**EMILY HAGUE**

**Becoming**

*God has begun a great work in me and will not stop in mid design…How has this shaped my thinking and response in God’s unique design for my life?*

Before I came to college I was pretty certain I knew who I was, that I knew my identity in Christ and I was ready to take on the next challenge of becoming an officer but before that could happen God had even bigger, even better for me to discover about myself and his love for me than I could have ever imagined.

Many times during training I have stepped out of my comfort zone, in many different areas. I have done things that I just wasn’t very good at and revisited old wounds that I hadn’t realised I had avoided… and it felt uncomfortable… it really hurt at times and eventually when that happens you give in and you give up trying to do things the way you *think* you should, being the way *think* you should be. With a posture of ‘full surrender’ early on I realised that I was in a place where God was teaching me more about himself and who he was shaping me to be and that by trying out and practising different spiritual disciplines that allowed me to focus on him I grew closer to him.

And by doing that I’ve learned that just by being with him is so much richer than what I could do by stepping in and doing. Through times that felt brutal yet beautiful I’ve learned just how much I am cherished, that I am loved, that I am unique. During this time Ephesians 2:10 really came alive to me. I am God’s masterpiece, and I have been created anew in Christ Jesus to do the good things he planned for me long ago. Just as we all are and we all have our own unique and beautiful ways of expressing ourselves and our love and devotion to the Lord.

And in all this I’ve learned that Jesus best shows his love for me through others, through friends, family and through community. When Jesus commands us to love our neighbour as ourselves he said it was the greatest commandment I’m so grateful to be in a place where I can live this out better, that by knowing myself better I can love myself better and therefore love others better.

God begun a great work in me and he continues to do so when I allow him to in full surrender.