationally, academically, and recreationally. And students have answered the call. They are not only coming to the school, but they are also seeking to be the best God has called them to be and to truly soar on wings of eagles.

Now I challenge you to join the call. God has already allowed us to soar higher than many thought possible just a few short years ago, and we feel like we are way above the beautiful autumn-colored trees. However by God's grace and your generosity, we can soar even higher and give God even more praise and honor as we wait for Jesus' return.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help us SOAR higher than ever with your financial commitment. This year, we need \$300,000 for the Student Aid Fund to help students like Caleb and Cali receive a Christian education. Praise God we have already raised half our goal from the generous support of YOU, our alumni and friends. By giving to the Eagle Circle Campaign, you are supporting student scholarships and sustaining our growing programs here at USA. Thank you for your prayers and your commitment to USA at this critical time in earth's history.

With gratitude,

Jeremy Garlock

Jeremy Garlock
Principal, Union Springs Academy
Education Superintendent, NY Conference



HELP US TO SOAR WITH YOUR GIFT TODAY!